

Play Synopsis

The Secretaries is a campy extravaganza of SlimFast chugging murderess secretaries!

Welcome to the Cooney Lumber Mill in Big Bone, Oregon, where everything is bigger (and bloodier). A new girl joins the steno pool. She's pretty and good at everything she puts her mind to, but how far will she go? Fitting into this click (cult?) takes charm and the ability to wield a chainsaw. Once a month a lumberjack mysteriously disappears, and a secretary ends up in his jacket. Cooney Lumber Mill's secretaries may take their murderous rage out on lumberjacks but the real horror the play reveals is the emotional violence between women. This campy horror-comedy is a feminist contemplation on internalized homophobia and sexism.

Wigs, flannel, chainsaws, and a critique of the patriarchy!

Characters

Susan Curtis: office manager/cult leader

Susan is beautiful and powerful. She's a calm, poised, confident maniac. She controls the other women in the office, who all want to be her and be with her.

Patty Johnson: the new girl

Patty is the new secretary and wants to fit in. She is good at everything she does. She has a "sweet" exterior but an inner rage and propensity for violence.

Ashley Elizabeth Fratangelo: Susan's sycophant, bulimic

Ashley is a suck up who needs Susan's admiration and praise. She's jealous of Patty and fears being replaced as Susan's favorite.

Dawn Midnight: office lesbian

Dawn is a bit of a jokester. She teases Ashley and has the hots for Patty.

Peaches Martin: sweet, clueless, slow-moving target.

Peaches is a bit ditzy and always hungry (these ladies live on only SlimFast!) She's quick to give a compliment, slow at everything else.

Buzz Benikee: sensitive lumberjack, Patty's secret boyfriend

Hank and Sandy: Sexually harassing lumberjacks, not the sharpest tools in the shed
Actors playing Hank and Sandy will also double as puppeteers.

Mr. Ron Kembunkscher: the boss, a jerk (voiceover done by the actor who plays Buzz)

5-8 Actors
Possible cross-gender casting

Auditions: Submit videos to jtamimi@lclark.edu by 6pm January 20th

Callbacks: January 22nd and 23rd

Cast List will be up by the evening of the 23rd

The first read through will be on Sunday, January 24th

The Spring Main Stage Production has a relatively short but **intensive** rehearsal period. We will be casting the first week of the semester and the show opens March 12th. That leaves us with less than **seven weeks of rehearsal**. I am planning to rehearse **four evenings a week** and **one weekend day (MO, T, TH, FR and SAT or SU** in the afternoon). In addition, I may be scheduling daytime “coaching sessions” with individual actors.

Audition Monologues

You are welcome to pick one or all the monologues in your video audition. I will consider everyone for every role, not just the character you read. If you would like to read the play before your audition, email jtamimi@lclark.edu for a pdf of the script.

-Ashley-

It is late. Ashley is sitting at her desk working on a little statue of Susan made out of office supplies. Patty gave Susan a googly-eye pin and now Ashley feels the need to compete. She is talking to herself.

Just a minute. Just a minute. Susan don't leave yet. I'm almost finished. I need a head. It's easy for Patty to make things; she had a mother. *(Ashley finds a binder clip and uses it as the statue's head)*. There. Oh, not bad. *(Imagining that she's presenting the doll to Susan)* Here you are, Susan. Oh, it's just a little something I... Beautiful? Susan, I think you exaggerating. I mean it's no googly-eye pin or anything. I think we ought to give Patty an “A” for effort. An “F” for faker? You think you know someone, and it turns out they aren't sweet and nice after all. Just rotten and bad like everyone else. Still, you shouldn't compare me and Patty like that. It's not fair. It's not fair. Patty doesn't know you like I do. I know you. Don't forget how well I know you. I know all about you, Susan.

-Susan-

Susan found out that Dawn and Patty slept together, and she doesn't like anyone doing anything without her permission. She picks Patty up in the middle of the night for a drive.

Your life is like this car, Patty. Fully loaded with a big, powerful engine under the hood. It's your choice. You can play it safe or you can open her up and live dangerously. Now

take Buzz Beninke. What would you say Buzz is? About fifty-five? Strictly legal. Now sleeping with Dawn. That was an adventure, wasn't it? Don't lie about it. Ashley told me. It's ok. I'm not mad at you, Patty. What was it like sleeping with Dawn? (*She presses down on the pedal*) Eighty-- eight-five-- ninety an hour—on a straightway. It makes you feel heady, all that speed, but you still see what's coming down the road. Now, take me, Patty. I'm a different animal all together. I can show you how to take curves at top speed. There's no such thing as driving with me, Patty. I am the road. I am the car. I inhabit everything. The whole map is in my bones. And I think you're just like me, Patty. Aren't you? You're just like me. Keep breathing. Keep breathing and feel the road. (*She stands up and laughs*)

-Peaches-

Peaches is worried she'll lose her job because she is over a size twelve. She turn to Patty for help.

Damn him. Damn him. Damn him. Susan said Mr. Kembunkscher isn't happy with him. I'm not the right size. Can you believe that, Patty? Fat, old baldy-top Mr. Kumbunkscher can tell me I'm not the right size. I can't be over a twelve. Damn him. I bet that fat old hog hasn't ever even tries a diet. I bet he's eaten three meals a day for his whole goddamn life with snacks in between. Help me, Patty. If you see me with a bear claw or mixed nuts in my hand, just give me a little slap on my face, OK? Just a little slap so Ill associate it with eating solids, OK?

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email itamimi@lclark.edu