Sterling Playmakers

LAUGHING STOCK By Charles Morey

February 16-18 & 23-25, 2024



Produced by Lora Buckman



Directed by Sarah Hardy

Assistant Produced byCecelia Hilliard

Assistant Directed byKyle Chua

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

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

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presents



by Charles Morey

Produced by Lora Buckman
Directed by Sarah Hardy
Assistant Produced by Cecelia Hilliard
Assistant Directed by Kyle Chua

In the Theatre at Seneca Ridge Middle School February 16-18 & 23-25, 2024

www.sterlingplaymakers.org

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

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

I grew up as a 3rd generation theatre kid, starting with my grandparents working in Vaudeville. Theatre has taught me so much about the world and the people in it. Theatre draws certain types of people to it, people who like to entertain, deliver a great product, creative people who have strengths in many areas and come from all different backgrounds and walks of life.

From the moment I read the script of *Laughing Stock* it captured my heart as a show I would like to direct "some day". The way it brings to life all those theatre people I have known my whole life, heard stories about and worked directly with in theatre, in such a human way, is perfect. It shows, without making fun of, the vast personalities that are drawn to theatre. Sometimes the personalities clash, sometimes they are just there doing their job, and yet other times they find the perfect mix of people, talent, and passion to create something truly wonderful. *Laughing Stock* brings the audience a glimpse into the world of creating something wonderful. Anyone who has been a part of a show can identify with some if not most of the people in *Laughing Stock* and the situations they find themselves in. The hilarity in the show can only come from what we theatre people have actually experienced. "Art imitating life" at its best.

Thanks, Sarah Hardy

Act 1

Scene 1 The Playhouse

Scene 2 Auditions in New York

Scene 3
First Read-through Rehearsal in The Playhouse

Scene 4
Rehearsal for *Dracul, Prince of the Undead*

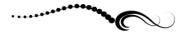
Scene 5 Reading of the Will

Scene 6 Rehearsal for *Charley's Aunt*

> Scene 7 The Great Pencil Idea

Scene 8 Vernon Gets Real

Scene 9 Gordon and Sarah



Intermission



Act II

Scene 1
After Opening Night of Charley's Aunt

Scene 2
Opening Night of *Dracul, Prince of the Undead*

Scene 3
After Opening Night of *Dracul, Prince of the Undead*

Scene 4
Opening Night of *Hamlet*

Scene 5 Closing Night for the Season









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Cast

Gordon Page

Jack Morris

Susannah Huntsmen

Mary Pierre

Tyler Taylor

Vernon Volker

Richfield Hawksley

Daisy Coates

Craig Conlin

Sarah McKay

Henry Mills

Karma Schneider

Braun Oakes

Ian Milliken

Swing

Swing

Dino Coppa

Christian Rodgers

Liz Mykietyn

Marielle Baker

Nathan McGraw

Tony Greenberg

Bob Rosenberg

Margo Lazo

Michael Todd

Cathy Gurson

Greg Kasey

Caroline Tate

Tyler Cook

Nathaniel Mathias

Patricia Coates

Cassidy Lapierre







SIGN UP FOR AUDITIONS:

May 16-17 from 5:30-9:00pm May 18 from 10:00am - 3:00pm

CALLBACKS:

May 19 from 1:00-3:00pm

Staff & Crew

Producer Lora Buckman

Assistant Producer Cecelia Hilliard

Director Sarah Hardy

Assistant Director Kyle Chua

Production Stage Manager Helen Gernhardt

Stage Manager Courtney Garofolo

Stage Crew Galen Beaver, Patricia Coates

Cassidy Lapierre, Stacey Roussiat

Technical Director Scott Ruegg

Set Designer & Dresser Myke Taister

Master Carpenter Scott Ruegg

Set Painting Designer Terry Nelson DiMurro

Props Manager Meg Roosma

Light Designer & Operator Stacy King

Spotlight Operators Nick King

Sound Designer & Operator Liz Shaher

Sound Operator David Katz

Costume Designer Allison Ball, Cathy Gurson, Margie Lazo

Makeup Designer Kayla Hetrick

Hair Designers Taylor Berman, Kayla Hetrick

Photographer Leland Shook

Publicity Team Laura Garofolo, Ashley McGee

Liz Mykietyn



Staff & Crew

Diana Zavala, Michael Zavala House Managers

Ushers Julia Braxton, Brenda Ivery

Glen Macdonald, So Oberleas Maria Pascual, Jane Waldrop

Box Office Managers Mary Abbott, Mark Humphrey

Box Office Assistants Peggy Darr, Laura Garofolo

Barbara Gillen, Michael Zavala

Audition Manager Barbara Gillen

Audition Assistants Mary Abbott, Lauren Baker

Laura Garofolo, Mary Pascual

Joe Campanella **Bulk Mailing Manager**

Lora Buckman, Tyler Cook, Dino Coppa **Bulk Mailing Crew**

Laura Garofolo, Helen Gernhardt

Tony Greenberg, Cathy Gurson

Cecelia Hilliard, Greg Kasey

Cassidy Lapierre, Margie Lazo Nathan McGraw, Liz Mykietyn

Bob Rosenberg, Michael Zavala

Move-in & Set Build Crew Marielle Baker, Lora Buckman, Kyle Chua

Patricia Coates, Tyler Cook, Dino Coppa

Stacy Ferreira, Helen Gernhardt

Tony Greenberg, Cathy Gurson

Geoff Hardy, Sarah Hardy, Greg Kasey

Stacy King, Cassidy Lapierre, Margie Lazo

Nate Mathias, Nathan McGraw

Liz Mykietyn, Nic Queyrane

Christian Rodgers, Bob Rosenberg

Scott Ruegg, Myke Taister, Michael Todd

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Who's Who in the Cast



Marielle Baker (Mary Pierre) is thrilled to be joining SP for the first time and is so honored to be a part of this incredible team. Previous roles include Coach Comet (*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, CFTC) and Christy (*The Saturday Morning Garden Club*, STC). She would like to thank her family and the greatest cast and crew she's ever worked with.



Patricia Coates (Swing) is excited to be returning to the theatre after many, many years away. She appreciates the SP welcoming her with open arms. Past roles include Agnes in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Karen and Norma in *Plaza Suite*, Carmen in *Cookin' with Gus*, Carly in *Whose Wives are They Anyway?* She'd like to thank her family for their support.



Tyler Cook (Braun Oakes) is excited to return with SP and to act in a show with his fiancée Cassidy! His previous stage credits in the area include Fred Gailey (Miracle on 34th Street, GCP), John Willoughby (Sense & Sensibility, GCP), and Louie Grandville (If It's Monday, This Must be Christmas!, SP). Prior to moving to Virginia, Tyler worked on several productions (both on and off-stage) in the Central Illinois area, where he also earned his BFA in Theatre Studies at the University of Illinois. He would love to offer a huge thanks to the cast and crew for all their dedication and hard work. Enjoy the show!



Dino Coppa (Gordon) is happy to return to SP. Dino's favorite roles include David O'Selznick (Moonlight & Magnolias, WOB - WATCH award, Best Featured Actor), Tevye (Fiddler on the Roof, WOB), Max Bialystok (The Producers, SSTG - Best Actor, DC Metro Theatre Arts for both). Dino thanks Amy, Pierce, Anna, Dino Jr, Angelina, Zoey & Isabella for their love and support!



Tony Greenberg (Vernon Volker) is thrilled to be making his first appearance with SP and is honored to have been chosen. Previous roles include: Marcellus (*The Music Man*, RC), Hysterium (*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, RC), Col. Pickering (*My Fair Lady*, LSDT), Lucky (*Dames at Sea*, LSDT), Nevile (*Towards Zero*, LSDT). Tony would like to thank our Director, Sarah Hardy, for picking the perfect role for him in this show.



Cathy Gurson (Sarah McKay) has had so much fun with the cast and crew of *Laughing Stock*! Current credits include being a nurse and a mom. Previous credits: Sterndale (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, SP), behind the scenes (*If It's Christmas, It Must Be Monday & Honk!*, SP), college a cappella, (CBBP): Rizzo (*Grease*), Jack's Mother (ITW), Gilmer (*Godspell*). All her love to her wife and her two best boys for their constant love, support, and silliness.

Who's Who in the Cast



Greg Kasey (Henry Mills) is making his debut performance in theatre with the SP in *Laughing Stock*. He comes from a background in commercial voiceover and voice acting and has appeared in numerous local and regional radio and television ads. "I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this wonder cast and crew in *Laughing Stock*. I'd also like to thank my family and friends for their support and encouragement"



Cassidy Lapierre (Swing) *Laughing Stock* will be Cassidy's first show! She's happy to get to try out a new character each night as Swing, practicing at home with her fiancé Tyler, who is playing Braun. Outside of theatre, she's a public librarian who loves comedy, Sims 4, and their cats.



Margie Lazo (Daisy) is having so much fun working on her third role for the SP. She is thrilled to join the cast for *Laughing Stock*. Previous roles with SP include Mrs. Barry in *Anne of Green Gables*, Iona in *The Social Secretary*, and now *Laughing Stock*. Margie has been acting since she graduated from high school, spending her college summers at – you guessed it – summer stock theaters. After moving to Texas, she did community theater. Her favorite roles include Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Jenny in *Shenandoah*, and Lady Larkin in *Once Upon a Mattress*. She would like to thank God, her family, and friends who offer encouragement as she pursues this lifelong crazy habit of acting.



Nathaniel Mathias (Ian Milliken) is so happy to be working with the SP for the first time! Previously, Nate has portrayed Hades in *The Lightning Thief* done by the NP. Other roles include Colonel Brandon in *Sense and Sensibility* directed by Barbara Schwartz, and *Midsummer Night's Dream* at the HT where he played Egius. He also played five different roles in RGC Theater's *A Christmas Carol*, including Jacob Marley and the Ghost of Christmas Present, among others. Over the past six years, Nate has developed a strong love for all things theater. You can find more from him @Nathan.M.Acting on Instagram. Lastly, he encourages you to laugh, cry and enjoy *Laughing Stock*!



Nathan McGraw (Tyler Taylor) is happy to join the SP! His last stage performance was as Donovan in GCP's *The Misfit Players*. Other favorite roles include Simon in RCP's *The Game's Afoot*, Puck in TMP's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Captain Hook in VTC's *Peter Pan*. In addition to performing, Nathan serves as a high school drama teacher for Loudoun County Public Schools.

Who's Who in the Cast



Liz Mykietyn (Susannah Huntsman) Liz's favorite theater moments include meeting her beau Nicolas, directing Sterling's Guys & Dolls and The Wizard of Oz, performing as "Truvy" in Steel Magnolias twice (PPF & SP), and winning WATCH Best Director 2014 (PPF). She's active with VHSL & WATCH and thankful to Sarah & Lora for letting her join this seriously funny cast. May our audiences laugh with joy.



Christian Rodgers (Jack Morris) is thrilled to be joining SP for his third show! Previous roles with SP include Younger Brother (*Ragtime*) and Ancestor (*The Addams Family*). Other recent credits include Charlie (*Kinky Boots*, RP), Ensemble/Will u.s (*Big Fish*, CFTC), Princeton (*Avenue Q*, ACCT), Marcellus (*The Music Man*, PP), and Rolf (*The Sound of Music*, PP).



Bob Rosenberg (Richfield Hawksley) has been a frequent Playmaker since his acting debut in 2001, and is happy to be back, working and laughing with this hilarious cast. Favorite roles include Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* (SP) and Dr. Einstein in *Arsenic and Old Lace* (VC). Thanks especially to Tim Jon and Meredith McMath, among many who have guided this "career"!



Caroline Tate (Karma Schneider) is excited for her first show at SP. With only previous acting experience in high school performances and college classroom settings, she is excited to be introduced into the world of community theatre with such a brilliant and hardworking team for *Laughing Stock*. She wants to thank her family for rooting for her in all her artistic endeavors.



Michael Todd (Craig Conlin) has been performing with the SP since 2001, with *Laughing Stock* being his 17th show. Michael is forever grateful for the Playmaker Vision "where anyone can walk in off the street and onto the stage - no resume, no headshot, no experience required." For tonight, sit back and enjoy the fun. For the future, come join us and have some fun.



WATCH* THEATERS

ACCT Aldersgate Church Community Theatre

ASGT Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre

BCT Bowie Community Theatre

CFTC City of Fairfax Theatre Company

CPA Colonial Playaers of Annapolis

CRT Castaways Reperatory Theatre

DTC Damascus Theatre Company

DS Dominion Stage

FCT Fauquier Community Theatre

GAC Greenbelt Arts Center

HBP Hard Bargain Players

KAT Kensington Arts Theatre

LMP Laurel Mills Playhouse

LTA Little Theatre of Alexandria

MCP McLean Community Players

MP Montgomery Playhouse

PPF Providence Players of Fairfax

PTP Port Tobacco Players

PWLT Prince William Little Theatre

RCP Reston Community Players

RLT Rockville Little Theatre

RMT Rockville Musical Theatre

RTP Rooftop Productions

SMP St. Mark's Players

SP Sterling Playmakers

SSI Sillhouette Stages

SSP Second Star Productions

SSS Silver Spring Stage

TAP The Arlington Players

VLOC Victorian Lyric Opera Company

* Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH) Member



OTHER THEATERS

ACT Authentic Community Theatre CBBP Charlottesville Black Box Players

GCP Goose Creek Players

HP Hope Theatre

LSDT Lazy Susan Dinner Theater

NP Nativity Players

PP Pickwick Players

RGC Reedeming Grace Church

RC Riverside Center

RP Rooftop Productions

SSTG Sandy Spring Theatre Group

SCT StageCoach Theatre

STC Shoestring Theatre Company

TAT The Alliance Theatre

VC Vpstart Crow

WOB Way Off Broadway

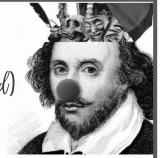


April 19-21 & 26-28, 2024

Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm Sundays at 5:30 pm

The Theatre at the Douglass Community Center

407 East Market Street Leesburg, VA 20175



PRODUCED BY LAUREN BAKER DIRECTED BY KATE CLARK

Who's Who

Taylor Berman (Hair Designer) is returning to help SP on her second show. The first show she helped out with was assistance to the hair and makeup person for Sherlock Holmes. She is excited to be a part of this team. Thanks Courtney for bringing me into the SP.

Lora Buckman (Producer) is thrilled to be working with this cast and staff of Laughing Stock. She thanks her mother, Kathy Bleutge, for getting her involved in the SP from its inception. Laughs and giggles go out to the HA HAs.

Kyle Chua (Assistant Director) (he/they) Past Productions include: RCP: Avenue Q (Christmas Eve)(2023) Cabaret (Hans/Rudy) (2023); CFTC: Big Fish (Ensemble) (2023); PWLT: The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Chip Tolentino) (2023); SP: The Addams Family (Ensemble, Gomez Addams u/s, Mal Beinike u/s) (2022), Ragtime (Ensemble) (2022). IG: @kyle.jpeg.

Courtney Garofolo (Stage Manager) considers SP as her home, growing up on the stage and working behind the scenes since she was seven. She had her directorial debut last fall, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, and is excited to be in charge of the backstage. When she is not working with SP, she can be found working with children with Autism, coaching, line dancing, or playing soccer. She would like to give a huge shoutout to her family, especially her husband, for supporting every hobby that keeps her busy!

Helen Gernhardt (Production Stage Manager) has been involved with the Playmakers in a variety of technical roles since the rest of her family was cast in 'Robin Hood'. She's been hanging around somewhere backstage for just about every show since, and considers it a privilege to have this group in her life! It's been a blast watching shows evolve from simple words on paper to a life in front of an audience. She sends her love to Paul & Brian for introducing her to the theatre.

Sarah Hardy (Director) is excited to be working with SP once again. Previously she was seen on stage in the cast of *Steel Magnolias* (M'Lynn Eatonton) and *Beaty and the Beast* (Ensemble) and off stage as Choreographer for *Oliver!*. Sarah has been working in the NoVa community theatre scene for over 25 years. Other notable off-stage credits include *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Choreographer, MCP), *Beauty and The Beast* and *CATS* (Choreographer, TAT), *Steel Magnolias* and *Zombie Prom* (Director, SCT). Sarah gives her love and thanks to her family for their love and support of her theatre "hobby".

Kayla Hetrick (Hair & Makeup Designer) is excited to be joing the SP for the first time year. She is very grateful to be seeing everyone join us, to enjoy what the Playmakers have worked on this season. She would also like to thank the Playmakers group, to be a part of a wonderful team.

Who's Who

Cecelia Hilliard (Assistant Producer) is thrilled to be the assistant producer in her third SP production. She has been behind the scenes designing the lights for *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* (SP), operating the lights with *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 has also painted and built sets in RCP and SP productions. She would like to thank her mom for her constant love and support.

Meg Roosma (Props) has been a part of SP for 20 years, on and off stage. She loves being part of this great family, whether making props or a great soliloquy. Many thanks to her tolerant family.

Scott Ruegg (Technical Director) has been with the Playmakers since its second show *Bid for Murder*. His technical achievements include a reversable set in *Noises Off*, and a golden chicken fountain in *Puss and Boots*. As an actor, his favorite role was Mr. Slugworth in *Willie Wonka*, and George in *A Cruise is Murder*.

Liz Shaher (Sound Designer) is excited to be working on her 5th show with SP! Liz has done sound on shows for SP and RCP 12 times since community theaters reopened in 2022. Her most recent credits include *Murder On the Orient Express* (RCP), *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (SP) and *Avenue Q* (RCP).

Myke Taister (Set Design & Dresser) is a retired Forensic Artist who fell into set design and decoration as a hobby some 30 years ago. He served as LTA's president in the late 90's and currently the theater's Building Governor. Myke has won several awards for his theatrical endeavors, and his next project is restoring a Victorian home on Main Street in his hometown of Midland, Michigan. He dedicates this show to his friend, partner, spouse of 43 years Frank Shutts II. Thank you, Sarah Hardy, for the opportunity to work with Sterling Playmakers.



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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

Special Thank You

Sterling Playmakers and *Laughing Stock* would like to sincerely thank the following organizations and individuals for the extra help with this production:

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

Anna Purdy, Andrew Lynch & the Staff at Meadowland Elementary School

Loudoun County Department of Parks and Recreation Sterling Community Center

Brenda Davis & Judith Mangilin of the Cascades Senior Center

Little Theatre of Alexandria

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



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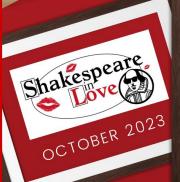
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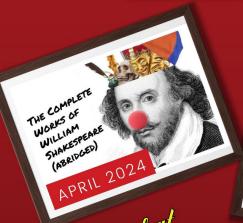
Sterling Playmakers Our 28th Section





2023











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