

FIRST LADIES AND THE BIG WHITE LIE  
By Janine Sternlieb  
with Lennie Dean

Directed by Marcello Rollando

Producers  
Ashley M. Cowles  
Janine Sternlieb

Assistant to the Director and Principal Narrator, Olivia Martin\*

September 18, 2024  
AMDA, NYC

The play takes place in an afterlife “above” the White House.  
Dates: March 3, 2016-January 20, 2021

CAST

*Sophie Terry as...*

*Mary Todd Lincoln was raised in Kentucky and moved to Illinois, where she met and married Abraham Lincoln. She had many siblings and half-siblings. Approximately half were loyal to the Union and half loyal to the Confederacy.*

*Diana “Darrie” Lawrence\* as...*

*Abigail Adams was born and raised in Boston. John Adams was the 2nd president of the U.S.; their son, John Quincy, was the 6th president. They were both one-term presidents.*

*Chloe Chappa as...*

*Dolley Madison’s parents converted to Quakerism when Dolley was a child, and repudiated slavery. She was raised in Philadelphia, married a fellow Quaker, and had 2 children. After her husband died, she married James Madison, a wealthy Virginia slaveowner.*

*Irina Kaplan\* as...*

*Martha “Patsy” Jefferson Randolph was born and raised at Monticello in Virginia. Though she married and had 12 children, she spent most of her life in her father’s house along with Sally Hemings. According to the history books, she is the only child of Jefferson who survived him.*

*Stephany Goulart as...*

*Jackie Kennedy wore a pink suit and hat on the day of John F. Kennedy's assassination in Dallas. She is known for redecorating the White House and planting a rose garden. Later, she married shipping tycoon, Aristotle Onassis.*

*Malin Glade as...*

*Rachel Jackson was born in Virginia and lived most of her life in Tennessee. She died in 1828, after the election of Andrew Jackson, but before his inauguration.*

*Allison Fletcher as...*

*Eleanor Roosevelt was raised in New York and orphaned young. She married her distant cousin, Franklin Roosevelt, who proved unfaithful. After her husband was stricken by polio, she became an important asset to him and her own political and humanitarian causes. She died in 1962 and is consistently ranked #1 in the First Ladies polls.*

*Gabi Shook as...*

*Varina Davis was born and raised in Mississippi. She married Jefferson Davis, who would become a Senator, Secretary of War, and finally, the President of the Confederacy.*

*Mira Korngold as...*

*Harriet Hemings was the (unacknowledged) daughter of Sally Hemings and Thomas Jefferson, and the half-sister of Patsy. She was born and raised at Monticello. At 21, she left Virginia, "passed" in the white world, and vanished from history.*

*A note about James Callender. He was a Scottish immigrant and a political reporter. Jefferson paid him to write negative articles about John Adams. (This landed him in prison because Callender violated the Alien and Sedition Acts.) Once Jefferson beat Adams and became president, Callender expected Jefferson to reward him. When Jefferson did not, Callender turned his wrath on Jefferson, and wrote the "Dusky Sally" story, which exposed Jefferson's relationship with Sally Hemings. Jefferson never spoke publicly about the accusations or about Sally.*

**\*Actors appear with permission of Actors Equity**

Special thanks to: Stephanie Haring and Rob Manning Jr.

For more information, visit [FirstLadiesAndTheBigWhiteLie.com](http://FirstLadiesAndTheBigWhiteLie.com)