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Studio Playhouse
Montclair, NJ

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PRODUCTION



POTUS

OR, BEHIND EVERY GREAT DUMBASS ARE SEVEN

WOMEN TRYING TO KEEP HIM ALIVE

BY SELINA FILLINGER

STUDIO PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS

POTUS

**Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven
Women Trying to Keep Him Alive**

by Selina Fillinger

with

Holly
Cerelli

Ann
Pattan

Angelle
Whavers

Lillie
Paries

Lauri
MacMillan

Tasha
Williams

Leslie
Silverman

Kelly
Dillon

Director
Emily Miller

Stage Manager
Ellie Leick

Sound Design
Joe DeVico

Lighting Design
Pat Mannix

Costumes
Julia Sharp

Props
Corina Lupp

Set Design
AJ Wolf

**Intimacy
Coordinator**
Katie Toledo

**Fight
Choreography**
Steve Ruskin

Choreography
Sarah Decker

Master Carps
Pat Mannix
& Steve Moger

Producer
Leticia Diaz

Stage Crew
Kelly Dillon &
Karen
Koronkiewicz

Scenic Painter
Janet Dunleavy

Light Board Op
Pat Mannix

Sound Board Op
Kevin Dougherty

Originally produced on Broadway by Seaview, 51 Entertainment, Glass Half Full Productions, and Level Forward, along with Salman Al-Rashid, Runyonland Productions, Sony Music Masterworks, One Community, Jay Alix & Una Jackman, Jonathan DeMar, Imagine Equal Entertainment, Lucas Katler, David J. Lynch, Leonid Makaron, Liz Slager, Ted Snowden, Natalie Gorman/Tisch Brennan Throop, and the Shubert Organization. Mark Shacket, executive producer.

*POTUS is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on
behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com*

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

From the moment George Washington was elected president of the United States, two things have remained true. The first is that the POTUS and their staff are mocked in some capacity through political cartoons and pop culture. Even beloved Washington was depicted in a political cartoon at his inauguration riding a donkey into the capital in 1789. The second is that our country's highest political offices are held by men.

The first trope, mocking the office regardless of who occupies it, is warmly embraced by our play. The second trope, however, is completely smashed. Every role in this show is played by a woman. Playwright Selina Fillinger dares to imagine a world in which women actually run it. Obviously, the play is a farce.

POTUS was written during President Trump's first term in office. It premiered after President Biden was elected. Our fictional POTUS is not the current head of state but rather the broad strokes of the Ghosts of Presidents Past, and the stress dreams of future ones. And a little dash of all of them and their administrations for good measure.

It is an extreme privilege to be staging this play during such a pivotal midterm election year in our country. I hope this show, as absurd as it can get, serves as a reminder to all of the power of voting. One person, one vote, can make a difference. I would like to remind everyone that Election Day in this country is Tuesday, November 3. In NJ, law prohibits employers from interfering with an employee's exercise of voting rights. For more information on voting, requesting absentee ballots, or checking voter registration status, please visit <https://www.rockthevote.org/>.

Welcome to the West Wing! We will be breaking some glass ceilings.

—Emily Miller

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Cast (in order of their emotional proximity to POTUS, nearest to furthest)

Harriet, His Chief of Staff	Holly Cerelli
Jean, His Press Secretary	Ann Pattan
Stephanie, His Secretary	Angelle Whavers
Dusty, His Dalliance	Lillie Paries
Bernadette, His Sister	Lauri MacMillan
Chris, A Journalist	Tasha R. Williams
Margaret, His Wife	Leslie Silverman
[POTUS]	Kelly Dillon

Creative Team

Director	Emily Miller
Stage Manager	Ellie Leick
Sound Designer	Joe DeVico
Lighting Designer/Master Carpenter/Board Operator	Pat Mannix
Costumer	Julia Sharp
Props Designer	Corina Lupp
Set Designer	Alec J Wolf
Intimacy Coordinator	Katie Toledo
Fight Choreographer	Steve Ruskin
Choreographer	Sarah Decker
Producer	Leticia Diaz
Master Carpenter	Steve Moger
Scenic Painter	Janet Dunleavy
Stage Crew	Kelly Dillon, Kaylee Blanco, and Karen Karen Koronkiewicz
Sound Board Operator	Kevin Dougherty

WHO'S WHO?



Holly Cerelli

Harriet, His Chief of Staff

Holly is thrilled to make her Studio Playhouse debut. Her previous roles include Della in *The Cake* (Bergen County Players); Prof. Bosko, in *The Niceties* (Players Guild of Leonia) NJACT Best Lead Actress Award 2025; Annette in *God of Carnage* (Nutley Little Theatre) NJACT nominee 2023; and Her in *Across a Crowded Room* (Old Library Theatre).



Ann Pattan

Jean, His Press Secretary

This is Ann's first production at Studio Playhouse. She has been a cast member in productions at Summit Playhouse, Chatham Community Players, and Trilogy Repertory. Her next gig will be learning how to stage-manage for the upcoming production of *The Other Place*, which opens at CCP February 5, 2027. As always, love to Jason, Alex, and Rosie.



Angelle Whavers

Stephanie, His Secretary

Angelle is a playwright, actor, and co-founder of Unidentified Stages. Her work includes co-writing *4320p: Immersion* with the Tectonic Theater Project and presenting her full-length play *Incubator* at the New York Theater Festival. Angelle won the Growing Stage's 2020 New Play-Reading Festival, leading to the 2022 production of her play *Boogie*. Her plays *Collar'd* (formerly *The Oreos*) and *John Doe* were performed at Keegan Theatre, with *Collar'd* featured in the Boiler Room Reading Series and *John Doe* receiving a full production. As an actor, Angelle originated the role of Nella in the premiere production of *Hey! I Heard You're Black*.

WHO'S WHO?



Lillie Paries

Dusty, His Dalliance

Lillie is thrilled to be making her Studio Playhouse debut! Other credits include *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Cynthia Weil), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Gwendolen Fairfax), *Into the Woods* (Lucinda), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Germaine), and *Elf: The Musical* (Macy's Manager and Dance Captain). Her favorite role of all is Mama to her two little boys. Endless thanks to Emily for this opportunity, and to her husband, Kris, without whom none of this would be possible.



Lauri MacMillan

Bernadette, His Sister

Lauri is happy to be back on the Studio stage, following her appearance in *Peter and the Starcatcher* (2023). Other credits include *Things I Know to Be True*, *My Fair Lady*, *Pericles*, *Play On!*, *The Realistic Joneses*, *Shows for Days*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Defying Gravity*, *Dracula*, *Book of Will*, *The Revolutionists*, *Thinner Than Water*, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, *God of Carnage*, and many others. Lauri loves sharing the stage with these incredible women and has cherished every moment of the wild ride they've taken together. Much love and thanks to EL, EM & Nuz.

WHO'S WHO?



Tasha R. Williams

Chris, A Journalist

Tasha studied theatre arts, with a concentration in acting, at Fordham University College at Lincoln Center. Her most recent role was in *The Addams Family* (Morticia). Other favorite roles include *Dangerous Liaisons* (Merteuil); *Head Over Heels* (Gynecia); *American Son* (Kendra); *Intimate Apparel* (Ester); *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Calpurina); *For Colored Girls...* (Lady in Orange); *Sister Act* (Deloris Van Cartier); *Doubt* (Mrs. Mueller); and *Clybourne Park* (Francine/Lena). She sends many thanks to the entire cast and crew of this production for the opportunity to be a part of something so wonderful and provocative, and a heartfelt thank-you to her husband Alex, daughter Aaliyah, and her amazing family and friends for their never-ending support!



Leslie Silverman

Margaret, His Wife

Leslie was last seen as Mrs. White in Studio's production of *Clue*. Some of her favorite roles: Berthe in *Pippin*, Liliame La Fleur in *Nine*, Bloody Mary in *South Pacific*, Sister Hubert in *Nunsense*, Hedy LaRue in *H2\$*, Nancy in *Oliver!*, Velma Kelly in *Chicago*, and Ms. Hannigan in *Annie*. She has also directed *The Music Man*, *Beehive*, *Oliver!*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Seussical*, and *Last of the Red-Hot Lovers*.



Kelly Dillon

[POTUS]

Kelly joined the cast of *POTUS* on a whim at the prospect of being shoved into a box for a whole scene, because it sounded hilarious. She'll do anything for the bit and will deal with the bruises later. Don't worry, she's fine and having so much fun.

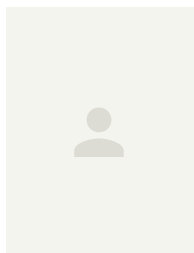
WHO'S WHO?



Emily Miller

Director

Emily is thrilled to be directing these sensational ladies in *POTUS*. Emily was last seen directing here with her production of *King Charles III*, which was nominated for 7 Perrys and won Best Actor. She also recently directed *A Real Turkey* at Chatham Playhouse as part of their Jersey Voices festival. Emily is also a Perry-nominated actress and sound designer. Thank you to Mom & Dad, LM & AM. For KT & ESQ. DON'T FORGET TO VOTE.



Ellie Leick

Stage Manager

Ellie is thrilled to join this troupe of women for laughs, gags, and camaraderie. She is excited to return to Studio Playhouse. She has stage-managed productions at Chatham Community Players, Chester Theatre Group, and the Barn Theatre. She has also been seen onstage in Studio Playhouse's *Our Town* (Townsperson), StageWorks' *Boeing Boeing* (Gabriella), and Somerset Valley Players' *Becky's New Car* (Kenni).



Pat Mannix

Lighting Designer/Master Carpenter/Board Operator

is happy to be lending his flashlight—correction, lighting talents—to this production. He previously served as technical director for the historic Darress Theater in Boonton, NJ, and is currently facilities mgr for Studio Players. He has worked on many shows for Studio Players over the past 18+ years, most recently *She Kills Monsters*, *Burlesque & Bingo*, *The Triangle Factory Fire Project*, and *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors*. He was a 2025 & 2006 Perry Award nominee for lighting design for *The Laramie Project* & *Joe's Bar*, respectively. He has also done shows for Well Urned Productions performed in NY and NJ, the Barn Theater in Montville, and Smiling Rhino Theater in Pompton Lakes. He wishes the cast & crew all the best for the run of this production!

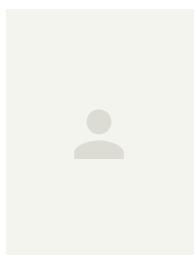
WHO'S WHO?



Julia Sharp

Costumer

Julia is a retired professor of fashion and author of textbooks on textiles and costume design. She is delighted to work on *POTUS* with Emily and this talented cast. She has designed costumes for over 50 professional productions at Centenary University, as well as numerous community theatre shows. Recent credits for Studio Playhouse include *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors*, *Our Town*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Mr. Burns* (Perry Costume Award).



Joe DeVico

Sound Designer



Katie Toledo

Intimacy Coordinator

Katie (she/her) is an intimacy professional, director, and performer located in the northern NJ/NYC area. She has studied at Rutgers University and with IDC Professionals. Previous work has been seen at the Barn Theatre, Chatham Players, the Brook Arts Center, Luna Stage, and more. For inquiries on intimacy consulting, message @kxtietoledo on Instagram.



Sarah Decker

Choreographer

Sarah is excited to be back at Studio Playhouse, this time as a choreographer! Sarah was last seen on Studio's stage in *King Charles III* as Jess Edwards. Sarah holds a BFA in theatre from Salisbury University. No stranger to the stage, this is Sarah's first experience with choreographing. She is grateful to Emily and the entire team for this opportunity! Love, always, to Justin for his constant support!

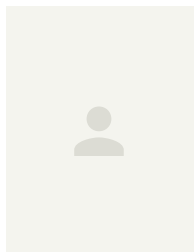
WHO'S WHO?



Steve Ruskin

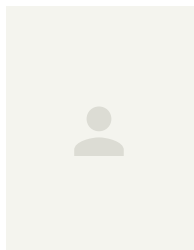
Fight Choreographer

Steve recently did fight choreography for *Dracula* (Chester); *Of Mice and Men* (The Barn); *Shawshank Redemption* (Somerset); and *The Thanksgiving Play* (Chatham). It's nice to have two "fun" shows in a row where we go for laughs instead of the usual blood and mayhem. Steve co-chairs, produces, and does sets for the Black Box series in Chatham. He teaches Tai Chi and Wing Chun Kung-Fu.



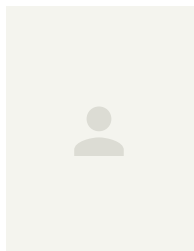
Corina Lupp

Props Designer



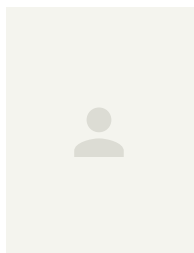
Alec J Wolf

Set Designer



Leticia Diaz

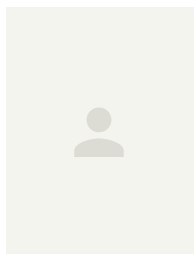
Producer



Steve Moger

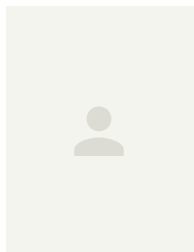
Master Carpenter

WHO'S WHO?



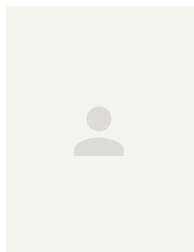
Janet Dunleavy

Scenic Painter



**Kelly Dillon, Kaylee Blanco, and Karen
Karen Koronkiewicz**

Stage Crew



Kevin Dougherty

Sound Board Operator

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Set Crew

Grace Lyttle, Michael Zembower, Marc Forrest, Kristina Hilla, Steve Moger, Alec J. Wolf, Ellie Leick, Emily Miller, Michael Sasso, Kris Wight, Kay Wight, Angelle Whavers, Lillie Paries, Kelly Dillon, and Holly Cerelli.

Special Thanks

Janice Miller, Hack Miller, Zachary Conner, Pat Mannix, Steve Moger, Kelly Dillon, Janet Dunleavy, Michael Sasso, Addie Miller, John Nemeth, Janet Sales, Dale Smith-Gallo, Katie Dunleavy, John Fraissenet, Jessica Dillard Bassett , Alicia Whavers, Joe DeVico, and Lola Miller.

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