

THE SOCIAL SECRETARY

A Musical Comedy Set in Gilded Age Newport

Character Descriptions

All roles are open to any race or ethnicity. Age range is a guide for approximate stage age but is flexible. The gender indicated is for character portrayed.

Supporting, featured, and cameo roles may double in other named roles. It is also possible that separate ensemble may be cast. Most roles have solo singing lines, except those indicated.

A Stage Directions Reader (a non-singing role) will also be cast.

LEAD ROLES

CLARA RUTHERFORD [F, 30-45 - Soprano (A3-F#5)] The social secretary. Self-reliant, levelheaded, determined. Understands the norms of Gilded Age high society. Gracious, yet not afraid to be in charge. The title character has persistent poise, with an undercurrent of strength, zest, and wit.

ELIJAH ELI) BOYD [M, 30-50 - Baritone (A2-F#4)] Self-made shipping tycoon. Brash, gregarious, and unpolished but charismatic. Fills the room with personality. Great role for a dynamic leading actor with strong comedic timing.

SUPPORTING ROLES

SIMPSON [M, 40-70 - Baritone (Bb2-F4)] The butler. Notices everything, reveals little. Has a deep respect for Eli. Tactfully manages a chaotic household. Has a hidden sly streak.

MRS. PETERS [F, 40-70 - Alto (F3-D5)] The housekeeper. Exasperated by Eli's behavior and her staff, but good at her job. Self-assured. A leader.

IONA BOYD [F, 50s-70s - Alto (Ab3-D5)] Eli's blunt mother. Opinionated, speaks her mind, has little regard for what others think. Many comic moments. Speaks with a Scottish accent.

FAYE [F, 30s- any age - Mezzo (Bb3-Eb5)] Owns Faye's Flowers on Bellevue Avenue, Clara's feisty landlord. Always looking to improve her business. Acts as a narrator in the opening number.

VALENTIN [M, 20s- 40s - Tenor (F#3-Ab4)] The chef. Disappointed in his post and the Boyd family. Volatile, unpredictable. Speaks preferably with a French accent. Has a solo "character" song.

NIKOLAY [M 20s-40s - Baritone (A2-E4)] The dance master. Imperious, unrelenting. Has the unfortunate task of teaching Eli to dance. Speaks preferably in a Russian accent.

LULU MONROE [F, 30-40 - Soprano (Ab3-F5)] Wealthy Newport socialite. Puts on an air of cordiality but is insincere. Interested in increasing her social standing.

BETH [F, teens-30s - Alto (A3-A4)] A kitchen maid. Intrudes whenever possible. Follows the gossip of the society set.

KATE [F, teens-30s - Alto (A3-A4)] Another kitchen maid. Naive, eager, romantic.

LILY [F, 5-9 – Child Soprano (C4-Db4)] Eli's niece. Imaginative, exuberant.

THEO [M, 8-11 (Non singing role)] Eli's nephew. Bookish, pesky.

VERA [F, 10-14 – Soprano (Ab3-F5)] Eli's other niece. Sweet, but reserved and wary. She doesn't speak much during the beginning of the play, the actress must be able to convey herself non verbally.

RUTH SLOANE [F, 30s-50s – Alto (A3-D5)] Lulu's older sister. Socialite of the Old Guard. Values gracious living. Intelligent, genuine and influential in society.

HAZEL LONGSTREET [F, 20s-40s - Mezzo (A3-Eb5)] Wealthy Newport socialite. Somewhat vacant. Looks up to Lulu. Unhappy with her choice of husband which lead to comic moments.

DORIS [F, 40s- 60 – Alto (A3-D5)] Socialite of the Old Guard. Close to Ruth. Longs for the old ways.

FEATURED ROLES

WESLEY SLOANE [M, 30s-50s (Ensemble singing only)] Affable and popular among his peers, but has an unfashionable secret. RUTH's husband.

PHILIP LONGSTREET [M, 30s-40s (Ensemble singing only)] Dispirited and sardonic society man, HAZEL's longsuffering husband. Comedic role for an actor with a dry wit.

CHARLES MONROE [M, 30s-40s (Ensemble singing only)] Pompous society man. LULU's husband.

MARTHA [F, teens-any age (Ensemble singing only)] The hapless governess. Never able to keep up with the children. Great opportunities for physical comedy.

FRED [M, teens-any age (Ensemble singing only)] Simpson's most trusted footman, but is known to break a rule or two.

CAMEO/ENSEMBLE ROLES

MRS. ASTOR [F 60s-70s (Ensemble Singing Only)] The ultimate Old Guard society matron, has nothing to prove. Her arrival is much anticipated, but does not appear until late in the season. She has two small but important scenes in Act II.

SOCIETY WOMAN 1 [F, 20s-50s - Alto (Bb3-Bb4)] Woman trying to enter high society. Has a few lines and several solo/duet singing moments in the opening number.

SOCIETY WOMAN 2 [F, 20s-50s - Alto (Bb3-Bb4)] Woman trying to enter high society. Has a few lines and several solo/duet singing moments in the opening number.

MR. DALE [M, 20s-any age (Ensemble singing only)] The tailor. Has one brief comic scene.

MR. BAKER [M, 20s-any age (Ensemble singing only)] A Newport Shopkeeper. Has a few lines in the first scene.

ENSEMBLE [any gender, any age (Ensemble singing only)] Other possible roles.