

***Busman's Honeymoon* by Dorothy L. Sayers**
Adapted by Frances Limoncelli
Program Notes

Busman's Honeymoon marks the fourth and final time we will see the works of Dorothy L. Sayers adapted for the Lifeline stage. In fact, our *Busman's Honeymoon* is actually an adaptation of an adaptation, for Sayers penned her novel after writing the story as a stage play. Sayers wrote in December of 1936 to her friend, Ivy Shrimpton, of the experience of producing a play: "As you may have seen in the papers, we have at last, after incredible exertions all around, got *Busman's Honeymoon* running in London. Goodness knows whether it will run for very long, but there, at any rate, it is. You cannot imagine the work it has been for my collaborator and me – attending rehearsals, tearing around the provinces, circularizing the public, giving parties to the cast, holding people's hands, soothing frayed tempers and generally trying to help things along." At this time, Sayers was finishing the book adaptation of the play as well, though she always wanted to make it clear that the play had come first. In fact, she instructed her publishers to hold off on releasing the book until the production had come to an end of its run so that "people should not suppose the Play to be 'the novel with all the best bits left out' which is the sort of thing critics and audiences always say if they imagine the Play has been taken from the book."

Lifeline chose to then adapt the book into a new play in order not to leave out some of "the best bits" of the novel, which include the bedroom and garden scenes between Harriet and Peter, whose relationship, after all, has been one of largest sources of delight in adapting these works. It is safe to say that anyone who has been involved, not just with the production of *Busman's Honeymoon*, but also of *Gaudy Night*, *Strong Poison*, and *Whose Body?*, will miss these characters deeply. Getting to know them, and their remarkable, trailblazing creator, Ms. Sayers, has been an honor for everyone here at Lifeline. We can't think of a better way to send them off than with their quiet nuptials and adjustment into married life, accompanied, of course, with a murder mystery to untangle one last time!

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