Sterling Playmakers

#Much do bout Nothing

@William Shake speare

November 15, 16, 22, 8 23 @ 8PM November 17 8 24 @ 2PM Seneca Ridge Middle School





#Director Robyn Stafford

#AssistantDirector Patty Kelleher

#Producer Aubry Fisher

#AssistantProducer Rachel Veal



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



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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.

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.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to Sterling Playmakers production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. I am so excited to share my vision of this wonderful play with you all.

From the time I was a young girl of 11 and performed my first Shakespeare monologue, I was hooked on the eloquent and beautiful language. As I got older and studied Shakespeare more thoroughly, I found myself in awe of how the themes and messages seemed timeless. As a young woman of the modern century I found myself relating to these characters written hundreds of years ago. But I was in the minority. Many of my friends, even those involved in theater, found Shakespeare boring and old-fashioned.

When the opportunity arose to submit a Director's Choice show in the Playmakers season, my mind immediately went to *Much Ado*. It is, in my opinion, one of the most relatable shows that Shakespeare wrote, and also one of the funniest. It is full of inappropriate jokes, sarcastic humor, and friendships that mimic those that we see every day.

As I started to craft my vision for this show, I knew I wanted to set it in modern times, and it was important to me to incorporate the use of various modern technology and social communication elements into the show. The timeless themes in this show of communication, friendship, love, relationships, etc. still apply today. In fact, with minor tweaks, this is a story that could very much happen today. The truth is, what we communicate about has not changed in hundreds of years, what has changed is *how* we communicate with each other. We have gone from writing letters to writing texts, from gossiping to Facebook stalking, from planned lunches to FaceTime dates.

Shakespeare shows are meant to be seen, and were not written to be read from a book. My hope with this show is not only to help bring Shakespeare into the modern era, but to bring an appreciation of Shakespeare – the brilliant language, the nuances, the humor – to those who think Shakespeare shows are not for them.

Enjoy! Robyn Stafford, Director

MUCH ADO ABOUT MUCH ADO

THE CHARACTERS

Antonia: Leonato's sister.

Beatrice: Leonato's niece and Hero's

cousin.

Benedick: A soldier, one of Don Pedro's

most trusted men.

Borachio: Associate of Don John.

Claudio: A young soldier returning home a

war hero.

Conrade: Associate of Don John.

Dogberry: The constable in charge of the

Watch of Messina.

Don John: The illegitimate brother of Don Pedro, sometimes referred to as "the

Bastard."

Don Pedro: A nobleman and leader of the

soldiers. Also referred to as a "Prince."

George Seacoal: A member of the Watch.

Hero: The young daughter of Leonato and

cousin of Beatrice.

Justice Francis/Friar: Justice of the Peace

and Town Clerk of Messina.

Leonato: A rich, respected nobleman in Messina. Hero's father and Beatrice's

uncle.

Margaret: A close friend of Hero.

Messenger: A military messenger

associated with the soldiers.

Ursula: A close friend of Hero.

Verges: Deputy of Dogberry, chief of the

Watch.

Watchman: A member of the Watch.

THE PLOT

As the title of this Shakespeare play suggests, there's a lot of fuss over nothing! Claudio and Hero fall in love and plan to get married, but the villainous Don John slanders Hero with false evidence. The wedding is ruined and Hero faints. Her family soon suspects slander and decides to pretend that Hero died from shock. Don John's evil plan is soon revealed and Claudio mourns Hero's death. Eventually, Hero is revealed to be alive and the marriage goes ahead as planned. Meanwhile, to pass the time, the household conspires to set a "lover's trap" for an arrogant bachelor, Benedick, and his favorite verbal sparring partner, Beatrice, both confirmed singles.

SCENES

ACT 1, SCENE 1: Foyer. Leonato's house. Early morning.

ACT 1, SCENE 2: Foyer. Leonato's house. Early morning.

ACT 1, SCENE 3: Foyer. Leonato's house. Early morning.

ACT 2, SCENE 1: Dining room. Leonato's house. Evening.

ACT 2, SCENE 1.5: Backyard. Leonato's house. Night.

ACT 2, SCENE 2: Backyard. Leonato's house. Later that night.

ACT 2, SCENE 3: Living room. Leonato's house. Next morning.

ACT 3, SCENE 1: Patio. Leonato's house. Early afternoon.

ACT 3, SCENE 2: Patio. Leonato's house. Late afternoon.

ACT 3, SCENE 3: Neighborhood Watch office. Evening.

ACT 3, SCENE 3.5: Patio. Leonato's house. Night.

****15 MINUTE INTERMISSION***

ACT 3, SCENE 4: Foyer. Leonato's house. Next morning.

ACT 3, SCENE 5: Foyer. Leonato's house. Same morning.

ACT 4, SCENE 1: Garden. Leonato's house. Mid-afternoon.

ACT 4, SCENE 2: Watch Watch office. Later that afternoon.

ACT 5, SCENE 1: Living room. Leonato's house. Midday.

ACT 5, SCENE 2: Patio. Leonato's house. Midday.

ACT 5, SCENE 3: Mausoleum. Leonato's family plot. That night.

ACT 5, SCENE 4: Garden. Leonato's house. Next day.

THE MUSIC

- "Come Baby Come" by K7
- "Drugs" by Ratatat
- "Out of this World" by Michael Menert
- "This is Halloween" by Jonathan Young
- "Bouncin' Back" by T. Powell
- "Buster Voodoo" by Rodrigo y Gabriella
- "No Exit" by Red SnapperDarude
- "Sandstorm" by Darude
- "Bang Your Mullet" by the Distillery
- "Tearin' it Up" by Gramatik
- "Everything" by City of the Sun
- "Keep Me" by Elliot Zeigler
- "One With You" by Rick Jolt
- "Waves" by Erol Alkan, Boys Noise, Chilly Gonzales
- "We Insist" by Zoe Keating
- "Far and Beyond" by Charles Bolt
- "Fragment" by Ever So Blue
- "October" by Regina Mira
- "Out of the Black" by Royal Blood
- "You Shook Me All Night Long" by AC/DC

SPECIAL THANKS

Sterling Playmakers' cast and crew of Much Ado About Nothing would like to sincerely thank the following individuals and organizations:



Nick Cottone, Mitchell Seipt, Placido Gttierez, and the staff of Seneca Ridge Middle School



Nick Wilt and the staff of Sterling Community Center



Kathy Bleutge for working out the scheduling conflicts



Bungalow Lakehouse and The George C. Marshall International Center for donating their space for our photo shoots



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Our sincerest appreciation to anyone we may have missed



RACHEL.

Thanks for being my righthand-woman. I couldn't have done it without you. I so love working with you. I enjoy your vision, your spirit, your creativity, and your willingness to think outside the box!

~AUBRY



noval pets 12 | All IVE

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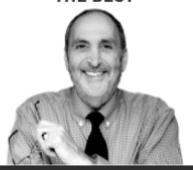
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OUR CAST

Benedick.....

Beatrice.....

Claudio.....

Hero.....

Don Pedro.....

Leonato.....

Don John.....

Margaret.....

Borachio.....

Conrade.....

Dogberry.....

Verges.....

Ursula.....

Antonia.....

Antonia u.s.....

George Seacoal.....

Justice/Town Clerk.....

Messenger.....

Watchman.....

Conrad Rodearmel

Kate Clark

Nick Farro

Kathleen Jo Garcia

Brian Tepe

Mike Brennan

Matt Beasley

Claire Severson

Shannon McCarthy

Lauren Baker

RC Castaneda

Bob Rosenberg

Cat Thompson

Jessica Long

Courtney Hirsch

Eric Fisher

Soni Oberleas

Julie Jacoby

Nicholas Reid

CAST BIOS

Conrad Rodearmel (Benedick) The doctor handed Conrad to his mother and said, "I'm sorry, he'll probably be an actor." Much sorrow and lamenting followed. Though Conrad has always enjoyed making a scene, he only began doing so on the stage his senior year of high school and has stuck with it ever since. Conrad's hobbies include backing up sewers, reversing street signs, and stealing everyone's left shoe.

Kate Clark (Beatrice) is thoroughly enjoying her first show with the Playmakers. She recently moved to the area from Austin, Texas where she played Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Isabella in *Measure for Measure*, Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, and Clarence in an all-female version of *Richard III*. Other favorite productions include *Avenue Q*, *Company*, *The Odd Couple*, *Patience*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*. By day, Kate is an elementary school librarian.

Nick Farro (Claudio) This is Nick's second show with the Playmakers. His previous roles have been Robin Hood (*Robin Hood*), Paul (*A Chorus Line*), Lefou (*Beauty and the Beast*), andMr Davis (*How to Succeed*). Nick would like to thank his family and friends for their constant support, and is thrilled for the show.

Kathleen Jo Garcia (Hero) can't even begin to explain how full her heart is playing her first lead role. Hero has taught her so much about herself and working with this exceptional cast and crew has truly helped her grow as an actress. Huge thank you to the loved ones who supported her during this incredibly busy time. Most especially to her dearest, Tony.

Brian Tepe (Don Pedro) has been performing with the Playmakers for little over 4 years now, debuting in *The Music Man*, and performing in several shows with them since then. Notably, he has played Mike Connors in *The Philadelphia Story* and Ichabod Crane in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. He has had a wonderful time as part of the cast for *Much Ado About Nothing*, and hopes everyone enjoys the show.

Mike Brennan (Leonato) has been part of 9 productions with SPM. Holy cow! Although he has literally played the great bard himself (in Keaton Crowe's 2016 original production "*Great Stage of Fools*") this is his first time performing actual Shakespeare. Mike is thrilled to be working with such a talented cast and crew. He is especially touched by their unsolicited generosity in paying for his acting lessons after the show closes.

Matt Beasley (Don John) This is Matt's 3rd performance with Sterling Playmakers! He was previously seen in the ensemble of *Sweeney Todd* and as Cogsworth in Disney's *Beauty and The Beast*! He would like to thank his wife for her love and support Thank you for joining us and enjoy the show!

Claire Severson (Margaret) is excited to be in her third Sterling Playmakers show! Previous roles include "Hedy" (understudy)/ensemble in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, "Lady With Cane"/ensemble in *Beauty & the Beast*, and "Mrs. Corry"/ensemble in *Mary Poppins*. Thanks to Eric for his continued support—I love you!

Shannon McCarthy (Borachio) is making her Sterling Playmakers debut. A graduate of Sweet Briar College, some of her favorite roles include Martha (*Spring Awakening*) and Viola (*Twelfth Night*). Recent appearances include Lisabette Cartwright (*Anton in Show Business*) for Silver Spring Stage and Grace Farrell (*Annie*) for the Tantallon Community Players, as well as Mayzie (*Seussical*), Eulalie Mackechnie Shinn (*The Music Man*), and Medda Larkin (Disney's *Newsies*) all with Encore Stage & Studio.

CAST BIOS

Lauren Baker (Conrade) is excited to be apart of her second Sterling Playmakers show! She has enjoyed performing as a Playmaker for the summer musical to singing with SP's cabaret group, On that Note! A proud graduate of Shenandoah University, Lauren's love for music is not just a hobby but her passion!

RC Castaneda (Dogberry) is excited to perform with the Sterling Playmakers once more and with this specific group of people. After spending time assistant directing and working tech for the Sterling Playmakers he is pumped to get back on the stage. He has greatly enjoyed working with every member of the cast and crew and hopes, you, the audience member enjoy the performance.

Bob Rosenburg (Verges) appeared recently in "Pride and Prejudice" (Goose Creek Players), in "Sweeney Todd" (Sterling Playmakers), as the High Sheriff in "The Best Doctor in Town" (Shoestring Theatre), and as Lord Cavershamin "An Ideal Husband" (Britches and Hose). Bob is a retired programmer/ analyst who discovered his love of theatre only 18 years ago. Favorite roles include Dr. Einstein in "Arsenic and Old Lace" and Evans in "The Merry Wives of Windsor."

Cat Thompson (Ursula) is excited to join the *Much Ado* cast for her 3rd show with Sterling Playmakers. Previous Playmakers credits include *Beauty and the Beast* (choreographer/ensemble) and *42nd Street* (dance captain/ensemble). She has also participated in several productions with The Alliance Theater including *Mamma Mia* (choreographer), *A Christmas Carol* (Mrs. Cratchit), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (featured dancer) among others, and studio performances with the Little Theater of Alexandria.

Jessica Foy Long (Signiora Antonia) is a soprano from New Orleans, Louisiana. She has performed in many operas throughout the years, such as *Dido and Aneas*, *Suor Angelica*, and *Pirates of Penzance*. She has appeared with the soprano group Sopranessence, and is current member of Sterling Playmaker's On that Note. This is her second production with the Playmakers and she looks forward to many more in the future.

Courtney Hirsch (Set Dressing Manager/Signiora Antonia understudy) A mom, a teacher, and a wife. I love playing these roles in my life. Apart for being on and off stage, I often write poetry and absolutely love helping people.

Eric Fisher (George Seacoal) is very happy to once again work side by side with his wife, Aubry Fisher, on a Sterling Playmakers production and looks forward to doing so for all the years to come.

Soni Oberleas (Justice Francis/Town Clerk) recently performed in Sterling Playmakers' "Man of La Mancha", as prisoner/Maria, 2017; "Beauty and the Beast", as elite townsperson, 2018; "Eerie Evenings", as multiple roles, 2018, with Alliance in "Mamma Mia!", as Rosie, 2019. She majored in Theatre and Dance at Ball State University, and currently teaches piano and voice. She has been involved in theatre (productions) most of her life – singing, dancing, props, sets, costumes, directing.

Julie Jacoby (Messenger) has loved theater since the 3rd grade and is excited to be a part of her first Shakespeare production. She was last seen in Goose Creek's "*Pride and Prejudice*" as Miss Bingley. She has experience both onstage and backstage, and loves working with both. She would love to thank her family and friends for their support and Robyn for being a great director.

CAST BIOS

Nicholas Reid (Watchman) This is Nick's first time on stage with the Playmakers, but not his first time onstage. He has appeared previously as Costard in *Love's Labor's Lost*, as a member of the ensemble in *Once on this Island* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and as a member of the pit in *Carousel*. He would like to thank his family, and especially his mother, for encouraging for first auditioning with the Playmakers.

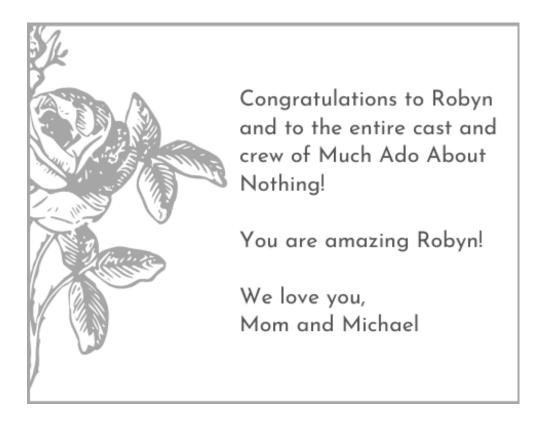
"The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls."

-Pablo Picasso

THANKS TO MY FRIENDS FOR DUSTING OFF MINE. BREAK A LEG!

HUGS, GIOIA

JULIE JACOBY~MIKE BRENNAN~CLAIRE
SEVERSON~CAT THOMPSON~SONI OBERLEAS~CONRAD
RODEARMEL~BOB ROSENBERG~LAUREN BAKER~RC
CASTANEDA~MAT BEASLEY~JESSICA LONG~ERIC
FISHER~BRIAN TEPE



OUR CREW

Assistant Director..... Patty Kelleher

Assistant Producer..... Rachel Veal

Production Stage Manager..... Helen Gernhardt

Technical Director..... Joe Christian

Stage Manager..... Joe Campanella

Lighting Design..... Bill Fry

Sound Design & Operator..... Jay Burgin

A/V Operator..... Duron Long

Costume Designer & Manager.....

Assistant Costume Manager..... Kim West

Props Manager..... Tim Alberth

Hair/Makeup Design..... Darlene Veal-Salvador

Fight Choreographer..... Katie Hoppe

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Renata Szczesniak, Colleen Robinson, Rebecca Young

Mary Abbott, Sandy Argall, Mark Humphrey

Doris Argall, Marleen Cote, Phil Cote, Peggy Dar, Barbara Gillen,

Tom Vecchio

Set Construction..... Members of the Cast & Crew

Stage Crew..... Geoff Hardy

Graphic Design..... Joe Christian

Program Design..... Aubry Fisher

Audition Help..... Doris Argall, Sandy Argall, Ellen Price, Jim Collinson

CREW BIOS

Robyn Stafford (Director) is so excited to be directing her first main stage production with the Playmakers, and even more excited it gets to be a show she is so passionate about. Previous credits (both onstage and backstage) include: The Little Mermaid, 42nd Street, One-Act Festival, 39 Steps, Beauty and the Beast, Sweeney Todd, Steel Magnolias, How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying. A huge thank you to the amazing cast and crew for bringing this vision to life, and the amazing support of her husband, friends and family.

Patty Kelleher (Assistant Director) This is Patty's first time assistant directing for Sterling Playmakers. She couldn't be more excited to bring this hilarious show to the stage with this thrilling cast! She would like to thank Robyn for bringing her on this production and hopes to hear you all cackling and/or balling in your seats. Enjoy!

Aubry Fisher (Producer) is thrilled to be producing another show for Sterling Playmakers. She has previously served as producer for *Eerie Evenings In the Park* (2018) and *The Philadelphia Story* (2019). She would like to thank Robyn, Patty, Rachel, and Joe for their hard work on this production.

Rachel Veal (Assistant Producer/Publicity) knows theater provides a special outlet and community for folks of all skill levels and ages. Normally, you can find her onstage with recent roles being Babette in "Beauty and the Beast" and Linda in "Eerie Evenings". This time, however, she's jumped behind the curtain to join this dream production. Many thanks to this marvelous cast and crew for helping bring this unique show to life.

Helen Gernhardt (Production Stage Manager) has been involved with the Playmakers in a variety of technical roles since her family was cast in "*Robin Hood*". She enjoys watching shows evolve from simple words on paper to a life in front of an audience. Love to Paul & Brian for introducing her to the lunacy known as "theatre".

Joe Christian (Technical Director/Graphic Designer) has been part of a number Sterling Playmakers productions since 2014, working both on and off stage. Whether he is performing on stage, designing the stage, or singing with On That Note he is glad to help bring theatre to the community.

Joe Campanella (Stage Manager) has been involved in 90+ shows with the Playmakers since 1999, performing in nearly 50. He played his dream role of John Adams in 1776 (the show, not the year!) He's written and directed several musicals, including *Rapunzel*, *Old MacDonald's Farm*, and *The Elf Who Came for Christmas*. Next summer he reprises directorship of *Cinderella: Once Upon a Time* (Gateway Theatre Company).

William Fry (Lighting Designer) I have been involved with the Sterling Playmakers for over 20 years working on over 100 shows. I prefer the technical side of shows, designing and building sets, lights and sound with the occasional on-stage cameo appearances in musicals. When I'm not in the theatre I am managing the Playmakers warehouse.

Kareem Taylor (Lighting Operator) is excited to be participating in his first Sterling Playmaker performance behind the scenes! He was most recently cast in Sterling Playmakers' *How To Succeed inBusiness Without Really Trying* as J.B. Biggley, *Sweeney Todd* as an ensemble member and *Beauty & the Beast* as an ensemble member. When offstage, Kareem enjoys board/video games; baking; traveling; local breweries and wineries; and Beyoncé.

CREW BIOS

Evan Hardy (Lighting Operator) This is Evan's 3rd show with Sterling Playmakers, having started out throwing ducks at LeFou and pulling the backdrop in last summer's *Beauty and the Beast* and pull the grand in this year's *Anne of Greene Gables*. He has escaped the curtains and is looking forward to pushing buttons for lights. Thanks to Emma, Mom and Dad for all of their support.

Jay Burgin (Sound Designer & Operator) is excited to be in his 4th show with Sterling Playmakers. He has done sound for *Steel Magnolias*, *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying*, and *Anne of Green Gables*. He has worked previously with Chesapeake Shakespeare Company in Ellicott City, Maryland and is thrilled to be working on another Shakespeare production.

Duron Long (A/V Operator) has been with the Sterling Playmakers since 2018. Duron has been doing Audio/Visual for several years in various settings. This is his second show with the Playmakers working technical crew. He looks forward to working many more shows in the future.

Judith Harmon (Costume Designer) graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with B.A. in business and theater. An award winning cosplayer and founder of Sew What?! Costumes. She has designed or worked on over forty productions. This is her twelfth production with Sterling Playmakers, and is happy to be back again! She also thanks her husband and family for their constant love and support. (www.sewwhatcostumes.com)

KimWest (Costume Assistant) is new to the Sterling Playmakers team. Kim leads teen life coaching workshops and her background also includes image and wardrobe consulting. As an Instructional Assistant, Kim works in high school education in Chantilly, Virginia in disciplinary guidance support. A theatre lover, Kim has acted locally and is excited to contribute to *MAAN*.

Tim Alberth (Properties Manager) has an associate's degree in theatre and has been involved in acting, light and sound design, stage combat, pyrotechnics and juggling knives on stage as well. In his personal life, he enjoys working with a charity that 3-D print's prosthetic limbs, playing board games and playing with his corgi. Tim's first show with the Playmakers was "Happy Birthday, You're Dead".

Darlene Veal-Salvador (Hair Designer) is a jill of all trades and loves getting creative. She has worked backstage on costumes, props, hair, and makeup for multiple of our local theatre groups. Recent shows include "The Philadelphia Story", "Eerie Evenings in the Park", and "The Little Mermaid". She especially enjoys working on productions with her daughter, Rachel Veal.

Katie Hoppe (Fight Choreographer) is a practicing Actor/Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors. She has choreographed for local productions at Pope Paul VI High School, Trinity School at Meadow View, and Dominion High School. She currently trains at Roundhouse Theatre, Flying V Combat Gym in Bethesda, and the DC Stunt Coalition as well as at SAFD training conferences. A huge thanks to Joe for all your teaching and encouragement.

Shanna Christian (House Manager) is happy to return to the role of House Manager and hopes you enjoy this performance of *Much Ado About Nothing*. She can most often be found behind the scenes, as producer, running crew, or publicity, and even occasionally appears on stage as a performer. She's directing *Catch Me If You Can* for Sterling Playmakers in Fall 2020.

CREW BIOS

Geoff Hardy (Stage Crew) This is Geoff's 4th show with Sterling Playmakers and his 2nd "behind the curtain," having worked crew on *Anne of Green Gables*. He was in the ensemble for 2018's *Beauty and the Beast* and 2013's *Bye Bye Birdie*. He's excited to be working with his son Evan, and with former fellow Sterling cast and crew. Thanks to Emma and Sarah for all of their support!





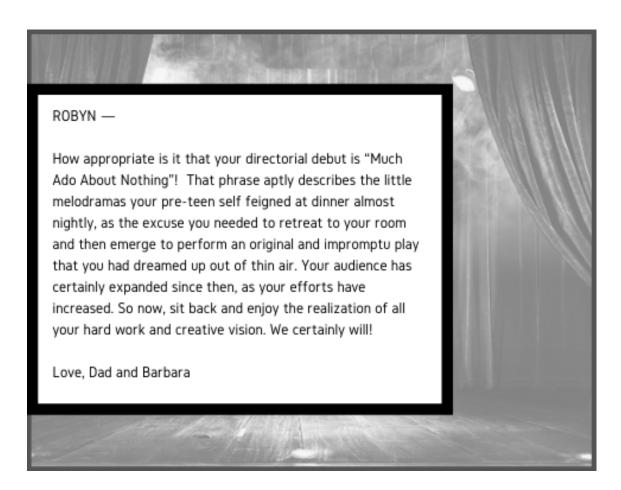
Love, Mom & Joe

Break A Leg!

To our son, Eric Fisher and to our Daughter-in-law, Aubry Fisher

We admire your dedication and your many talents that you both offer to the Sterling Playmakers.

Best wishes for a successful production!



Robyn,

Your actions
inspire others to
dream more, learn
more, do more and
become more, you
are a leader.

Hugs, Gioia



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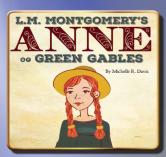
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