

STREET CORNER ARTS PRESENTS



AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2016  
THE SIDEWALK SERIES

# Orphans

by LYLE KESSLER

August 19 - September 3, 2016

directed by SARAH KIMBERLY BECKER

Produced by Street Corner Arts, The Sidewalk Series,  
Sarah Becker, Aaron Johnson, David Stevens & Chuck Moses

Rehearsal Stage Manager: Kayleigh Axtell  
Production Stage Manager: Paul Feinstein  
Fight Choreographer: Aaron Alexander  
Sound: Benjamin Summers

Setting NORTH PHILADELPHIA,  
NOT TOO LONG AGO

There will be one 15 minute intermission.

Christopher Alvarenga.....Treat  
Aaron Johnson.....Phillip  
Michael Stuart\*.....Harold  
*Member Actor's Equity Association*

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Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, INC

## PROGRAM NOTE

In 1935, Sidney Kingsley's play *Dead End* premiered on Broadway starring young men who would later come to be known as *The Dead End Kids*. The play was so successful, a movie of the same name was produced in 1937 starring Humphrey Bogart. That film spurred many movies thereafter, all centering on the famed "ruffians with short-temper ... hearts of gold." The phrase *The Dead End Kids*, although hard to stomach,



came from an actual, non-metaphorical, dead end. In the slums of New York, the upper class began building luxurious apartments along the East River. The only thing that separated the opulence of the upper class and the tenements of the lower was the East River itself. More specifically, a dock that went right into the water.

Though originally threatening and menacing young tyrants, as the years passed the *The Dead End Kids* transitioned to more laughable subject matter. The pack ended their 89-film career as comedic shadows of their former, troubled selves. The actual *Dead End* was the corner of East 53rd Street and the East River. But that's no longer there. What remains is the image of a divide, and the haunting thought that the road we are already on is one that we cannot get off.

*Orphans* is the story of two boys in need of purpose and some real encouragement. It's a story often told, and sadly less often resolved. What happens when we don't have something to live for, or someone to love us? Kessler mirrors much of Kingsley's work studying human nature victim to the circumstances of life, environmental and hereditary. He encourages us to see the *Dead End* not as a literal dead end, but as a slice of life that breathes reality through the cracks and splinters of poverty and scarcity.

## MEET THE TEAM

**Christopher Alvarenga (Treat)** Street Corner Arts: Debut. Regional: Los Tequileros (Leandro) with Teatro Vivo. FILM: Borderlands (2016 San Diego Latino Film Festival, Tampere Film Festival, Uppsala Film Festival in Sweden, Riga International Film Festival in Latvia and the Brown Cinema Café in Minneapolis). ADDITIONAL CREDITS: Meisner technique with Larel Vouvray at In The Moment Studio in Austin. ChristopherAlvarenga.com.

**Kayleigh Axtell (Rehearsal Stage Manager)** Street Corner Arts: Debut. Kayleigh Axtell has not stage managed since her college days at Boston University. She is very grateful to Sarah and Aaron for giving her this opportunity. By day, Kayleigh is a Research Analyst at the Texas Department of Transportation. Kayleigh is the Administrative Director for local arts organization, artMEAT. Check them out at [www.thisisartmeat.com](http://www.thisisartmeat.com).

**Sarah Kimberly Becker (Director/Producer)** is a theatre artist and educator in her hometown of Austin, TX. She has worked with local companies such as Zachary Scott Theatre, Summerstock Austin, Austin Shakespeare, and Street Corner Arts. Ms. Becker is a graduate of the University of Southern California's School of Dramatic Arts. She would like to thank Street Corner Arts for this unfathomably generous opportunity. She would also like to thank her friends, family, and unequalled mentor for their continued and tremendous love and support.

**Jeremy Brown (Producer/Assoc. Producing Director)** is an actor, designer, producer, all-around multi-faceted creative widget and resident member of Street Corner Arts. He didn't want to write a bio so Rommel

**Paul Feinstein (Production Stage Manager)** is a regular contributing artist to Street Corner Arts. He produced *The Sunset Limited* for Trinity Street Players. Paul is a native Austinite, often enjoying live music and film screenings.

**Aaron Johnson (Phillip/Producer):** Street Corner Arts: *Skylight* (Edward) REGIONAL: *Tribes* (Daniel) at ZACH Theatre; *The Real Thing* (Billy), *The Explorers Club* (Lucius) at Austin Playhouse; *Comedy of Errors* (Antipholus of Syracuse & Ephesus) at Penfold Theatre Co. OTHER CREDITS: *Red* (Ken) with Light in a Jar Productions, *Troilus and Cressida* (Aeneas) at the Great River Shakespeare Festival. UP & COMING: *The Totalitarians* (Ben) with Theatre en Bloc and *Bloomsday* (Robbie) at Austin Playhouse.

## MEET THE TEAM

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**(con't):** ADDITIONAL CREDITS: B.F.A. Theatre Performance from the University of Evansville. Aaron is beyond grateful to Street Corner for giving him a little encouragement. *I love you Mom. I love you Dad.* AaronRichardJohnson.com. EMC.

**Lyle Kessler (Playwright)** is a Philadelphia-born actor, playwright and director in the N.Y. and L.A. theatre scene. Kessler served as a professor at Loyola Marymount School of Film and Television, and studied acting with Lee Strasberg. Actress Margaret Ladd and Kessler founded the Los Angeles-based Imagination Workshop, which enables theatre artists to craft original theatrical pieces for at-risk students, veterans, and psychiatric hospital patients. Mr. Kessler's most successful play, *Orphans*, premiered at the L.A. Matrix Theatre in 1983, and then in both N.Y. and Chicago with Steppenwolf Theatre Co. In 2013, *Orphans* was finally brought to Broadway at the Schoenfeld Theatre, directed by Daniel Sullivan.

**Michael Stuart (Harold)** is pleased to be part of the Street Corner Arts *Sidewalk Series* premiere. He has previously appeared with SCA as Andrei in *A Walk in the Woods* and Fatt/Fayette/Grady in *Waiting for Lefty*. Other recent appearances include *One Man Two Guvners* at Zach Theatre *The Drawer Boy* for Hyde Park Theatre; *Hughie* and *Krapp's Last Tape* for Actors Theatre Austin. As a company member at the Austin Playhouse since 2004 he has been involved in over 30 productions. Most recently as Uncle Willie in *The Philadelphia Story* and Tor, the "very nice hit-man", in *The Norwegians* and Prof. Walling in *The Explorers Club* (starring Aaron Johnson!!) He is probably best remembered by Playhouse fans as LBJ in *The Dead Presidents Club*. Michael has also directed for many theatres in Austin. This production of *Orphans* has brought back many fond memories of a production he directed some 20 years ago starring Travis Dean, Kenneth Wayne Bradley and Damian Gillen at Hyde Park Theatre. AEA.

**A. Skola Summers (Producer/Artistic Director)** | Skola is an artist, educator and co-founder of Street Corner Arts. Hailing from the cornfields of Iowa, she currently lives and creates in ATX.

## MEET THE TEAM



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**Benjamin Summers (Producing Director)** is the founding producing director of Street Corner Arts. He has directed *Bull* by Mike Bartlett and *Waiting for Lefty* by Clifford Odets with SCA. REGIONAL: *A Walk in the Woods* (John Honeymoon), *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (Doug) with Street Corner Arts; *The Realistic Joneses* (John), *A Bright New Boise* (Will), *Tragedy: A Tragedy* (John), *Middletown* (John Dodge) at Hyde Park Theatre; *The Liar* (Dorante), *Born Yesterday* (Paul Verrall), *The 39 Steps* (Richard Hannay), *It's A Wonderful Life* (George Bailey) at Austin Playhouse; *Hamlet* (Hamlet) with No Holds Bard. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: B.A. Theatre from Davidson College; company member of Hyde Park Theatre and Austin Playhouse. When he is not on the stage, Benjamin can be found teaching math to middle school students at Gorzycki Middle School. His next role is that of "Dad" for his newborn son who is set to make his debut in October of 2016.

**Rommel Sulit (Producer/ Assoc. Producing Director)** is a stage and film actor and co-founder of Street Corner Arts. He was most recently seen in Street Corner's production of BULL by Mike Bartlett. UP & COMING: *Again -- Family, Friends and Lovers* with Exchange Artists and *Moby Dick* with Trouble Puppet Theater Company. He has been nominated for B. Iden Payne and Austin Critics' Circle awards and received the 2014 B. Iden Payne award for Outstanding Performer for Theatre For Youth as Geppetto in *Pinocchio* (ZACH Theatre). He trained at the School at Steppenwolf and thanks you for your continuing support of the arts in Austin.



## THE SIDEWALK SERIES

Since its formation, SCA has placed an emphasis on collaboration within the Austin theatre community. The Sidewalk Series takes that initiative a step further. One person or artistic team will be chosen to partner with SCA on a project that they would like to produce. Street Corner Arts will work directly with the artists to make that production possible by purchasing the rights to the play, securing a space in which it may be performed, and generally providing guidance and resources throughout the process. In doing so, we hope to nurture new/developing talent in the Austin area and serve as mentors to help artists fully realize their vision. We are excited about this new opportunity and look forward to playing our part in helping Austin foster and sustain the level of talent that has made the arts scene one of the most successful in the country.

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Steven Dietz  
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Alexander Kim  
Katie Kohler



Tyler Elizabeth Layton  
Paige Newton  
Sharon Ploeger  
Sam Schanwald  
Kat Schoeber  
Zac Thomas

THE SIDEWALK STORIES

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set to make his debut in

IF I HAD THE WINGS OF AN ANGEL

Rommel Sult (Producer, Director) is a stage and film actor and co-founder of the...  
seen in Street Corner's production of Bull by Mike Bartlett. UP & COMING...  
Moby Dick with...  
nated for B. Iden Payne...  
the 2014 B. Iden Payne award for Outstanding...  
for Youth as Geppetto in Pinocchio (ZACH Theatre...  
School at SloopersWolf and thanks you for your...  
arts in Austin.

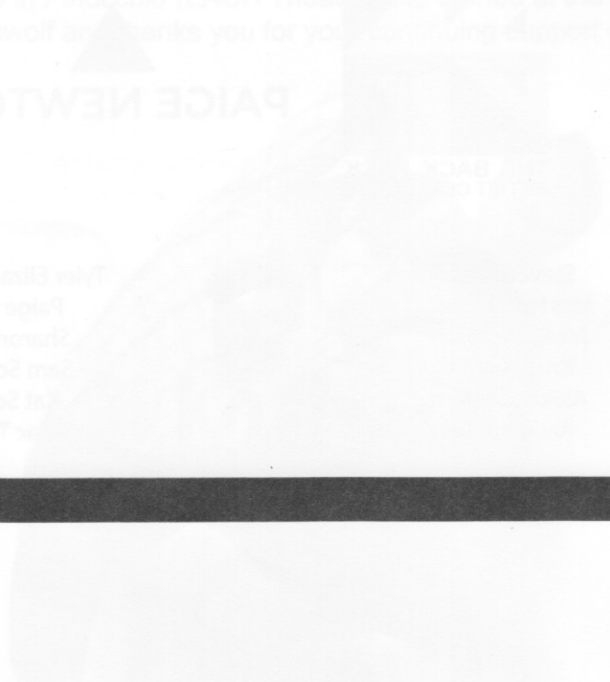
OVER THESE PRISON WALLS I WOULD FLY

STRAIGHT INTO THE ARMS OF ME MUTTER

AND THERE I'D BE WILLING TO DIE

PAIGE NEWTON

Typ: Elizabeth Layton  
Paige Newton  
Sharon Proger  
Sam Schwartz  
Kat Schooner  
Alex Thomas





Thank you very much for your patronage at tonight's performance, but we still need your help!

Believe it or not, ticket sales alone cover less than half of our production budget. Please consider joining the Street Corner Arts family with a **tax-deductible donation** to help ensure a bright and productive future for this incredible Austin theatre company. Street Corner Arts is a 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization.

**Your generous giving will help provide:**

- \$35,000 – One full season.
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- \$2,000 – Actors' salary.
- \$1,000 – Supplies & labor for set construction.
- \$500 – Concession costs.
- \$200 – Marketing supplies.
- \$100 – Costumes and lighting supplies.

**If you would like to make a donation, please talk to any of the SCA staff or crew.**

<u>Donate online at:</u>	<a href="http://www.streetcornerarts.org">www.streetcornerarts.org</a>
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**Help us GROW!**

**Help us BUILD!**

**Help us CONTINUE!**

# STREET CORNER ARTS

invites you to three special performance  
evenings for **ORPHANS**

**08/26** ASL-interpreted performance

**08/27** post-show Panel Discussion  
with Steve Dietz + Tyler Elizabeth Layton

Join us for a special post-show panel discussion with celebrated playwright Steven Dietz, Professor at UT-Dept of Theatre and Dance and Tyler Elizabeth Layton, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts at St. Edward's University. The discussion will be moderated by UT-MFA alum, director, dramaturg and producer Jess Hutchison.

**08/29** Industry Night !

**ALL SHOWS AT 8PM** right here at the **BACK PACK!**

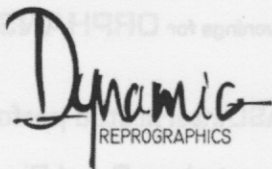
**ALSO COMING IN DECEMBER**  
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by Nick Payne

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[www.streetcornerarts.org](http://www.streetcornerarts.org)

Street Corner Arts would like to thank



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