

## **QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS OF CHILD ACTORS:**

### **How will Covid-19 affect this production?**

Since regulations have been changing, we will continue to monitor our state and local guidance and provide more detailed information in July before our auditions.

### **Is there an age requirement for the children's roles?**

Children of any age are welcome to auditions for child roles as long as they can read (which will be required at the audition). You know your child best, and if you think that they can have fun and handle the responsibility of working in a show mainly with adults, then they are more than welcome to audition.

The age ranges are wide and are meant as a guide for 'stage age'. It is possible that we will cast kids that are younger or kids that are a bit older than the indicated age range but can 'play' young.

### **I'd like to read a bit of the play before my child auditions. Will anything be available prior to auditions?**

An excerpt of the play and audition monologues are available online at [sterlingplaymakers.org](http://sterlingplaymakers.org).

### **What can my child expect at auditions?**

When you arrive, you'll check in with the audition assistants. We will take your audition form if you've filled out ahead of time or will give you one to fill out if you haven't. We'll also give you a number which you'll pin on your child's shirt (American Idol style). Then we'll take a quick photo of your child for the audition team, or if you have a current photo or a headshot, we'll take that instead.

You'll receive an audition packet which will include character descriptions, audition monologues and audition scenes and you'll be sent to a holding room where actors will be able to prepare audition monologues and review the scenes.

When your child is called, they'll present their monologue, and the audition team will assign a scene to perform with other actor(s). Your child will have the chance to practice the scene with the other actors before performing it for the committee. Once your child has performed a scene or two, you'll be free to go. We will contact you by the following Wednesday to let you know whether or not your child has been cast.

### **What are callbacks? Will child actors need to be at callbacks?**

Callbacks are an opportunity for the director to see more from actors before casting or to have 'chemistry' reads once the original round of auditions are over. Our callbacks, if needed, will be held on Saturday afternoon following auditions. You will be contacted if your child should attend. If your child is not available for callbacks, please let us know during the audition.

Your child may still be cast if they are not called to callbacks, and your child is not guaranteed a role if called for callbacks.

### **Is there a possibility that more children can be cast?**

Children will only be considered for the roles Vera, Theo and Lily. There is a possibility of casting understudies, but they may be cast in the ensemble and not be guaranteed a performance as a named role. For teens, there are also several more possible roles.

We expect a large number of children at auditions, and with limited roles, the unfortunate reality is that most kids will not be cast. This part of theatre is hard for all actors. If your child is not cast, please know and ensure your child that this does not necessarily reflect their acting ability or the quality of their audition – we will see many talented children that we won't be able to cast. If your child is interested in acting, please encourage them to keep auditioning! There are lots of opportunities in the area and Sterling Playmakers often have roles for children.

### **If my child is cast, will I need to be at rehearsal?**

For the comfort and safety of your children, we will ask that a parent attend rehearsals and be in the 'green' room for performances for children under the age of 10. If parents are amenable and would like to share the responsibility with other parents of children in the show, it is fine with the staff as long as there is at least one parent or guardian present. Also, if your child is over the age of 10 and you'd rather stay at rehearsal, you are more than welcome.

### **How often will my child be called to rehearsal?**

The children will not be called to much rehearsal time at first. The show will be rehearsed out of order to make rehearsal time more efficient. There will be either more frequent but short rehearsals or less frequent but longer rehearsals depending on a variety of factors.

Once we begin "runs" of Act 1, Act 2 and the entire show, the rehearsals will be more frequent and the children will be expected to be there for longer lengths of time. While we may release the children a bit early (for example when their particular section is done for the evening), they will eventually be required to be there the entire time.

### **I see that some of the rehearsals go until 10pm, will my child be expected to be there that late?**

Once we get into the later rehearsals, they will be expected to be there until 10pm. We make every effort to get them home as soon as possible, but there will be late nights leading up to the show. Show nights will also be late – the show runs a bit over two hours and with intermission will not be done until 9:30.

### **Are there any fees to participate?**

If your child is cast, you will need to join the Sterling Playmakers. Membership costs \$20 per year for your household and run from July 1 through June 30. There is no fee to audition.

### **I understand that this is an original work. What is the development history?**

The play has been in development for several years with revisions along the way. The first private reading was held in January of 2018. Sterling Playmakers hosted a public play reading in the spring of 2018. The City of Fairfax theater hosted a 'script-in-hand' staged reading with a full cast and audience in November 2019. Following the postponement of the planned 2020 fall production due to Covid-19, Sterling Playmakers hosted a virtual play reading in March 2020.

This will be the first fully staged production of *The Social Secretary*.