

= Selina Meyer =

Selina Catherine Meyer (née Eaton) is a fictional character portrayed by Julia Louis @-@ Dreyfus on the HBO television comedy series Veep . Louis @-@ Dreyfus has been critically acclaimed for the role , earning a record @-@ tying four consecutive Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series awards and four Golden Globe Award for Best Actress ? Television Series Musical or Comedy nominations .

Meyer is a former United States Senator and Vice President of the United States following an unsuccessful run for President . During the first season , as Vice President she was powerless and disregarded by most other important officials , leading to various humiliations and indignities . During the second season she begins to amass some power and influence . In the third season , she contemplates challenging the incumbent president for their unnamed party 's nomination in light of his political weakness , but the issue is mooted when he abruptly resigns , allowing her to become the president . In the fourth season , she has assumed office but is facing strong primary and general @-@ election challengers of her own . The general election results in a tie , setting the stage for the fifth season , as the House of Representatives prepares to choose the president .

The role garnered Louis @-@ Dreyfus several milestone accolades : Her fourteenth Primetime Emmy Award nomination for a role in the regular cast of a comedy series surpassed Lucille Ball as the most ever . Her Primetime Emmy Award for her third different regular cast role also was a record @-@ setting achievement for a comedy actress . Her four consecutive Primetime Emmy Lead Actress wins tied a record and her five overall Primetime Emmy Lead Actress wins also tied a record .

= = Fictional biography = =

Meyer was born Selina Catherine Eaton to mother Catherine Calvert Eaton and Gordon Dunn Eaton . In her childhood , she loved her father (whom she affectionately called Daddy) , but resented her narcissistic mother . Her father died when she was 12 , and she claims that her mother blamed Selina for his death .

The show 's original opening sequence details some of her career . She was a United States Senator from Maryland (where she was born and raised) . She announced her candidacy for the 2012 presidential election . Media outlets initially praised her and had high hopes for her becoming the President , with headlines such as " Magic Meyer " and " Is this Meyer 's Moment ? " . Despite strong initial victories , she ultimately is defeated by primary challenger Stuart Hughes on Super Tuesday , and suspends her campaign . He then selects her as his running mate , and is elected to the presidency .

As the Vice President , Meyer found herself increasingly ignored by the President , and often demoted to trivial matters . When the sitting President decides that he will not seek a second term , his Chief of Staff Ben Cafferty encourages Meyer to run , which she ultimately does . She faces a primary challenge from war veteran and governor Danny Chung , Secretary of Defense George Maddox , Congressman Owen Pierce , and baseball coach Joe Thornhill . During the course of the primary season , President Hughes resigns abruptly to care for his ailing wife , and Meyer ascends to the presidency . Headlines question whether Meyer will be " the 8 @-@ month president " , confirming that Hughes ' term was near over , and Meyer is constitutionally eligible to serve two full terms as President . Though she chooses Senator Andrew Doyle to become her Vice President , he declines to serve as her running mate for a full term as Vice President . She offers the running mate position to both Chung and Maddox , but both decline , and she ultimately chooses popular Senator Tom James when she secures the party nomination .

Meyer is challenged in the general election by Southern Senator Jim O 'Brien . The election ends in an electoral college tie , but with Meyer having won the popular vote . After an ambiguous result in Nevada , the Meyer camp successfully campaigns for a recount . The recount backfires , and O 'Brien keeps Nevada as a victory , as well as overtakes the popular vote . Congress must then decide who will be the President . After the House of Representatives fails to elect the President ,

Meyer agrees to be Vice President for her running mate Tom James , however the Senate instead elects O 'Brien 's running mate Laura Montez as President . As a result , James makes plans to return to the private sector while Meyer , now completely out of office , contemplates her future .

= = Character = =

The show 's premise is that Meyer is a former United States Senator who runs a failed Presidential campaign before being asked to be the winning candidate 's Vice President . As Vice President , her world is kept in balance by her assistants : Amy Brookheimer (Anna Chlumsky) is the Vice President 's chief of staff , while Gary Walsh (Tony Hale) is Meyer 's grovelling personal aide . Selina also hires Dan Egan (Reid Scott) , who threatens Amy 's place in the staff , and Mike McLintock (Matt Walsh) , a press spokesman . Meyer has no significant other , and requires that her daughter Catherine , from a past marriage , make appointments to see her .

Some suggest that Meyer is likely a Republican , while others feel she is a Democrat . Alessandra Stanley of The New York Times notes that Meyer 's party affiliation is unknown because the show focuses on bullying and ego rather than ideology . James Poniewozik of Time explains the ambiguity as follows : Veep is " almost all politics and almost no political issues " . Robert Lloyd of Los Angeles Times explains the lack of need for party affiliations , or even political ideology in a similar manner , saying that Veep is " less a show about politics than about politicking . " In an interview with The New Yorker Radio Hour , Julia Louis @-@ Dreyfus suggested that Meyer 's associated political party is intentionally left unknown to the audience . Louis @-@ Dreyfus later elaborated : " [Selina Meyer 's] politics are all about her and staying alive ... she will hold any position if it keeps her in office . " In the episode Election Night , CNN represents states won by Meyer as blue . In the same episode , she also comments winning the ' blue wall ' states of Connecticut and Vermont with " A bowl of hair could win those states " .

Poniewozik describes the season 1 Meyer as a " bumbling and overwhelmed " shadow of her former self . Merissa Marr of The Wall Street Journal describes Meyer as " inept " . James Parker of The New York Times describes her as animated , powerless , prone to fits , and at times distracted . He notes that she motorcades and entourages with importance , but also passes time rotating dreamily in her swivel chair . Parker opines that Meyer " swears her head off " because that is what the modern " gaffe @-@ phobic , linguistically constipated " public servant who has sold his / her soul to a lobbyist group does behind closed doors after public speeches about " ceaseless , toneless platitudes " . Variety television critic Brian Lowry describes Meyer as " easily flustered , foul @-@ mouthed " , saying that her " over @-@ reliance on profanity " is a comedic crutch . David Renshaw of The Guardian describes Meyer as " a perfect combination of ineptness and amorality " .

T. A. Frank of The New Republic says that in season 1 she is completely ignored by the president and dismissed by Congress as she endures repeated indignities with a high degree of cynicism . According to Frank , Meyer slowly gains some respect and power , but it is not without effort . Entertainment Weekly 's Ken Tucker , noted that the premise of a politician without influence striving for it suited itself well to a comedy and that her frequent cursing should not have been much of an issue given that it was an HBO production . Laura Bennett of The New Republic states that in season 1 Meyer is " a hapless buffoon , fluffing her hair and running in circles " , who endures marginalization and irrelevance , but in season 2 , which is set during midterm elections , she is " a player in the administration with concrete involvement in foreign policy " . By season 3 , presidential candidate Meyer becomes fashion conscious on the campaign trail . In the third season finale , the President resigns , leaving Meyer in charge ; however , her position is threatened when she loses the first presidential primary . Following a congressional inquiry into a data breach in which Meyer and other White House employees must testify , Meyer eventually rebounds with the help of new running mate Tom James . However , during the season four finale , the election ends in a tie between Meyer and senator Bill O 'Brien , putting Meyer 's future as president in jeopardy . Ending on a cliffhanger , what will happen , including when the Electoral College meets and perhaps things being thrown to Congress pursuant to the Twelfth Amendment , is left to the upcoming Fifth Season .

= = Reception = =

The role has established Louis @-@ Dreyfus as the all @-@ time most Primetime Emmy Award decorated actress in terms of regular cast roles in a comedy series (i.e. , not counting guest acting Emmys) . It is the third character (Elaine Benes on Seinfeld and Christine Campbell on The New Adventures of Old Christine being the first two) for which Louis @-@ Dreyfus has earned a Primetime Emmy Award (Outstanding Lead Actress or Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series) . When Louis @-@ Dreyfus earned the second Emmy nomination for this role it marked her fourteenth Primetime Emmy nomination for either Outstanding Lead Actress or Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series , surpassing Lucille Ball 's all @-@ time record . The win tied her with Ball with a total of four and made her the first actress to win Primetime Emmy Awards for three different regular cast comedy roles . Her second win also made her the first actress to become a two @-@ time awardee as a comedy actress for HBO .

She earned Primetime Emmy Awards for her season 1 and season 2 performances in 2012 and 2013 at the 64th Primetime Emmy Awards and 65th Primetime Emmy Awards ceremonies . She was nominated at the 70th Golden Globe Awards and 71st Golden Globe Awards for her season 1 and season 2 performances . Her season 2 performance also earned a Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Comedy Series award at the 20th Screen Actors Guild Awards . Louis @-@ Dreyfus has earned a wide range of additional nominations and awards for this role including nominations for Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series , Critics ' Choice Television Award for Best Actress in a Comedy Series , TCA Award for Individual Achievement in Comedy , Satellite Award for Best Actress ? Television Series Musical or Comedy , and Women 's Image Network Award for Best Actress in a Comedy Series .

In season 3 , Meyer continued to be a critically acclaimed role . Louis @-@ Dreyfus earned a Critics ' Choice Television Award for Best Actress in a Comedy Series nomination at the 4th Critics ' Choice Television Awards . At the 30th TCA Awards , Dreyfus won TCA Award for Individual Achievement in Comedy . Louis @-@ Dreyfus again won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series at the 66th Primetime Emmy Awards . She was also nominated again for the Female Actor in a Comedy Series and Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series at the 21st Screen Actors Guild Awards as well as Actress ? Television Series Musical or Comedy at the 72nd Golden Globe Awards .

The season 4 portrayal of Meyer continued to earn praise . At the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards Louis @-@ Dreyfus won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series for a fourth consecutive time . She was also nominated again for the Female Actor in a Comedy Series and Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series at the 22nd Screen Actors Guild Awards as well as Best Actress ? Television Series Comedy at the 73rd Golden Globe Awards . She also received acting nominations at the 5th Critics ' Choice Television Awards , 20th Satellite Awards , and 31st TCA Awards . In earning her fourth consecutive and fifth overall Lead Actress Emmy , Louis @-@ Dreyfus tied Mary Tyler Moore and Candice Bergen with five wins in the category and tied Helen Hunt for four consecutive wins in the category .

The season 5 performance earned a nomination for Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series at the 68th Primetime Emmy Awards . She received acting nominations at the 32nd TCA Awards .