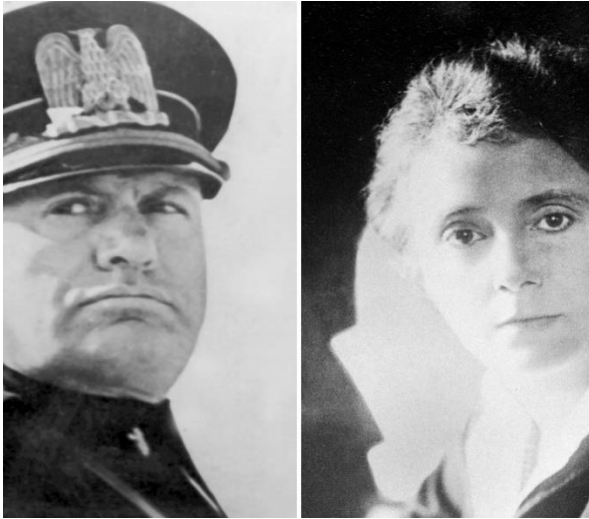


*The Greenbelt Arts Center and Seventh Street Playhouse  
present  
the 2018 production of*

# MARGHERITA

by  
Anthony E. Gallo  
Directed by  
Beatrix Whitehall



*Friday at 8:00 p.m.: July 20,27; Saturday at  
8:00 p.m.: July 21, 28; Sunday Matinees: July  
22, 29 at 2:00 p.m.*

## ACT 1

**Scene 1**            **Rome 1939, Margherita's Apartment.**

**Scene 2**            **The next morning.**

## INTERMISSION

## ACT 2

**Scene 1**            **Shortly Afterwards**

**Scene 2**            **The next day.**

**Scene 3**            **Several hours later.**

## CAST

**Margherita**

**Emily Canavan**

**Benito Mussolini**

**Bob Cohen**

**Major Klemmer**

**James McDaniel**

**James Bullock**

**Sam Simon**

## CREW

**Sound**

**Jeff Robert**

**Lighting**

**Tommy Zanner**

## CAST

**Emily Canavan (Margherita)** played Sonia in The Castaways Repertory Theatre's production of "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike." She has also performed with the King's Players, DC Women's Theatre Group, Selah City Urban Theatre, Rabble Crew Productions and is a regular at Openstage New Works Showcase in Eastern Market. Emily is also a founding member of Rabble Crew Productions, for whom she has directed several original plays.

**Bob Cohen (Benito Mussolini)** started acting 15 years ago and has appeared in over 100 performances of 1776 as Thomas McKean. He's portrayed a variety of characters in over 40 local theater productions. Bob's TV appearances include Investigation Discovery's "Nightmare Next Door, and" Stolen Voice Buried Secrets" and on the right side of the law as an Assistant District Attorney for Thomas Dewey on AMC's "Making of the Mob

**Anthony E Gallo(Playwright)** is the author of twenty-four plays, nine of which have now been produced at the Greenbelt Arts Center. His plays have been staged nearly 160 times in 45 in DC, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York.

**Matt Lolich (Videographer)** works for a government organization in addition to running his own video production company (HilltopVideos.com),

**James McDaniel (Major Klemmer)** has performed in community theater for many years, and with several theater groups in the area. By day, I'm an instructional designer for Defense Acquisition University. I live with Tux, the Wonder Cat, in Washington, DC. His wife, Sherman, lives with Sport (the mischievous, omnivorous cat), in Norfolk, Virginia.

**Samuel Simon (James Bullock)** has appeared in a number of Seventh Street Players productions. He is an experienced actor, improviser and playwright. He now focuses on the production and performance of the one-man show: *"The Actual Dance"*, which he wrote, and which is touring the US. He lives in McLean, VA with his wife of 52 years, Susan

**Beatrix Whitehall (Director, Sound Design)** has been with the Seventh Street Playhouse for ten years designing sound, narrating staged readings, acting, and now directing. She has over 35 years experience in community theater. Trix is a founding member of the Greenbelt Arts Center and serves on its Board of Directors. An attorney, Trix retired from the Maryland Office of the Public Defender after 26 years and hopes to pursue a new career as a teacher.

**Special thanks to Tommy Zanner (Lighting) and Robert, Jeffrey (Sound)**

## About the Play

Margherita Sarfatti was born Margherita Grassini, in Venice, the daughter of Amedeo Grassini and Emma Levi. Amedeo was a wealthy Jewish lawyer and businessman. He was a fiscal attorney for the Venetian government and a close friend of Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto, later Pope Pius X. He would later be made a Knight of the Order of the Crown of Italy.

Sarfatti grew up in a palazzo situated at the Canal Grande in Venice and was educated by private tutors. However, she was soon attracted by socialist ideas and escaped her parents' home at age 18 to marry Cesare Sarfatti, a Jewish lawyer from Padua. He was 13 years her senior, but shared her socialist beliefs.[1] In 1902, the couple moved to Milan.[2] There, they became prominent in the city's artistic life, hosting weekly Salons that became the center of the Futurist and Novecento Italiano artistic movements.[3] They had several children. Their eldest son, Robert, enlisted in the Italian army during World War I, and was killed in action on Monte Baldo in January 1918, aged 18

In 1911, Margherita Sarfatti met Benito Mussolini (three years her junior) and started a relationship with him. After losing her husband in 1924, she wrote a biography of Mussolini. This first published in 1925 in Britain under the title *The Life of Benito Mussolini*; it was published the following year in Italy with the title *Dux*. Because of the fame of Mussolini and the author's familiarity with the dictator, the book was a success. Seventeen editions were printed and it was translated into 18 languages.

Sarfatti is memorialized in Guido Cadorin frescoes in the (now called) Grand Hotel Palace, Via Veneto No. 70, Rome. "Fiammetta and I wanted to pass into immortality in the salon's frescoes," she remarked, referring to her daughter, who is portrayed with her in the frescoes

Until 1938, when Mussolini bowed to German pressure and after the Manifesto of Race enacted a racial legislation, the fascist government's politics were not anti-Semitic, and the party's membership rolls were open to Jews. Probably in reaction to the changing circumstances in Italy, Sarfatti left Italy in 1938 for Argentina and Uruguay; she worked as a journalist for the newspaper *El Diario* of Montevideo.[5] After the war, in 1947, Sarfatti returned to her home country and once again became an influential force in Italian art.

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*The playwright would sincerely appreciate your suggestions and comments.  
You may contact him at 202 544 6973 or [agallo2368@verizon.net](mailto:agallo2368@verizon.net)*