

## Rising Earth Productions

**Empowering the human spirit!**



*Rising Earth Productions is a non-profit collaborative that creates socially relevant plays, musicals, and content for film and television.*

**We would like to thank the Boston Playwright's Theatre for use of their wonderful space, and our incredibly talented team who made this production possible. We would also like to thank everyone who has generously donated to help make this event happen.**

**To follow our progress, see the Rising Earth website - <https://risingearth.org/the-side-effect-pill/>**

**All feedback and donations appreciated.**

## *The Side Effect Pill*

**Music & Lyrics by Terry Crystal  
Book & Original Story by Don DiVecchio  
Piano arrangements by Margaret Ulmer**



**Reading of first two acts**

**June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – 7:30 PM**

**Boston Playwright's Theatre**

**CREATIVE TEAM:**

Terry Crystal (composer/lyricist and co-director) is a librarian at the Pardee Library at the Questrom School of Management at BU and composer/lyricist of *The Caitlin County Hemp Wars* with her partner Don DiVecchio - <https://caitlin-county.com/> .She would like to thank all the very talented people involved with this effort to help launch their second musical.

Don DiVecchio (original story & dialog, co-director) is an activist, playwright, screenwriter and founder of the Bread & Roses Theatre Collaborative and co-founder of Rising Earth Productions.

Margaret Ulmer (pianist & music director) has directed music for most of Boston's major repertory theaters, the Berkshire Theatre Festival, and the improvisational revue, *The Proposition*. She has performed in multimedia operas at the A.R.T., at Ars Electronica festivals in Austria and Germany, and at the Athens Festival in Greece. Her CD of solo American regional piano music, *American Places*, was released this spring on the AMRC label.

**ACTOR/SINGERS:**

Josephine Cooper (Susan) studies acting and directing at Emerson College here in Boston. She has had the pleasure of working on many productions at Emerson, and will next be starring as Bernarda Alba in *The House of Bernarda Alba* with Emerson Stage. Josephine is excited to be traveling to Italy this summer as a company member with Trinacria Theatre Company.

Maureen Renee Hughes (Liz) is very excited to take part in the debut production of *The Side Effect Pill!* When she isn't on stage or in front of a camera, Maureen advises companies in various industries as a Solution Consultant for NetSuite, Inc. Her recent acting credits include Aggie Wheeler in *The Game's Afoot*, Jordan Baker in *The Great Gatsby*, Rose Arnott in *Enchanted April*, and Myrtle Webb in *Our Town*, as well as some recent opportunities in local commercials and independent films.

Justin Reeves (Justin) attended Berklee College of Music where he studied voice performance under the tutelage of Sharon Brown. Boston credits include *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Jesus) and *The Wiz* (Tinman). He would like to thank the SEP production team for including him in their performance, his parents for their undying support, Eva Jansen for always having his back through thick and thin, and God for all of His gifts.

John Scala (Aldo) is a theatre artist who wears many hats. Most recently he donned a director's cap for Yelling Man Theatre's inaugural production *Killer Maples: The Musical*. He offers his thanks to all involved in this reading for their hard work and his love to his parents and his heart.

Eric Sosman (Max) performs in concerts, opera, and musical theater. He has performed Orovoso in Bellini's *Norma*, the Sergeant of Police in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*, and the title role in Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*. He has appeared as a soloist with American Classics, the Salisbury Singers, and the Boston Academy of Music.

**THE SIDE EFFECT PILL - STORY:**

ACT I

The Pillco pharmaceutical company is in financial crisis. The drugs they have created are showing significant side effects and the lawsuits are beginning to outweigh profits. Liz and Justin, both company researchers, meet for the first time (Could love be in the air?) Liz is an undercover journalist investigating Pillco's business practices. Justin is a loyal company man rebounding from a five year relationship. Pillco's top execs Max (president), Aldo (head of marketing), and Susan (head of R&D) meet to come up with plan to save the company. They create a side effect pill to alleviate all the side effects from their drugs and they want Justin to be their spokesperson.

ACT II

Liz seduces Aldo into unlocking the company vault where the toxic levels of each drug are kept hidden. In another company meeting, Max listens while Aldo reveals his "mad" vision for the future of the Pillco Company. Liz sees Justin slipping away to become the famous spokesperson for the side effect pill, but they end up finding true love.

ACT III (to be presented at future reading)

Max, Aldo and Sue are suddenly surprised to see hundreds of demonstrators protesting outside their building. The "pill", it appears, has a few side effects, bringing people to a heightened state of consciousness, making them more self-aware and truthful. People are waking up and they don't want to take synthetic drugs. Liz has spiked the water cooler with the side effect pill, and the Pillco Executives get a taste of their own medicine. With the help of the side effect pill, they examine their own unscrupulous behavior, and make amends.

**SONGS:**

ACT I

- Side Effects.....(Liz & Justin)
- One Pill .....(Susan, Aldo, Max)
- About Max .....(Susan & Aldo)
- Stop & Think .....(Susan)
- Looking Out for #1 .....(Max)
- Murmer of the Heart .....(Liz)
- Welcome Aboard .....(Max, Aldo, Susan & Justin)

INTERMISSION

ACT II

- Secret Passion .....(Liz)
- Alpha World .....(Aldo, Max & Susan)
- In Love at Last .....(Justin & Liz)

\* Special thanks to Chadley Gray for recording music and publishing charts..