

 Sterling Playmakers

Presents



# THE SOCIAL SECRETARY

*An Original Romantic Comedy Set in Gilded Age Newport*

*By Ellen Price*



Produced by Lora Buckman

Directed by Ellen Price

October 15, 16, 22, & 23 at 7:30pm

October 17 & 24 at 2:00pm

The Theatre at Seneca Ridge  
98 Seneca Ridge Dr, Sterling, Virginia

## *Our Mission Statement*

Sterling Playmakers, in cooperation with Loudoun County Parks, Recreation, and Community Services' Sterling Community Center, will associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To foster and perpetuate wholesome theatrical presentations for all age groups, of both a cultural and entertainment value to the community of Sterling, ever keeping in mind our obligations to the community in the safeguarding of the principles of good taste in all our endeavors.

To produce, direct, write, teach, stage and in all ways provide all forms of performing arts activities and events for children and adults and to hire such staff as may be necessary.

To exist as a non-profit organization, which operates strictly for the enjoyment of our members, providing an outlet for the artistic talents of as many community individuals as possible.

## *Statement of Diversity*

Sterling Playmakers is committed to cultivating a diverse and inclusive environment for our volunteers, audiences, and the entire community. We embrace our differences and respect the unique contributions of each individual. We will not tolerate discrimination or harassment based on race, ethnicity, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, pregnancy, childbirth or related conditions, religion, creed, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status or any other protected status as established by law.

## *Our Board of Directors*

Kimberly Fry, Chairman  
Tim Silk, Vice Chairman  
Barbara Gillen, Secretary  
Jim Bowen-Collinson, Treasurer

Lauren Baker, Julia Braxton, Shanna Christian, Aubry Fisher, Bill Fry,  
John L. Geddie, Angela Hepola, Ellen Price, Scott Ruegg

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

(703) 437-6117

## Director's Note

Several years ago, while living in the Boston area, I became fascinated by coastal Newport, Rhode Island's gilded age mansions and the society that surrounded them. Walking through these "cottages," as they were called, and learning the cultural norms and rules of both the "Four Hundred" and the servants who lived and worked in these homes, seemed an intriguing setting for a story. I dove into further research of the summer season – a world of upstairs and downstairs — an American version of "Downton Abbey."

When reading the book *Gilded*, by Deborah Davis, one line stood out to me. When recounting the various household staff, she wrote that the Social Secretary was "[u]sually a single woman with a refined background and a reduced bank account." It struck me immediately as inspiration for a heroine – and a working title – and both stuck.

I'm so thankful to have such a supportive cast, crew, and staff who have worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to bring this piece to the stage despite the delays and challenges that we've faced. I'm also incredibly grateful to both City of Fairfax Theater Company, who hosted a staged reading, and to Sterling Playmakers, for hosting public play readings and the first fully staged production.

I love period romances and I had a lot of fun writing and directing this one. Thanks so much for coming out to enjoy it with us! We're so glad that you've come to enjoy live local performing arts right here in our community!

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If you or your organization is interested in putting on *The Social Secretary*, please contact us at [socialsecretaryplay@icloud.com](mailto:socialsecretaryplay@icloud.com) or through Facebook at *The Social Secretary Play* to request an excerpt or for other information.

*The Social Secretary: A Romantic Comedy Set in Gilded Age Newport.*  
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— Ellen Price, Director & Playwright

## Setting

1894 Newport, Rhode Island, at the height of the gilded age.

## Our Cast

|                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| CLARA RUTHERFORD.....                | Michelina Pollini |
| ELIJAH (ELI) BOYD.....               | Riley Mulvihill   |
| IONA BOYD.....                       | Margie Lazo       |
| SIMPSON.....                         | Stuart Fischer    |
| MRS. PETERS.....                     | Sally Flores      |
| BETH.....                            | Caitlin Costello  |
| KATE.....                            | Courtney Garofolo |
| NIKOLAY KOTOV, ELI U/S.....          | Anthony Pohl      |
| VALENTIN.....                        | Tom Lazo          |
| FAYE DICKERSON.....                  | Dora Duru         |
| LILY.....                            | Leilani Canales   |
| THEO.....                            | Jackson McGill    |
| VERA.....                            | Claire Marshall   |
| MARTHA.....                          | Robyn Stafford    |
| FRED.....                            | Luis Fernandez    |
| LULU MONROE.....                     | Kate Clark        |
| CHARLES MONROE.....                  | Earle Greene      |
| HAZEL LONGSTREET.....                | Lauren Sunday     |
| PHILIP LONGSTREET, MR. DALE U/S..... | Chris Persil      |
| RUTH SLOANE, CLARA U/S.....          | Alex Aspiazu      |
| WESLEY SLOANE.....                   | RC Castaneda      |
| DORIS.....                           | Joni Carluzzo     |
| MRS. ASTOR.....                      | Susan Kronenberg  |
| MR. ASTOR.....                       | Byron Marine      |
| MR. DALE.....                        | Miguel Guzman     |
| LAUNDRESS, VERA U/S.....             | Tina Pyhtila      |
| SWING.....                           | Clinton McCauley  |
| LADY'S MAID, SWING.....              | Tonia Weik        |
| STABLE BOY, THEO U/S.....            | Elijah Stokes     |
| PRINCE.....                          | William Price     |

There will be a 15 Minute Intermission between Act I & II

*Dedication from the Playwright, Ellen Price*

I'd like to dedicate this production to the memory of three women - my grandmothers Helen Apgar and Doris Dean, and my mother-in-law Gene Price, who all loved a love story.

# Our Staff

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| PRODUCER.....                 | Lora Buckman   |
| DIRECTOR.....                 | Ellen Price  |
| ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.....       | Tim Silk   |
| TECHNICAL DIRECTOR.....       | Scott Ruegg  |
| PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER..... | Helen Gernhardt  |
| CHOREOGRAPHER.....            | Sarah Hardy  |
| STAGE MANAGER.....            | Joe Campanella   |
| STAGE CREW.....               | Geoff Hardy, Ryan Hiese  |
| COSTUMERS.....                | Judith Harmon, Mikayla Kirr  |
| COSTUME ASSISTANT.....        | Lori Crockett  |
| PROPS MANAGER.....            | Margie Lazo  |
| LIGHTS DESIGN/OPERATOR.....   | Joe Peci   |
| SOUND DESIGN/OPERATOR.....    | Duron Long   |
| MAKE-UP.....                  | Jeannie Delisi   |
| HAIR.....                     | Jackie Tidball   |
| PUBLICITY MANAGER.....        | Liz Mykiety  |
| GRAPHIC ARTIST.....           | Joe Christian  |
| SHOW PHOTOGRAPHER.....        | Alan Price   |
| SET DESIGN.....               | Ellen Price, Scott Ruegg   |
| SET ARTIST.....               | Terry DiMurro  |
| DETAIL SET PAINTERS.....      | Alex Aspiazu, Caitlin Costello,<br>Joe Campanella, Luis Fernandez, Courtney Garofolo,<br>Susan Kronenberg, Margie Lazo, Riley Mulvihill,<br>Michelina Polini, Chris Percil, Robyn Stafford, Lauren Sunday, |
| PROGRAM DESIGN.....           | Shanna Christian   |
| BOX OFFICE MANAGERS.....      | Mary Abbott & Mark Humphrey  |
| ONLINE BOX OFFICE.....        | Tim Silk   |
| BOX OFFICE ASSISTANTS.....    | Doris Argall, Sandy Argall, Joan Ashby,<br>Randy Ashby, Marleen Coté, Peggy Darr   |
| AUDITION ASSISTANTS.....      | Kathy Bleutge, Julia Braxton, Abby Price   |
| LOBBY DISPLAY.....            | TSRC-Reston  |
| BOARD LIAISON.....            | Barbara Gillen   |
| HOUSE MANAGER.....            | Laura Garofolo   |
| USHERS.....                   | Arista Michelle, Chris Canales, Jennifer Canales,<br>Kieth Flores, Ryan Franks, Mike Garofolo,<br>Clint McCauley, Charlie Newman,<br>Vincent Runion, Michael Zavala  |
| MOVE-IN AND SET PAINTING..... | Cast and crew,<br>Kieth Flores, Ryan Franks, Tony Kellums, Burgan Pugh, Michael Zavala   |

Our Newport Music Hall is courtesy of On That Note, Sterling Playmakers' traveling musical theatre ensemble, and will be featuring performances by Jeannie Delisi, Dr. Jessica Foy Long, and Tim Silk.

## Biographies

**Alex Aspiazu (Ruth Sloane, Clara u/s)** is thrilled to be joining Sterling Playmakers this season! Prior favorite roles include Audrey (As You Like It, Hob Nob), Giuseppe Zangara (Assassins, Curtain Call), Alaura (City of Angels, Scotch 'n Soda) and Sally Bowles (Cabaret, Scotch 'n Soda). She would like to thank Ryan Dean and all four dorkfishes for their love and support.

**Lelani Canales (Lily)** is delighted to be making her debut with the Sterling Playmakers. Lelani has recently moved from North Carolina, where she performed with The Center Players, The Albemarle Players, The Hurrah Players. She has performed in Elf, the musical, Broadway Baby, and 12 Dancing Princesses. She is a fourth grader who loves fashion and art. She wants to thank her brother Kai for encouraging her to audition for this role and is grateful to learn from so many talented artists.

**Joni Carluzzo (Doris)** is delighted to be returning to Sterling Playmakers after a long hiatus. Some of her favorite roles include Eleanor Roosevelt (Annie), Alma (The Music Man), Mom Bailey (It's a Wonderful Life) Mrs. Pearce (My Fair Lady, PP), Grandma Tzeitel (Fiddler on the Roof) and more. Many thanks to Ellen, Tim, Lora and the entire friendly cast! Break legs all!

**Kate Clark (Lulu Monroe)** is back for her fourth show with the Playmakers after appearing in Much Ado About Nothing, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, and Godspell. Other favorite roles include Grace (Annie), Rosalind (As You Like It), and Mimi (Guys and Dolls). Much love to her marvelous boyfriend RC, even if he is someone else's husband in this universe.

**RC Castaneda (Wesley Sloane)** has worked on many shows with the Sterling Playmakers on stage and behind the scenes. Favorite productions include: Bad Girls of Western Lit, 42nd Street, and Much Ado About Nothing. It's dope to work with his superfly girlfriend and the cool cast on this production. Enjoy the show!

**Caitlin Costello (Beth)** is absolutely overjoyed to be joining SP for the first time. After a very (very) long break from theater, she is beyond honored and excited to be part of such a phenomenal cast and crew. She would like to thank everyone involved in the show and also her mom and dad for being the very best parents a girl could have.

## Biographies

**Dora Duru (Faye Dickerson)** is thrilled to be joining SP for the first time and is honored to be a part of this incredible team. Some previous roles include Marsha (Tin Can Musical Showcase, P.R. Productions) and a cast member (Dark Side of the Moon, Next Stage Theater in Hollywood). She would like to thank everyone who has inspired her in life.

**Luis Fernandez (Fred)** is excited to perform for the first time with SP's The Social Secretary, and feels grateful about sharing and learning surrounded by an amazing TSS team. The last time Luis was in a play was more than 20 years ago, during his high school art festival, where he played one of the main roles (A Pharaoh) in a drama/romance play called "The Daughter of the Pharaoh". He is thankful to the entire cast, crew, technical, production and direction team for making TSS happen!

**Stuart Fischer (Simpson)** makes his Sterling Playmakers debut but previously appeared in Loudon County as Miles, the misogynistic billionaire in TFT's "Loose Knit". He has appeared with many theater groups in the DMV, most recently as Robert in Proof (SMP), Malvolio in Twelfth Night (FGCB) and Dr. Einstein in Arsenic and Old Lace (RLT).

**Sally Flores (Mrs. Peters)** is thrilled to be back with Sterling Playmakers, last seen as Diane Lorimer in 42nd Street. Past credits: Queen of Hearts (Alix in Wonderland, CT), Miss Hannigan (Annie, ZS), Mrs. Fezziwig (A Christmas Carol, PPF), Blood Mary (South Pacific, CRT) and Irene Molloy (Hello Dolly, CRT). Thanks to Social Secretary cast & production team. Loveto K&M.

**Courtney Garofolo (Kate)** is thrilled to be back performing with Sterling Playmakers. Previous roles include Leanne/Frenchy (Puffs, SP), Ginette (Almost Maine, Panthers Production), Jean's Lassie (Brigadoon, SP), Mouse (Cinderella's Glass Slipper, SP), Mary Samuels (Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree, SP). She would like to thank the cast and crew for their amazing hard work.

**Earle Greene (Charles Monroe)** is excited for his SP debut and working with this talented cast and crew. He last appeared in RCP's Diary of Anne Frank (Mr. Kraler). Other credits: RCP's Annie (Cordell Hull/Ens), PPF's, Gift of the Magi (Ens), MCP's "A Tuna Christmas" (Var. roles), RTs The Homecoming, (Rev. Dooley), MCP's Evita, (Ens), RCP'S Seussical (Mr. Mayor), RCP's The Crucible (Thomas Putnam), and others in the U.S. and abroad. He was also American Reporter #21 in the Will Smith movie, Ali. Despite this pivotal movie role, his film career has not taken off. :-)

## Biographies

**Miguel Guzman (Mr. Dale)** is delighted to be making his debut at Sterling Playmakers. This is his first performance in some time, he's excited to be back on stage. Thanks to the cast and crew for a wonderful experience, and thanks to his wife Luci and son Xavier for all their love and support.

**Susan Kronenberg (Mrs. Astor)** In 2008, Susan Kronenberg joined Playmakers in their production of Oklahoma, where she played Aunt Eller. She has since performed in many other SP shows in roles such as Queen Agravaire (Once Upon a Mattress), Mama Peterson (Bye Bye Birdie), and Mrs. Harcourt (Anything Goes), to name a few. She is also a member of On That Note, SP's Musical Theatre Revue. In real life, Susan is a professional puppeteer, performing in family friendly venues across the DMV.

**Margery Lazo (Iona Boyd)** is honored to be doing her second role with Sterling Playmakers. She was last seen as Mrs. Barry (Anne of Green Gables) in the fall of 2019. Previous roles in Texas include Jenny (Shenandoah), Helena (A Midsummer Night's Dream), and Lady Larkin (Once Upon a Mattress). She thanks her family, especially husband Tom, with whom she has enjoyed acting in many shows over the years.

**Tom Lazo (Valentin)** is happy to be back on stage after several years (well, Valentin is annoyed and disgusted, as usual). New to Sterling Playmakers, his previous roles elsewhere include Pharaoh (Joseph), Rev David (The Foreigner), Silvius (As You Like it), Charles Condomine (Blythe Spirit), Capt von Trapp (Sound of Music) and El Gallo (The Fantasticks). He thanks his beautiful wife, Margie, for bringing him back to the stage, where they met quite a while ago, and the wonderful Sterling Playmakers for their warm welcome.

**Byron Marine (Mr. Astor)** is delighted to make his acting debut with the incredible team at Sterling Playmakers. Recently, he honed his improvisation skills at Reflex Improv and then studied comedy writing and performed his first stand-up routine at LIT Comedy. Thank you to Ellen and our cast and crew for such an encouraging and enjoyable experience

**Claire Marshall (Vera)** is beyond thrilled to be joining SP for the first time and has had an amazing time working with this stellar cast. Her previous acting activities have included year round Young Actor's Theatre at RCC and she was a penguin in her school play, Madagascar.



## Biographies

**Jackson McGill (Theo)** is excited to work with this polished team of professionals as he makes his acting debut. Thank you to dad for the push I needed to get started, my family for supporting me, and to the cast and crew for mentoring me through my first time acting.

**Riley Mulvihill (Eli Boyd)** is thrilled to make his debut with Sterling Playmakers. Riley has acted in over 20 productions, recently directing his original work *Dark Knight: The Musical* in Eugene, Oregon. He'd like to thank Peaches for keeping the house safe while he's been away and for being an all-round good dog.

**Chris Persil (Philip)** is delighted to be making his debut at Sterling Playmakers. Most recently, Chris played the role of Rogers in *And Then There Were None* at Providence Players of Fairfax. Thanks to Ellen and the cast and crew for a wonderful experience, and thanks to Shelly, Emily and Jacqueline for all their love and support.

**Tina Pyhtila (Laundress, Vera u/s)** Tina Pyhtila is thrilled to be working with a real Sterling Playmakers show for the first time! In the past, she has done lots of virtual readings such as *A Dolls House*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and many more! She also took an Acting and Filmmaking class at Arena Stage. She is pretty new to Theater in general, so she hasn't been in Community Theater. Nevertheless, she is thrilled to be a part of Sterling Playmakers!

**Anthony Pohl (Nikolay Kotov, Eli u/s)** is thrilled to join Sterling Playmakers for the first time. Previous roles include Lieutenant Rooney (*Arsenic and Old Lace*, AP), Radar O'Reilly (*M\*A\*S\*H*, South Central Theater), Junior (*Dearly Departed*, SCT), and Renfield (*Dracula*, SCT). Special thanks go out to Alan Gardner, Laurie Berstene, and Wendy Rathé.

**Michelina Anne Pollini (Clara Rutherford)** is excited to make her debut with Sterling Playmakers. Past roles include: Shelby (*Steel Magnolias*), Helena (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), and Annabelle (*Lucky Stiff*). She is grateful for the Lord her God (Phil. 3:14), her supportive friends and family... and especially Tony, the love of her life who watched our children during rehearsals! "Same team."

## Biographies

**William Price** (*Prince Haakon and others*) studies ballet, jazz, and modern in the professional division at the Greater Washington Dance Center and trained at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's Summer Intensive last summer. Favorite theater roles include James (Giant Peach), Dill, (Mockingbird) and Young Cal (East of Eden). Upcoming: SP's Catch Me, Ensemble and GWDC's Nutcracker, Nutcracker Prince.

**Robyn Stafford** (*Martha*) is excited to be back onstage with Sterling Playmakers. Past roles with the Playmakers include Pirelli (Sweeney Todd), Enchantress/Ensemble (Beauty and the Beast), Clown (39 Steps), Chorus Girl/Ensemble (42nd Street). She wants to thank her amazing husband and daughter for their support, love, and laughter.

**Elijah Stokes** (*Stable Boy, Theo u/s*) is thrilled to be joining Sterling Playmakers for the first time, and is honored to be part of this incredible team. This will be Elijah's first acting role, and he is excited for this opportunity. Elijah thanks the cast and crew for making this such a wonderful experience.

**Lauren Sunday** (*Hazel Longstreet*) is ecstatic to be originating the role of Hazel in her debut with Sterling Playmakers. Previous credits include Hippolyta (A Midsummer Night's Dream, Pitt Stages), NELL (Haiku, Pitt Stages), Mrs. Mushnik (Little Shop of Horrors), A. Miller Players, Star-to-Be (Annie, CTC). She would like to thank her family for their constant love and support.

**Tonia Weik** (*Swing, Lady's Maid and others*) is oh so happy to join a SP production for the second time (particularly since the last production was cut short due to Covid...)! Previous roles include Professor Sproutty (Puffs, SP), Sailor/nurse/pilot (South Pacific, Chalice Theater), and Ensemble/Chorus (Oklahoma, Chalice). She thanks family and friends for their enthusiastic support and unabashed (ie, blind) praise!



*Sterling Playmakers is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community theatre organization in partnership with Loudoun County Parks, Recreation, and Community Services and the Sterling Community Center.*

*Contributions to the Sterling Playmakers are gratefully accepted and fully tax deductible.*

**www.sterlingplaymakers.org**  
**(703) 437-6117**

## *Special Thank You*

Sterling Playmakers and The Social Secretary would like to sincerely thank the following organizations and individuals for help with this production:

Sterling Community Center

Nick Cottone, Brenda Patton, Mitchell Seipt, Placido Gutierrez, and the Staff at Seneca Ridge Middle School

Kelly Jeon and the Staff at Sterling Library

Belinda Blue and the Staff at Cascades Library

Lumen Technologies Government Solutions, Inc.

Morven Park

Burgan Pugh

Grant Sitta

Lisa Mattia

Paul Gernhardt

*Our sincere appreciation to anyone we may have missed or who contributed to our show after the program went to print*

## *Covid Statement*

We are following CDC, Virginia, and Loudoun County guidance for COVID-19 during this production. Current guidelines are available at [www.sterlingplaymakers.org/covid updates](http://www.sterlingplaymakers.org/covidupdates).

# Sterling Playmakers

Sterling Playmakers is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community theatre organization in partnership with Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services and the Sterling Community Center. Founded in 1996, Sterling Playmakers provides amateur community theatre performed by local residents for the entire Loudoun community.

We are proud to present quality, family-friendly entertainment.

## Our 26th Season



### THE SOCIAL SECRETARY

*An Original Romantic Comedy Set in Gilded Age Newport*

*By Ellen Price*

October 15-17 & 22-24, 2021

Directed by Ellen Price



November 12-14 & 19-21, 2021  
Directed by Shanna Christian



### DIRTY WORK AFOOT

OR

The Trials of a Working Girl

March 2022

Directed by Terry Nelson DiMurro

### RAGTIME The Musical

July-August 2022

Directed by Jonathan Mulberg

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

