

# DEMAND PR

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MEDIA ALERT FOR THEATRE EDITORS AND REVIEWERS  
AND CALENDAR LISTINGS

**LA MIRADA THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS &  
MC COY RIGBY ENTERTAINMENT**

*present the Second Production of their 2007/2008 Season!*

# SYLVIA

**Starring Cathy Rigby**

**Written by A.R. Gurney**

**Directed by Joel Bishoff**

*Limited Engagement begins November 2 at  
La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts!*

**(Press Opening Saturday, November 3)**

*Sylvia is... "a hysterical comedy for anyone who's ever owned a dog, loved a dog,  
or wanted to wring a dog's neck." - The New York Times*

October 15, 2007...La Mirada, Calif....LA MIRADA THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS & MC COY RIGBY ENTERTAINMENT present the second production of their 2007-2008 season, Cathy Rigby starring in the hilarious comedy, **SYLVIA**, written by A.R. Gurney and directed by Joel Bishoff (*Too Old For The Chorus*). **SYLVIA** will begin performances on Friday, November 2 (with a press opening on Saturday, November 3) and will run through Sunday, November 18 at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, 14900 La Mirada Boulevard in La Mirada, near the intersection of Rosecrans Avenue.

**SYLVIA** is young, cute, street-smart, outspoken and although Greg is married, she quickly sweeps him off his feet. So what's new or different? The other woman in this affair just happens to be a dog! A dog who is a shameless flirt! Originally played by Sarah Jessica Parker, and now starring Cathy Rigby, the sassy little mongrel immediately becomes a major bone of contention between husband and wife. Don't believe it? Come and see her for yourself, even if you're a cat lover.

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## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

**A.R. GURNEY (Playwright)** less formally known as "Pete," is one of the most prolific and produced playwrights in America. His work focuses primarily on the issues and realities of middle-class American life and has been produced on international theatre stages for more than 30 years.

After receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree from Williams College in 1952, Gurney joined the United States Navy during the Korean War, writing shows to entertain the military personnel. Following his discharge in 1955, he enrolled in the Yale School of Drama where he received his Master's degree in playwriting. Later he joined the faculty at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge where he taught until 1987.

In 1958, Gurney wrote *Love in Buffalo*, which was the first musical ever produced at Yale. His first play, *The David Show*, was produced in New York in 1968. In 1970, *Scenes from American Life* received its world premiere at the Studio Arena Theatre in Buffalo. During the 1970s, he wrote two novels and several plays, including *Children*, which premiered in London, England in 1974. His breakthrough success came in 1982 with *The Dining Room*. Other award-winning plays include *The Middle Ages*, *Richard Cory*, *The Golden Age*, *What I Did Last Summer*, *The Wayside Motor Inn*, *Sweet Sue*, *The Perfect Party*, *Another Antigone*, *The Cocktail Hour*, *Love Letters*, *The Old Boy*, *The Fourth Wall*, *Later Life*, *A Cheever Evening*, *Sylvia*, *Overtime*, *Let's Do It (a Cole Porter musical)*, *Labor Day*, *Far East*, *Darlene* and *The Guest Lecturer*, and *Ancestral Voices*.

*Love Letters*, written in 1989, has enjoyed tremendous success for many years with its two-character cast who read the play side by side at a desk. The characters are a man and a woman who exchange letters in a warm and complicated friendship lasting 50 years. The play's co-stars have included Richard Thomas and Swoosie Kurtz, Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick, and Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward among others. In 1991 he adapted his own novel, *The Snow Ball*, for the stage; it premiered at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego. His other novels include "The Gospel According to Joe" and "Entertaining Strangers." In the fall of 1999, Gurney wrote the libretto for "Strawberry Fields" with music by Michael Torke, as part of the Central Park Opera trilogy presented by the New York City Opera.

Gurney is the recipient of many awards, notably a Drama Desk Award in 1971, a Rockefeller Award in 1977 and two Lucille Lortel Awards in 1989 and 1994. He has also received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the New England Theatre Conference. He and his wife, Molly, have four children and six grandchildren.

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**JOEL BISHOFF** (*Director*) is happy to be returning to La Mirada once again to direct **SYLVIA** after directing their most recent critically-acclaimed production of **TOO OLD FOR THE CHORUS**. He directed the original production of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* which is now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year off-Broadway as well as in several cities across North America, London's West End and the Mandarin language production in Shanghai and Beijing. Joel also directed the original production of *Over the River and Through the Woods* at off-Broadway's John Houseman Theatre. Other directing credits include, *The Kiss at City Hall* at Pasadena Playhouse, a Japanese language production of *Annie* in Tokyo and throughout Japan (now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year), *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* at Laguna Playhouse, and Ken Hill's *Phantom of the Opera* which played at The Opera Comique in Paris as part of a European tour. Mr. Bishoff also did the musical staging for the national tour of *The Sound of Music* starring Marie Osmond (which also toured Singapore and Korea) as well as the New York City Opera production starring Debby Boone. He has directed at the Long Wharf Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival, the New Yorker Theatre (Toronto), Gem Theatre (Detroit), Coronet Theatre (Los Angeles), Helen Hayes Performing Arts Center (Nyack), Stuart St. Playhouse (Boston), the Broward Center for Performing Arts (Miami), the Royal George Theatre (Chicago), Theatre at Old Towne (San Diego) among others.

**CATHY RIGBY** (*Sylvia*) earned a Tony nomination when she starred in the 35th Anniversary production of *Peter Pan* on Broadway in 1991. She has, to date, logged more frequent flyer miles than any other actress in this role. She made her musical debut in 1981 as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*. Subsequently, her multiple talents have been lauded on Broadway at the Richard Rodgers Theatre as the Cat-In-The-Hat in *Seussical the Musical* and in the national tours of *Seussical the Musical*, *Annie Get Your Gun* and productions of *Meet Me In St. Louis*, *South Pacific*, *Paint Your Wagon*, *They're Playing Our Song* and *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*. Some of Rigby's dramatic television movie credits include the "Perfect Body," "Hard To Read," "The Great Wallendas" and "Triathlon." A two-time Olympic gymnast, Cathy Rigby is the first American woman to win a medal in the World Gymnastics competition and holds 12 international medals, eight of them gold. After participating in world-renowned gymnastics, Cathy worked with ABC as a gymnastic commentator for 18 years. ABC-TV's venerable "Wide World of Sports" named her one of America's Most Influential Women in Sports. In 1994, Cathy and her husband, Tom McCoy, assumed the responsibilities as Executive Producers of the McCoy Rigby Series at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts in La Mirada, California, allowing them to produce first-class theatrical productions and mount national tours. Cathy and husband Tom own and operate McCoy Rigby Dance Academy in Yorba Linda, CA, with the goal of bringing the joy of dance and performing to over 500 students. Cathy and Tom celebrated 25 years of marriage on September 11th. They have four children and two grandchildren. Cathy is currently participating with multiple charities including the Special Olympics, the Long Beach Aquarium by the Sea, and the Peter Pan Children's Fund.

**The cast of SYLVIA will also feature Suzanne Ford, James Stellos and Robert Yacko.**

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**SYLVIA** has assembled an award-winning design team. The set and lighting design is by Neil Peter Jampolis. The sound design is by David Edwards. The costume design is by Judy Jou. The Casting is by Julia Flores. The Production Stage Manager is Lea Chazin.

**SYLVIA** will begin performances on Friday, November 2 (with a press opening on Saturday, November 3) and run for three weeks through Sunday, November 18. Performances will be Tuesday through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. There will be no 2 p.m. performance on Saturday, November 3 or 7 p.m. performance on Sunday, November 4. Tickets are \$45 and \$37.50 and can be purchased at La Mirada Theatre's Web site, [lamiradatheatre.com](http://lamiradatheatre.com). Student, Senior, Children and group discounts are available. For more information, call the La Mirada Theatre Box Office at (562) 944-9801 or (714) 994-6310.

*LA MIRADA THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, now in its 30th year, has been hailed by the Los Angeles Times as "one of the best Broadway-style houses in Southern California." This beautiful state-of-the-art theatre has been producing quality productions for its Southern California audiences since 1977. The theatre has produced several National Tours and is the recipient of many accolades including Ovation and Emmy Awards and Tony Award nominations. The theatre is located at 14900 La Mirada Boulevard in La Mirada, near the intersection of Rosecrans Avenue where the 91 and 5 freeways meet. Parking is theatre-adjacent and free. For further information 562-944-9801 or visit [www.lamiradatheatre.com](http://www.lamiradatheatre.com)*

*McCOY RIGBY ENTERTAINMENT combines the talents of musical theatre star Cathy Rigby with Tom McCoy's extensive production and theatrical experience and has become one of the nation's premier theatrical production companies. Credits include Tony-nominated Broadway shows, long-running national tours, multiple-award-winning Los Angeles stage productions, and hit TV specials.*

*The number of major theatrical awards garnered by McCoy Rigby Entertainment includes 3 Ovation Awards, 25 Drama-Logue Awards, 3 Backstage Garland Awards and 3 Tony Award nominations, 20 Ovation nominations and 8 NAACP award nominations for the touring production of "Jesus Christ Superstar." In addition, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences awarded McCoy Rigby Entertainment an Emmy for Best Scene Design as part of four nominations for the A&E network production of "Peter Pan."*  
[www.mccoyrigby.com](http://www.mccoyrigby.com)

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