

EDWARD ALBEE'S **THE GOAT**

or Who is Sylvia?



INTERROBANG

THEATRE PROJECT

Co-Artistic Directors
Georgette Verdin and James Yost
present

EDWARD ALBEE'S THE GOAT

or Who is Sylvia?

Directed by
James Yost

**This production has been generously supported by
Denise Wiler, Simone Wiler and Kris Kostinen.**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Jyreika Guest

PROPERTY DESIGN
Melanie Hatch

SCENIC DESIGN
Kerry Lee Chipman

COSTUME DESIGN
Melissa Perkins

STAGE MANAGER
Nick Plakas

SOUND DESIGN
Erik Siegling

HOUSE MANAGER
Max Spitz

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Brian Sprague

LIGHTING DESIGN
Richie Vavrina

FIGHT & INTIMACY DIRECTION
Claire Yearman

MARKETING MANAGER
Nancy Payne

PRESS RELATIONS
David Rosenberg



5775 N. Ridge Ave.
Chicago, IL 60660

From Director James Yost

RARE

When *The Goat, or who is Sylvia* first premiered on Broadway in 2002, it left audiences gobsmacked. It won the Tony Award for Best Play and garnered a Pulitzer Prize nomination for drama. The taboos and unspeakable desires that lie beneath the surface of human nature are explored in this comic-tragedy, as Albee posits: “How far is too far?” What is acceptable in a marriage? A family? A friendship? Are there limits to what is morally and ethically embraced? Are we defined by our sexual predilections? What is the difference between love and lust? Rarely does a playwright so poetically and passionately lay out opposing views on such a taboo subject. No matter how you look at it, *The Goat* pushes audiences to ponder the limits of their own moral integrity.

RELEVANT

In the internet age, we are bombarded by social media. Fake news, pornography, webcams and instagram are the most frequented pit stops on the information highway. It is more common to post a thumbs up or a heart on your cousin’s graduation picture, than it is to actually call them to offer your congratulations. So, how does anyone connect in the new millennium? How do we push beyond the bandwidth and connect not only physically, but straight to the soul? Albee explores the idea of human connection. What does it mean to actually connect to another living being?

RAW

Frank discussions of sex and sexuality are not new to the American theatre and these themes certainly resonate in a lot of Albee’s plays. Martin and Stevie, well-educated, affluent and worldly characters, are also familiar in the Albee oeuvre. The heady discussions of love and sex outside of an undeniably great marriage seem all the more absurd when the affections of the heart are for that of an animal. Replace bestiality with homosexuality, bisexuality, or any of the dozens of other sexual preferences, and you get to the nucleus of the play. What are your limits? What defies (or defines) your moral construct? Albee guides us through this conversation with sharp precision and leaves us questioning our own moral judgement of social taboos.

TIME - Present

PLACE - A suburban home near a large city

THERE WILL BE NO INTERMISSION

Cast

Stevie	Elana Elyce
Martin	Tom Jansson
Billy	Ryan Liddell
Ross	Armando Reyes



ELANA ELYCE (Stevie) acts, directs, writes, coaches and produces. ITP Credits include STILL (2016) and THE ARGUMENT (2011). She also produced HERE LIES HENRY (2012), HOT N' THROBBING (2012) and SPEAKING IN TONGUES (2013). Elana has been in two separate productions of the acclaimed UNITED FLIGHT 232, which won a Jeff award for best ensemble, with The House Theatre of Chicago. She is now a company member with The House. Other theaters that have welcomed her in recent years include Fleetwood-Jourdain

Theatre, Eclipse, Remy Bumpo, Stage Left & Theatre Seven, and The Yard/Raven Theatre. She is also the Business Manager of The Chicago Inclusion Project. www.elanaelyce.net



Tom Jansson (Martin) most recently appeared as Simon Stimson in Redtwist Theatre's production of OUR TOWN. Before that, he was seen field-dressing a deer in Steep Theatre's Jeff-Award winning production of BOBBIE CLEARLY. Other Chicago credits include George in THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN, Lyle in LYLE, LYLE, CROCODILE, and Kenny in BRAVE POTATOES, all at Lifeline Theatre. Additional Chicago credits include Walkabout, Prologue, Incurable, New Tuners, Emerald City, and Splinter Group. In Portland, OR, Tom worked with Stark Raving, New Rose, Dreadnought, and Paris Theatres, The Greek Theatre Project, and Shakespeare in the Parks. Tom is a graduate of Reed College, as

well as The Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre and of The School at Steppenwolf. He is represented by Actor's Talent Group.



RYAN LIDDELL (Billy) is taking a break from his stage combat and Renaissance Faire work to make his ITP debut, and couldn't be more excited! Not having to worry about rain in the middle of the show is so refreshing—and so weird. Ryan is a graduate of Columbia College and when he's not on stage or lost in the woods, you can bet he will be soon. Previous credits include: Hank in MARVIN'S ROOM, Cliff in

CABARET - Dunes Summer Theatre; Pete Galen in BOOBY TRAP, Galen Grey in ANATOMY OF GREY - Husky Moon Theatre Company. He wishes to thank Sarah and Jim for this opportunity, Cate and Tara for their guidance, and his family for, um, everything, really. www.RyanLiddell.com



ARMANDO REYES (Ross) is thrilled to be joining this production of THE GOAT, OR WHO IS SYLVIA and to be making his debut at Interobang Theatre Project! Armando is a Chicago-based actor who most recently appeared in THE ODD COUPLE at Oil Lamp Theater. He has performed with Silk Road Rising, Pride Films and Plays, The Agency Theater Collective, Urban Theatre Company, Teatro Vista, and many others. Film and television credits include CHICAGO MED, NOWHERE MIND, THE ORIGINS OF WIT AND HUMOR and WHEN ICARUS FELL. Armando is represented by Gray Talent Group.

Creative Team



EDWARD ALBEE (Playwright) was born on March 12, 1928 and began writing plays thirty years later. His plays include THE ZOO STORY (1958), THE AMERICAN DREAM (1960), WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? (1961-1962, Tony Award), TINY ALICE (1964), A DELICATE BALANCE (1966, Pulitzer Prize; 1996, Tony Award), All Over (1971), SEA-SCAPE (1974, Pulitzer Prize), THE LADY FROM DUBUQUE (1977-1978), THE MAN WHO HAD THREE ARMS (1981), FINDING THE SUN (1982), MARRIAGE PLAY (1986-1987), THREE TALL WOMEN (1991, Pulitzer Prize), FRAGMENTS (1993), THE PLAY ABOUT THE BABY (1997), THE GOAT, OR WHO IS SYLVIA? (2000, 2002 Tony Award) and OCCUPANT (2001). He was a member of the Dramatists Guild Council and president of The Edward F. Albee Foundation. Mr. Albee was awarded the Gold Medal in Drama from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters in 1980, and in 1996 received the Kennedy Center Honors and the National Medal of Arts. Mr. Albee died September 16, 2016.



JAMES YOST (Director/Artistic Director) is a Joseph Jefferson Award nominated director and the co-artistic director of Interrobang Theatre Project. He previously served as the producing artistic director for BareBones Theatre Group, a company he co-founded in 1998. Selected credits include: MR. MARMALADE, PSYCHO BEACH PARTY, DEBBIE DOES DALLAS: THE MUSICAL, SKYLIGHT, THE GRADUATE, THE PLAY ABOUT THE BABY, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, DRIFT, BASH: LATTER-DAY PLAYS, SQUIRRELS, THE WIZARD OF OZ, LEND ME A TENOR, ORSON'S SHADOW, GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS, THE PITCHFORK DISNEY and NOISES OFF. Regional: Shattered Globe: TRUE WEST; The Gift Theater: TEN. ITP credits include ORANGE FLOWER WATER (Jeff nomination for Best Supporting Actor, Joseph Wiens), IBSEN IS DEAD, THE NORTH POOL (Jeff nominated for best production and best director), the critically acclaimed REALLY REALLY (named one of the best shows of 2015 by the Chicago Tribune), FALLING (Justin Tsatsa and Amy Johnson won Jeff awards for their roles) and the Chicago premiere of Lee Blessing's play FOR THE LOYAL. Yost teaches theatre and film.



GEORGETTE VERDIN (Managing Co-Artistic Director) has been working with ITP since 2014. She is also a freelance director, theater and speech educator and arts integration specialist. She was the founding theater teacher at Polaris Charter Academy, an Expeditionary Learning School in West Humboldt Park, where she taught full-time for eight years. For Interrobang, Georgette directed last season's Jeff recommended production of GRACE by Craig Wright, season seven's production of the 2013 Yale Drama Series Winner STILL by Jen Silverman, as well as season six's KATRINA: MOTHER-IN-LAW OF 'EM ALL by Rob Florence and the Jeff recommended RECENT TRAGIC EVENTS, also by Craig Wright. Other recent directing credits include Jeff Recommended 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEAS (Assistant Director, Lookingglass Theatre Company), Jeff Recommended TIME STANDS STILL (AstonRep), She is currently in production for PHEOBE IN WINTER (Assistant Director, Facility Theatre) and will be directing UTILITY for ITP in the spring. Georgette holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA and a Master in Directing from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.

JYREIKA GUEST (Assistant Director) Ms. Guest boldly made Chicago home five years ago and is thrilled to be working with Interrobang Theatre Project as Assistant Director! She's an active performer in the Chicago area and has been seen in a number of shows including REDLINED, HAVE A GREAT SUMMER, INCENDIUM with formerly Chicago Slam Works. Other credits include COLUMBINUS (Adult Track) with The Yard Theatre Company, I SAW MYSELF (Ladder) at Red Tape Theatre, THE WIZ (Addeperle U/S, Dance Captain), OCTAGON (Asst. Director and watcher named pen U/S), THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN

(cont.) HOOD (Robin Hood), PIECE OF MY HEART (Steele) STRONG WOMEN (Woman Two), RHINOCEROS (Boss of Cafe/ Fireman), ONCE ON THIS ISLAND (Peasant/Storyteller), CHILDREN OF EDEN (Storyteller), FREEDOM SPEAKS (Rosetta), and FOR COLORED GIRLS (Lady in Blue). She is proudly represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent!

MELANIE HATCH (Property Designer) is a properties designer from Chicago. After graduating with a Bachelors in Fine Art from Northern Illinois University she has spent the last few years designing and fabricating props for theater companies in Chicago. She is excited for her second season with Interrobang, and loves being a part of such a talented and creative team.

KERRY LEE CHIPMAN (Scenic Designer) is a freelance scenic designer and Assistant Professor of Scenic Design at Ball State University. Chicago designs: NO HOME FOR BEES at Collaboration Studios. New York designs (selected): THAT WHICH ISN'T AND STRAYS at Brick Theatre, CONEY at New Ohio Theatre, TIME IS THE MERCY OF ETERNITY at West End Theatre, DEPARTURES and THE MOST WONDERFUL LOVE at Access Theater. Regional: Clarence Brown Theatre, Knoxville: THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, FLYIN' WEST, SPEECH AND DEBATE, and THE STORY OF OPAL. Children's Theatre of Charlotte: THE BORROWERS and PINKALICIOUS: THE MUSICAL. In addition to scenery, she also designs and creates masks for regional dance and theatre productions. Examples of her work can be seen at: www.kerryleechipmandesign.com. She would like to thank James and Interrobang Theatre Project for this wonderful opportunity.

MELISSA PERKINS (Costume Designer) is a freelance costume designer based in Chicago. She is thrilled to be working with ITP again on THE GOAT. Her recent design credits include CURVES AND EDGES (Three Things Productions and Interrobang Theatre Project), CLEARING (Commission Theatre), A HOME ON THE LAKE (Piven Theatre), FOXFINDER (Interrobang Theatre Project), RUTHERFORD'S TRAVELS (Pegasus Theatre), I'M GONNA PRAY FOR YOU SO HARD (Kitchen Dog Theater). Assistant costume design credits include 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEAS, PLANTATION! (Lookingglass Theatre Company), PETER PAN (Music Theater Works), PARADE (Writers Theatre), and MOONSHINE: THAT HEE-HAW MUSICAL (Dallas Theater Center). You can see more examples of her work and full resume at perkinscostumedesign.com.

NICK PLAKAS (Stage Manager) is fresh out of Columbia College Chicago where he focused on stage managing, which he is doing for this show. He recently worked on the 5th annual Physical Festival Chicago. He has lived in Chicago for four years and is very excited to continue his work here.

ERIK SIEGLING (Sound Designer) is glad to be back with Interrobang for this production of THE GOAT. Here in Chicago, Erik composed and designed for Interrobang's spring production of GRACE and Oakton Community College's original production of POWERLESS GODS. He has previously designed for Seattle Shakespeare Company and Fantastic Z Theatre. An accomplished actor as well, Erik has guest starred on the TV show Z NATION and performed in theatres across the country. He has a B.A. degree in Theatre from Principia College.

MAX SPITZ (House Manager) is a proud member of the Northwestern Class of 2016, where he graduated with a B.A. in Theatre having dipped his feet in acting, directing, and set design. Since graduating he has been a part of 2nd Story as Communications Coordinator, as well as a producer and director. He is so grateful for the family they've created. He's so very excited to be a part of the ITP team as well!

BRIAN SPRAGUE (Technical Director) is a Chicago-based freelance theatre artist. He received his Master of Fine Arts in Acting from Northern Illinois University and has studied/performed internationally at the Moscow Art Theatre and Adana State Theatre in Adana, Turkey. Some past technical directing credits include: HARVEST (Griffin Theatre Company), INVISIBLE HAND, BIRDLAND, EARTHQUAKES IN LONDON (Steep Theatre),

(cont.) YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU, FAIR MAID OF THE WEST, MACBETH, AFRICAN COMPANY PRESENTS RICHARD III (Oak Park Festival Theatre), and GRACE (Interrobang Theatre Project).

RICHIE VAVRINA (Lighting Designer) travels the country doing theatrical and corporate shows. He loves coming home to work on engaging theatre. His work was most recently seen in Interrobang Theatre Project's GRACE, Firebrand Theatre's LIZZIE, and Elgin Community College's SHE KILLS MONSTERS. He'll probably go get a beer with you if you ask.

CLAIRE YEARMAN (Fight/Intimacy Choreographer) is an ITP ensemble member, actor, SAFD certified teacher, and fight & intimacy choreographer. She has an MFA in Acting from Western Illinois University. Some theatres she's worked with include: Interrobang Theatre Project, Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Williams Street Rep, AstonRep, Red Tape Theatre, Piccolo Theatre, 20% Theatre, and Metropolis Performing Arts.

[?] denotes ensemble member

Staff

Managing Co-Artistic Director	Georgette Verdin
Co-Artistic Director	James Yost
Artistic Producer	Elana Elyce
Marketing Manager	Nancy Payne
Graphic Designer	Zoë Verdin
Design Associate	Christopher Aaron Knarr
Marketing Associate	Matthew Nerber
Casting Coordinator	Sarah Gise

Ensemble Members

James Yost • Georgette Verdin • Salar Ardebili • Brynne Barnard • Laura Berner Taylor
Elana Elyce • Shawn Galligan • Sarah Gise • Noël Huntzinger (artistic assoc.)
Christopher Aaron Knarr • Joe Lino (artistic assoc.) • Matthew Nerber
Pauline Oleksy (artistic assoc.) • Claire Yearman • Zoë Verdin

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Interrobang Theatre Project

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