

 Sterling Playmakers  
A Non-Profit Community Theatre Group in Partnership  
with LCPRCS – Sterling Community Center

# STEAL AWAY

by Ramona King

Produced by Curtis Lewis  
Directed by Eleanore Tapscott



March 7-9 & 14-16, 2025



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**Sterling Playmakers**  
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# STEAL AWAY

by Ramona King

Produced by Curtis Lewis  
Directed by Eleanore Tapscott



**March 7-9 & 14-16, 2025**

Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 PM | Sundays at 2:00 PM

The Theatre at Seneca Ridge Middle School

98 Seneca Ridge Drive

Sterling, VA 20164

## **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**

John Geddie, Chairman  
Tim Silk, Vice Chairman  
Barbara Gillen, Secretary  
Kimberly Fry, Treasurer

Gregg Carter, RC Castaneda, Sally Ann Flores, Bill Fry  
Laura Garofolo, Jordan Kazemi, Jordan Lohmeyer  
Scott Ruegg, Michael Zavala

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

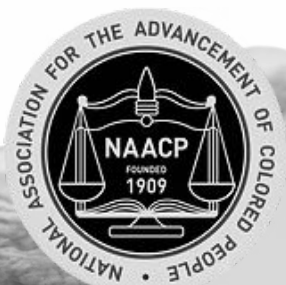
## **A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:**

I am most grateful that education, and specifically higher education, was championed by my family, and I am most thankful for the scholarship opportunities available to me during my undergraduate career. This play, written in the 1980s, set in the 1930s during the Great Depression, still resonates today, as we continue to grapple with various iterations of social injustice and battle for equal opportunity, including educational opportunities, for communities of color.

The rationales that Tracy uses to convince these upstanding church ladies ‘to take what is ours’ stems from history: the turn of the century, after slavery and the promises of the Constitution – that were supposed to be helpful to African Americans and just did not work – or were not allowed to work.

As you applaud this plucky and resourceful group of women in their quest to fund scholarships for the young women in their church, take a moment to ponder the current onslaught of restrictions to derail programs that educate and provide safety nets to under-represented communities, and the full-on assault of white washing our country’s troubled racial history. Please remember: Black History is American History. And we will continue to tell our stories and write our history.

- *Eleanore Tapscott*



There will be a 15 minute intermission during which time refreshments will be available in the lobby. All donations received will support the NAACP Loudoun Branch 2026 Scholarship Program.

*Sterling Playmakers is pleased to present:*  
**Rising Stars Summer Camp**

Show dates: Aug 9 and 10, 2025



 DREAMWORKS THEATRICALS

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**AGES**  
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Camp dates:  
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Sterling, VA  
(local school)

Camp fee: \$600

Register at  
[sterlingplaymakers.org](http://sterlingplaymakers.org)

For more information, email [summercamp@sterlingplaymakers.org](mailto:summercamp@sterlingplaymakers.org)

**Time: Early 1930s**

**Place: Chicago**

**The action of the play takes place in Stella Kyzer's home and The Chicago Savings and Loan Bank.**

# **Act One**

**Scene 1 - Tracy's Homecoming**

**Scene 2 - Celebration, One Week Later**

*INTERMISSION*

# **Act Two**

**Scene 1 - Three Weeks Later**

**Scene 2 - Nighttime**

**Scene 3 - Later That Same Night**



# NAACP

*Loudoun Branch*

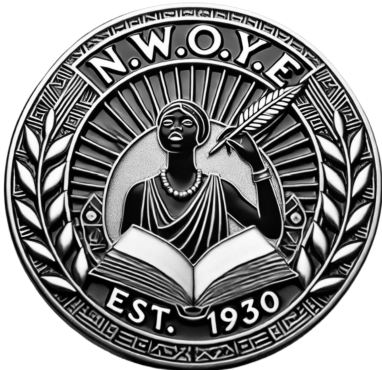
## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The goal of the NAACP Loudoun Branch Scholarship is to provide financial assistance and encouragement to high school graduates of color, specifically African American/Black students in Loudoun County.

A financial scholarship can alter the trajectory of a high school graduate. Historically, students of color, specifically African American/Black students in Loudoun County have been underrepresented as financial scholarship recipients and continue to face many barriers in their pursuit of financial support beyond high school.

For over 80 years, the NAACP Loudoun Branch continues to be the catalyst towards building a better future by investing in the youth of Loudoun County.

### **Building an Equal Future Together**



## **JOIN STEAL AWAY**

Raising funds for the youth of tomorrow. Donate \$25 for the NAACP Loudoun Branch Scholarship Fund and receive a limited edition N.W.O.Y.E pin.

See an usher for details.



# Our Cast

(in order of appearance)

Tracyada Kyzer

Selina Tom-Johnson

Mrs. Stella Margaret Kyzer

Robin Lynn Reaves

Miss Sudy Atkinson

Jacqueline Massingill

Mrs. Renita (Redd) Ruth

Marguerite Driessen

Mrs. Jade Long

Kellie Santos-DeJesus

Mrs. Buliah (Blu) Daniels

Juanisha Brooks



## *Special Thank You*

Sterling Playmakers and *Steal Away* would like to sincerely thank the following organizations and individuals for help with this production:

Placidio Guterrez , Christina Jones, Mitch Seipt &  
the Staff at Seneca Ridge Middle School

Loudoun County Department of Parks and Recreation  
Sterling Community Center

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Little Theatre of Alexandria

Lightfoot Restaurant

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





# AUDITIONS

for Percy Jackson's

## THE LIGHTNING THIEF

April 24 & 25 @ 6:30-9:00 pm

April 26 @ 12:30-3:00 pm

at the Cascades Senior Center  
21060 Whitfield Pl Sterling, VA 20165

Ages 12+ welcome!

# Production Staff

Producer	Curtis Lewis
Director	Eleanore Tapscott
Assistant Director	Tyrus Sanders
Production Stage Manager	Cecelia Hilliard
Stage Manager	Mylo Avalan-Neptune
Stage Crew	Mark Lorenz
Technical Director	Bill Fry
Assistant Technical Director	Misty Gottlieb
Set Designer	Eleanore Tapscott
Master Carpenters	Bill Fry
Set Painting Designer	Bill Fry, Misty Gottlieb, Curtis Lewis
Props Managers	Anna Casey
Light Designer	Scott Ruegg
Light Board Operator	Erin Casey
Sound Designer	John Roberts
Sound Operator	RC Castaneda
Costume Designer	Farrell Hartigan
Costume Assistant	Lisa Alford
Makeup & Hair Designer	Chanel Lancaster
Makeup & Hair Assistant	Lisa Alford
Photographer	Courtney Garofolo
Publicity Manager	Laura Garofolo
PR Team	Courtney Garofolo, Ines Perez, Caroline Tate
Graphic Artist	Alyssa Mutterperl
House Managers	Lora Buckman
Ushers	Cathy Gurson, Ollie Gurson, Brenda Ivery Duron Long, Jessica Long, Glen Macdonald Ashley McGee, Corey McGee, Maria Pascual Mike Zavala
Box Office Manager	Barb Gillen
Audition Manager	Barb Gillen
Audition Assistants	RC Castaneda, Laura Garofolo, John Geddie
Move-in & Set Build Crew	Anna Casey, Erin Casey, Marie Casey Misty Gottlieb, Bill Fry, Curtis Lewis Scott Ruegg, Tyrus Sanders

# Meet the Cast



## Juanisha Brooks

(Blu) is excited for her Sterling Playmakers debut in *Steal Away*. She has performed across the DMV and will next appear in *Clyde's* at Workhouse Arts Center.

Previous roles include *Church and State* (SSS), *POTUS* (CFTC), *The Nacirema Society* (LTA), *Silver Spring One Acts* (SSS), *Ten by Ten Festival* (ARTFactory), *New Voices New Works* (AP), *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (VTTA), and *The Tempest* (GSA). A proud alumna of Virginia Tech and the Governor's School for the Arts Theatre department, she dedicates this performance to her late mother, Vanessa, and late grandmother, Mae Frances Brooks—an upstanding church lady who survived the Great Depression and inspired her passion for Black history and storytelling.



## Marguerite Driessen

(Redd) is a civil servant who joyfully returned to theater after a hiatus of over 30 years as Sarah's Friend/Harlem Ensemble in *Ragtime* (SP), Ancestor in *Addams Family* (SP), Ruth in *Raisin in the Sun* (SP), Sophia's Sister and a member of the WATCH nominated Ensemble of *The Color Purple* (SMP), Player 8 in the Broadway World nominated Ensemble of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (Abridged) (SP), and Queen Eleanor in *Sleeping Beauty Once Upon a Time* (SP). *Steal Away* is her sixth production with Sterling Playmakers.



## Jacqueline Massingill

(Study) is thrilled to make her acting debut in *Steal Away*. A science teacher for thirty years in public and charter schools, she enjoys gardening and thrifting in her free time. She is grateful to Laura Garofolo for encouraging her to audition. Her children and grandchildren have been wonderfully supportive of this new endeavor.



# Meet the Cast



**Robin Lynn Reaves** (Stella) is a multiple WATCH Award nominee and has appeared in many shows. Catherine Adams Green in *Nacirema Society* (LTA), Lena Younger in *A Raisin in the Sun* (SP), Muzzy in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (RCP), Geneva Lee Brown in *1940's Radio Show* (MCP), and many more. She has appeared professionally in Ford's Theatre production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *MaRainey's Black Bottom* at Arena Stage. She would like to thank her family for all of their love and support; she knows her Dad is "whistling" from heaven.



**Kellie Santos-DeJesus** (Jade) is excited to be making her SP debut. She completed the Theatre Lab Honors Conservatory in Washington D.C. in 2021, the Atlantic Acting School Summer Immersion in New York in 2024, and currently studies under Vera J. Katz, Howard University Professor Emerita. Favorite roles include Fannie Lou Hamer in *Wednesdays in Mississippi* (JME), Marie Dunbar in *The Nacirema Society* (LTA), Winifred Veil in *S.P.I.E.S. 2: Flight of the Hawk* (IS), Mrs. Winsley/Nurse in *Stop Kiss* (VP), and Diana Sims in *A Matter of Faith* (ET).



**Selina Tom-Johnson** (TracyAda) is honored and excited to be a part of this amazing show and cast. Her recent credits include, Catherine in *Proof* (Theatre Lab's Breakout Theatre), Gracie Dunbar in *The Nacirema Society* (LTA), Beneatha in *Raisin in the Sun* (RLT). Selina is a proud member of the Theatre Lab's conservatory. She is grateful to her loved ones for all their support. Selina dedicates her performance in memory of Tom and Celia and to all the dreamers out there.



# Meet the Production Staff

**Mylo Avalan-Neptune** (Assistant Stage Manager) is doing her 14th show for SP. She has been in a variety of backstage roles including *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Ragtime*, and *The Complete Works of Shakespeare: Abridged*. Previously, Mylo tried her hand at tech directing for SP's *The Last Five Years*. She's had a wonderful time with the cast and crew of *Steal Away*. Mylo thanks her partner Robin for all the love and confidence they have given her.

**Anna Casey** (Props) is excited to be doing props for *Steal Away*. She has been helping the Playmakers for 13 years both on stage and off, and also has helped out with her high school theatre productions. A few shows she has done previously include *Music Man* (SP), *42nd Street* (SP), and *Oliver* (SP). She knows the cast and crew have worked very hard and hopes you enjoy the show.

**Erin Casey** (Lights) is happy to be back helping with another Sterling Playmakers show. She has been helping out with shows with the Playmakers for almost 15 years. She is glad to have found such a great theatre family here with the Playmakers. This is the first time that she will be running lights, however she has helped out with many other backstage roles including set crew and props. She wants to thank all of the cast, crew, and their families for all the support shared with each other through the run of the show.

**RC Castaneda** (Sound Operator) has been a member of the Sterling Playmakers for 14 years and a board member for 1. Most recently he played Pablo in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and was Sound Designer for *The Last Five Years*. Both with the Sterling Playmakers. He would like to thank his wife for all her love and support. He hopes you enjoy the show.

**Laura Garofolo** (Publicity Manager) is so excited for this production of *Steal Away*! She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she has had working with such a talented and dedicated cast. These are some remarkable women both on and off the stage!

**Cecelia Hilliard** (Production Stage Manager) is thrilled to be the PSM for her second SP production. Behind the scenes, she has designed the lights for *Willy Wonka* (SP), *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* (SP), operated the lights with *Fiddler on the Roof* (RCP), *Avenue Q* (RCP), *HONK! the musical* (SP), *Bright Star* (RCP), *Game's a Foot* (RCP, WATCH award), and *A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder* (RCP). She was an assistant producer with SP, and painted and built sets in RCP and SP productions. She thanks her mom for her constant love and support.

# Meet the Production Staff

**Curtis Lewis** (Producer) is proud to present *Steal Away* to this wonderful audience. This will be his 3rd production as Producer for Sterling Playmakers. This cast and crew is like family to him and Sterling Playmakers is like a 2nd home. Please enjoy the show and the wonderful cast and crew whom helped make this possible.

**Tyrus Sanders** (Assistant Director) is excited to bring Sterling Playmakers' rendition of *Steal Away* to life. Previously, he served as Assistant Stage Manager for SP's *Streetcar Named Desire*. This year, he was honored to be BroadwayWorld.com's "Best Performer in a Play (Non-Professional)" for his role as Player 2 in SP's *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*. Previous credits include: Ralph/the Nurse in SP's production of *Shakespeare in Love*; Lyons Maxson in CAPAC's *Fences*; Walter Lee Younger in SP's *A Raisin in the Sun*.

**Eleanore Tapscott** (Director) is a NOVA-based actor/director. Directing credits include *Alabama Story* and *By the Way Meet Vera Stark* (CP), *The Bluest Eye* (DS), *The Nacirema Society...* (LTA), *Playing Juliet*, *Casting Othello* (PPF). Recent acting credits include Harriet/Margaret (understudy) in *POTUS...* (NextStop Theatre), Helen Hubbard, *Murder on the Orient Express* and Harriet, *Two on the Aisle*, *Three in the Van* (LTA), Mrs. Dickson, *Intimate Apparel* (MET), Feste, *Twelfth Night* (PTP), Mrs. Johnson, WATCH-Award nominated, *A Raisin in the Sun* (SP). Upcoming: Susan Bayliss, *All My Sons* (Actors Theatre of the ArtFactory).

## Local Theatre Reference Guide

CAPAC	Creative And Performing Arts Center	RMT	Rockville Musical Theatre*
RC	Creative Cauldron	RTP	Rooftop Productions
CRT	Castaways Theatre*	SP	Sterling Playmakers*
GCP	Goose Creek Players	SSI	Silhouette Stages
JTC	Jupiter Theatre Company	SMP	St. Mark's Players*
LTA	Little Theatre of Alexandria*	STC	StageCoach Theatre Company
OTN	On That Note	TKT	The Keegan Theatre
PWLT	Prince William Little Theatre*	WAC	Workhouse Arts Center
RCP	Reston Community Players*		

\* Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH) member



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# CALL FOR DIRECTORS 2026

[www.sterlingplaymakers.org](http://www.sterlingplaymakers.org)  
Member of WATCH

## APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[www.sterlingplaymakers.org](http://www.sterlingplaymakers.org)



### Your Donations Make a Difference

As a non-profit all volunteer 501(c)(3) organization, we rely on ticket sales, memberships, and donations to operate our little hometown theatre. If you are looking for a great opportunity to donate, we would be grateful if you considered **Sterling Playmakers** as part of your giving plan.

Your donations help us alleviate the costs of our warehouse and performance venues to help us bring the best of community theatre to our community. **THANK YOU!**

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





# 2024-2025 Season Donors

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Annabel Johnson

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Lora Buckman, Matt, Katie & Ava Grace Boone  
Peggy Darr  
Stacy Ferreira

## Director's Circle (\$150 to \$299)

Janet Davis  
Kelsey Mitchell  
Liz Mykiety  
Kareem Taylor and Tyrus Sanders  
Michael & Diana Zavala

## The Company (\$75 to \$149)

Loren & Michael Blinde  
Joe Campanella  
Mark Lorenz  
Thomas Miller & Charles Hall  
Bernice Morgan  
Scott Ruegg  
Paul Smith

## The Entourage (\$20 to \$74)

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**Thank you to those that have donated since the program went to print.**

# Sterling Playmakers

## 29th Season



October 18-20 & 25-27, 2024



November 15-17 & 22-24, 2024



Winter 2025



March 7-9 & 14-16, 2025



July 25-27  
August 1-3 & 8-10, 2025

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

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as "Stella"

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The **Loudoun Freedom Center** and the **NAACP Loudoun Branch** congratulates Robin Lynn Reaves in her role as “*Stella*”.

Indeed, this art imitates life, as Robin embodies the spirit of resilience, empowerment, and sisterhood—values that echo throughout this powerful production.

As dedicated advocates for education, preservation, and social justice, we are honored to be co-sponsors of the

## **Steal Away-Talkback Sunday, March 16, 2025**

**immediately following the matinee performance.**

Join us as we delve deeper into the play’s themes, the historical context, and the impact of these untold stories on our collective journey.

