

VALLEY ROAD THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

THE SUN ALSO RISES

Praise for Sheffield Scientific

"REASON TO CELEBRATE" -*No Proscenium*

"A ROUSING SUCCESS" -*The Yale Herald*

valleyroadtheatre.com

THE TEAM

Director: **Alex Gross '29**

Lead Producer: **Isabel Tiburcio '28**

Stage Manager: **Nico Belongie '29**

Production Manager: **Nava Feder '27**

Producer/Writer: **Eason Rytter '27+1** and **Ryann Schaffer '27+1**

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THE SHOW

VRTC's **THE SUN ALSO RISES** is a love story of the lost generation. Across the nightlife, lust, and liquor of 1920's France and Spain, Jake Barnes and Lady Brett Ashley journey with a motley group of expatriates in a vulgar attempt to find themselves in the angst and disillusionment of post-war Europe. Simultaneous storylines erupt, combining Hemingway's classic novel with the myths of Ariadne and

VRTC

the Minotaur. The production will be staged across a large, non-traditional venue in central New Haven, with **audience members roaming free** across rooms and floors to discover the performance at their own pace.

- About VRTC: [Valley Road Theatre Company](#) was founded in 2022 by Alex Gross ('29). The company builds large-scale, immersive theatre experiences. This means we make **theatre off the stage, across entire buildings**. Last April, we created [Sheffield Scientific](#) inside a WW1-era bowling alley, and this summer we made [GILGAMESH SPACE MAN](#), an epic journey for a single audience member by foot, bike, and car.
- About Immersive Theater: “Immersive” can be an encompassing, often vague term. For VRTC, an immersive show or experience is a live event that occurs **off the stage**, as in the audience isn't sitting, we aren't in a traditional theatre, and there is no barrier between audience and performer. We like to take this a step further, redesigning entire buildings into the world of our shows. Past examples include **a 3-story parish hall, a colonial-era chapel, a nursery school, a bowling alley, offices, and even an entire town**.
- Watch a past VRTC project:  [Sheffield Scientific Trailer](#)

TIMELINE

AUDITION PROCESS: Auditions will take place in two parts. First, a 10-minute solo appointment on October 1 (7-10PM) or October 3 (3-6PM), and second, a group movement workshop on October 4 (7-8PM) or October 5 (5-6PM). Callbacks will be held on October 6. During your solo appointment, you will be asked to read from a [selection of non-character-specific monologues](#). During the movement workshop, you will work through devised theatre exercises with the director. Absolutely no movement or immersive experience is required!

There are no self-tapes for this production. If you have a mandatory conflict, email us, and we will do our best to accommodate you.

REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES: In the fall, performers will attend a series of workshops in devised theatre. In the spring, performers will attend rehearsals with

the company and the creative team to block scenes, then attend technical rehearsals and performances. Scenes may be entirely devised within the company, blocked by the Director, or a combination of both.

- October: Full Company Meeting and individual meetings with the Director and Stage Manager.
- November: Workshops in devised theatre techniques.
- December: Scene blocking.
- January-February: Scene blocking.
- March: Scene blocking and Review (March 22-31)
- April: Tech Rehearsals (April 1-7) and Performances (April 8-17)*

**As we continue our venue search, we are keeping two performance weekends open. By auditioning for this production, are you confirming your availability for both weekends.*

CHARACTERS

All roles are open to performers of any experience, identity, and background. All roles have both speaking and movement-focused scenes, unless otherwise noted. There is no backstage time, and all performers will be “on-stage” for the duration of the performance.

JAKE BARNES: *[THIS ROLE HAS BEEN CAST]* Our narrator. An American expatriate journalist living in Paris whose novel's wounded war injury/impotence makes a real relationship with the woman he loves (Brett) impossible.

BRETT ASHLEY: A magnetic, hard-drinking British socialite who loves Jake but refuses to be with him, drifting instead through a series of affairs that bring her little happiness.

ROBERT COHN: A wealthy Jewish-American novelist in Paris whose romantic idealism and obsession with Brett make him the group's most pitiable and persecuted outsider.

BILL GORTON: An American writer and friend of Jake, prone to racism and homophobia. He uses humor to cope with his trauma from World War I.

MIKE CAMBELL: Brett's broke, alcoholic Scottish fiancé whose insecurity and cruelty surface most viciously in his repeated public attacks on Cohn.

MONTOYA: The proud, traditional Pamplona innkeeper with a passion for the art of bullfighting who loses his regard for Jake after he facilitates Brett's seduction of Romero.

ROMERO: A breathtakingly talented nineteen-year-old bullfighter whose grace, courage, and beauty make him a powerful foil to the novel's aimless expatriates.

BULL: A twisted, lost, scared creature, trying to find his way home. This track is non-speaking.

FRANCES CLYNE: Cohn's controlling American girlfriend whose desperation to marry him reveals the precarious position of aging women in postwar expatriate society. A painter.

GEORGETTE HOBIN: A Parisian prostitute Jake takes to dinner before abandoning her for Brett. Owns a flower store.

SELECT BARTENDER: The bartender at The Select Café in Paris.

ARIADNE: A tangled, lost, courageous being, trying to find her way home.

DOCTOR: A physician and purveyor of strange vials. Secretly Dionysus.

INTIMACY & CONTENT WARNING

INTIMACY: At your audition appointment, you will be asked to fill out a form that lists your comfort as a performer. As the show is developed throughout the process, we cannot provide a full intimacy list at casting. Instead, we **work around the comfort of the performers** when building scenes, and your form responses are not factored into casting.

CONTENT WARNING: *The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway contains depictions of anti-semitism, racism, homophobia, misogyny, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, alcoholism and substance abuse, and violence. For our adaptation, see character-specific information above.