
**Lifeline Theatre Hosts Chicago Mystery Author Sara Paretsky
For “*Gaudy Night*” Post-Show Discussion & Reception on Sunday, July 9, 2006
Sponsored by The Illinois Humanities Council**

Mystery writer Sara Paretsky’s renowned chronicles of Chicago private investigator V. I. Warshawski is the subject of nearly a dozen novels and one feature film starring Kathleen Turner. People Magazine called Warsawski “*a kind of female Sam Spade - gritty, passionate, able to take care herself. But she is also subject to the doubts and insecurities of the average woman.*”

When Paretsky introduced Warshawski in Indemnity Only in 1982, she revolutionized the mystery world. By creating a female investigator who uses her wits as well as her fists, Paretsky challenged a genre in which women traditionally were either vamps or victims. Hailed both by critics and readers, Indemnity Only was followed by 11 more best-selling Warshawski novels. The Los Angeles Times says, “*Paretsky is unique among the women writing about women,*” while Publishers Weekly claims, “*Among today’s P.I.’s, nobody comes close to Warshawski.*” Blacklist won the Gold Dagger from the British Crime Writers for best novel of 2004. Paretsky’s most recent work, her thirteenth novel, is Fire Sale, published in 2005.

Paretsky’s deep-rooted concern for social justice, the hallmark of her novels, has carried her voice beyond the world of crime fiction. As a frequent contributor to the New York Times and The Guardian, and a speaker at such places as the Library of Congress and Oxford University, she is an impassioned advocate for those on society’s margins.

Not only has Paretsky broken barriers with her own work, she has also helped open doors for other women. Her role in founding Sisters in Crime, an advocacy group for women writers, caused Ms. Magazine to name her Woman of the Year in 1988. In 2002, the British Crime Writers Association awarded her the Cartier Diamond Dagger for lifetime achievement. Paretsky’s work is celebrated in Pamela Beere Briggs’s documentary, Women of Mystery.

To give back to the community, Paretsky established the Sara and Two C-Dogs Foundation, which primarily supports girls and women in the arts, letters, and sciences. She has endowed several scholarships at the University of Kansas, and has mentored students in Chicago’s inner city schools. She serves on the advisory boards of Literature for All of Us, a literacy group for teen moms, and Thresholds, which serves Chicago’s mentally-ill homeless.

Paretsky grew up in eastern Kansas. She and her brothers attended a two-room country school, which gave Paretsky her lifelong love of baseball and under-dogs: she played third base for a school that always finished at the bottom of its rural league. Her first published writing, a story about living through a tornado, appeared in the American Girl magazine when she was 11. In 1966, Paretsky came to Chicago to do community service in the neighborhood where Martin Luther King was organizing. Staying on to make Chicago her home, she received a PhD in history and an MBA from the University of Chicago. She lives in the city with her husband, a physics professor at the University of Chicago, their wonder dog Callie, and near their adored granddaughter.

WHAT: Lifeline Theatre concludes its 23rd anniversary MainStage season by presenting the world premiere adaptation of **GAUDY NIGHT** by **Dorothy L. Sayers**, adapted by Lifeline ensemble member **Frances Limoncelli** and directed by Lifeline Artistic Director **Dorothy Milne** (**GAUDY NIGHT** is the third Sayers mystery this team has brought to the Lifeline stage).
Harriet Vane tries to escape the complications of her relationship with Lord Peter Wimsey by returning to her Oxford roots. Her peaceful retreat becomes a nightmare as a vandal with a grudge threatens the college, its residents and finally, Harriet's life. And where is Lord Peter now that she really needs him? Lifeline ensemble members Peter Greenberg and Jenifer Tyler return to their roles to continue the romance between aristocratic sleuth Wimsey and the independent-minded Vane.
Lifeline produced Sayers' **WHOSE BODY?** in 2002 and **STRONG POISON** in 2004; the latter winning a Jeff Citation for Best Adaptation and After Dark Awards for Peter Greenberg's portrayal of Lord Peter Wimsey and Tom Birch's scenic design. The show runs approximately two and a half hours with one intermission.

WHERE: Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. Chicago, IL 60626
Parking available (street & lot – see below); CTA accessible (Red Line Morse stop and busses)
Free lot parking until midnight three blocks north of the theatre in the Trilogy lot (Estes & Glenwood); free shuttle rides to and from the parking lot 45 minutes before the show and immediately afterwards.

WHEN: Opened on Friday, June 2, 2006
The show runs Fridays at 7:30 PM, Saturdays at 4 and 8 PM, Sundays at 5:30 PM through July 30, 2006
Post-show talkback following Sunday, 7/9, 5:30 PM show features Chicago native/resident and Dorothy L. Sayers fan **Sara Paretsky**, renowned crime novelist (creator of the V.I. Warshawski detective series), along with adapter Limoncelli and director Milne. **This event is sponsored by the Illinois Humanities Council.**

TICKETS: 773.761.4477 [this is the number for the public to call]
\$24 for Fridays, Saturday 4 PM matinees, and Sundays; \$26 for Saturday 8 PM shows
\$20 for seniors; \$14 for students (with valid ID) for all shows
\$14 for rush tickets (half hour before the show, subject to availability)
Group rates for 12 and over available upon request.

STAFF: Lifeline ensemble members **Frances Limoncelli** (Adaptor), **Dorothy Milne** (Director), **Kevin Gawley** (Lighting Design) and **Victoria Delorio** (Sound Design) are joined by **Jackie and Richard Penrod** (Scenic Design), **Lindsey Pate** (Costume Design), **Krista Buckhalter** (Props Design), **Geoff Coates** (Fight Choreography), **Phil Timberlake** (Dialect Coach), **Laronika Thomas** (Dramaturg) and **Stephanie Hurovitz** (Stage Manager).

CAST: Lifeline ensemble members **Jenifer Tyler** (Harriet Vane) and **Peter Greenberg** (Lord Peter Wimsey) with guest artists **Cathleen Bentley** (Annie Wilson, Miss Newland-originally scheduled to be played by Elise Kauzlaric), **Christina Irwin** (Miss de Vine), **Bradford Lund** (Viscount Saint-George, others), **Katie McLean** (Mrs. Goodwin, Miss Cattermole), **Melinda Moonahan** (the Dean), **Mary O'Dowd** (Miss Hillyard, Carrie), and **Jan Sodaro** (Miss Lydgate).

NEXT: Lifeline co-presents the Glenwood Avenue Arts Fest, 8/26-27/06, 6900-7010 N. Glenwood (west side of the Red Line). KidFest area in front of Lifeline offers entertainment and hands-on arts activities for kids.

INFO: General theatre info - 773.761.4477, www.lifelinetheatre.com
Theatre marketing info - Frances Limoncelli, 773.761.1772, frances@lifelinetheatre.com
Lifeline Theatre's programs are partially supported by **The Albert Pick, Jr. Fund; Alhambra Foundation; The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; CityArts 3 grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs; Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; Grover Hermann Foundation; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; Illinois Humanities Council; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; Meyer and Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; The Polk Bros. Foundation; S&C Foundation;** and the annual support of **businesses and individuals.**

MISSION: Now in its 23rd season, Lifeline Theatre and its artistic ensemble of writers, directors, designers and performers collaboratively develop literary adaptations and original theater. Lifeline's innovative artistic and education programs for adults, children and families bring engaging and reflective stories to life.

MEDIA: Tree Falls Productions, 773.856.6767 [do not publish; for media ONLY to call], kmckie@msn.com
Media passes, photographs, interviews and additional materials available.

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