



# Floodlight

Tickets for *In The Heights* on sale now!

## FEATURED PRODUCTION

AUGUST 2015



Written by  
Charles Morey

Directed by  
Shawn g. Byers

Produced by  
Jamie Blake and  
Becky Patton

A play within a play! *Laughing Stock* gives audiences a backstage look at a ragtag troupe of actors and their backstage mischief as they attempt to stage three repertory productions. This show is a hectic and hilarious testament to theaters everywhere!

The play follows the group through one calamity after another as Gordon Page pushes his actors through rehearsal and production of *Charley's Aunt*, *Hamlet*, and a new adaptation of *Dracula* written by Page himself to avoid royalties.

The cast includes **Lars Klores** as Gordon Page, **Michael Dobbyn** as Jack Morris, **Kat Sanchez** as Susannah Huntsmen, **Abigail Ropp** as Mary Pierre, **Will MacLeod** as Tyler Taylor, **Tom Flatt** as Vernon Volker, **Ted Culler** as Richfield Hawksley, **Natalie Fox** as Daisy Coates, **Larry Grey** as Craig Conlin, **Melissa Dunlap** as Sarah McKay, **Richard Isaacs** as Henry Mills, **Hilary Adams** as Karma Schneider, **Brian Selcik** as Brian Oakes, and **Christian Menendez** as Ian Milliken.

Producers **Jamie Blake** and **Becky Patton** and Director **Shawn g Byers** are excited to be creating this production with **Margaret Evans Joyce** and **Charlie Dragonette**, Stage Managers; **Kevin Lane**, Set and Costume Designer; **Marian Holmes** and **Russ Wyland**, Set Dressers; **Art Snow**, Special Effects; **Jeff Auerbach**, Lighting Designers; **Micheal O'Connor**, Master Electrician; **Alan Wray**, Sound Designer; **Margaret Snow** and **Donna Hauprich**, Wardrobe; **Kevin O'Dowd**, Set Painter; **Russ Wyland**, Rigger; and **Matthew Randall**, Photographer.

**Order your  
tickets now!**

**Call the  
Box Office  
703-683-0496**

### The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Lloyd Bittinger, President  
Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for  
Membership  
Heather Norcross, Floodlight  
Coordinator  
Linda Wells, Floodlight Editor  
Next Floodlight Sept 18th

### Contents

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| President's Column | Page 2   |
| Upcoming Auditions | Page 3   |
| Governor's Message | Page 4-6 |
| Thank You          | Page 7   |
| Council Corner     | Page 7   |

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



**Lloyd Bittinger**

## PLANNING YOUR GIFT

Have you considered including The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) as a beneficiary of your estate? LTA can suggest tools that will assist you in making plans that will support the artistic and education programs of the theatre in the future, as well as provide your estate with tax benefits. Supporters of LTA who make planned gifts are invited to be members of The LTA Legacy Society. The LTA Legacy Society recognizes those who have demonstrated their concern for the long-term well-being of LTA by notifying us of their bequest or other planned gift. For additional information, please call Virginia Lacey at 703-683-5778 ext. 2 or [virginia@thelittletheatre.com](mailto:virginia@thelittletheatre.com).

This is the first column I have written after having been elected to this office at the last annual meeting. It is truly my pleasure and honor to be able to serve The Little Theatre of Alexandria as your president. Thank you, the members, for giving me this opportunity.

It's exciting to begin a new year with a Board of Governors which includes many who have been with us for quite some time, combined with some new faces who will bring new insights and ideas for our ongoing success. In this regard, I want to personally thank our outgoing board members, **Eddie Page**, **Eddy Roger Parker**, and **Becky Patton**, and at the same time, welcome two new board members, **Rae Edmonson** and **Maria Ciarrocchi**.

I also want to express thanks to those who have contributed to our success. I want to thank **Tina Anderson** and **Margaret Evans-Joyce** for having served the board as Board Secretary and Executive Secretary, respectively. They have both helped us hold things together and be able to move in a forward direction throughout the year.

I cannot fail to also thank our business manager, **Virginia Lacey**, and our box office manager, **Tina McCrea**, for doing an excellent job not only in helping us to keep things moving, but also in presenting a very positive image to our members, subscribers, and patrons, and for projecting an excellent public image.

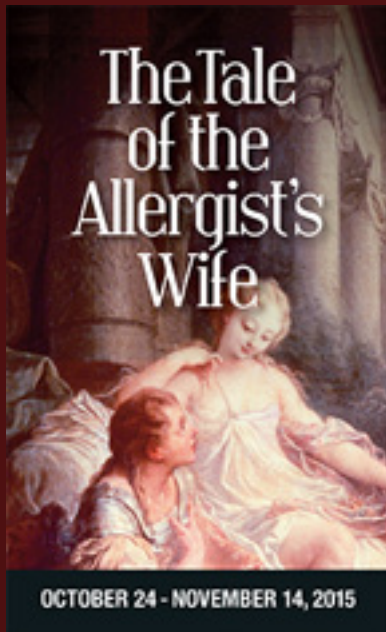
There is another person I want to thank, and that is someone you may not see too often, but who does an excellent job taking care of our facilities, which include the main building, all of the outside gardens, and the Alexandria Academy building. I sincerely thank **Arnoldo Duran** - and his staff - for always keeping our facilities in top-notch order.

There are two other people I have to thank from the bottom of my heart, and I must not let them slip through the cracks. **Nancy Owens** and her daughter **Liz Owens** have worked LTA for many years - yes, many years - primarily in the lighting department, and in Nancy's case, also on the One-Act Play Committee. Nancy has designed lighting for many shows as well as spent many hours running lights for an many performances. Liz has worked very hard behind-the-scenes on cleaning out old lighting equipment and organizing all of the lighting instruments in our storage rooms. Both Nancy and Liz recently pulled up stakes and moved to Colorado to begin a new life out west. Our entire theatre has benefitted from the contributions that they have made over the years, and we thank them both, as I said, from the bottom of our hearts.

This just in: On Sunday, July 12th, the LTA production of *God of Carnage* was awarded first runner-up for best play for the Ruby Griffith Award (The British Players). Congratulations to the entire cast and crew. It was a terrific production and the award is well deserved.

Lloyd Bittinger, President  
*All for Love of Theatre!*

# UPCOMING AUDITIONS



Written by  
Charles Busch

Produced by  
Jay Cohen and  
Jim Howard

Directed by  
Michael Kharfen

Audition Dates  
Saturday, August 22nd  
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday, August 23rd  
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Callbacks  
Tuesday, August 25th  
7:30 p.m.

To volunteer for this production,  
please contact the producers.

Set in contemporary Manhattan, *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* is a window-rattling comedy of midlife malaise on the Upper West Side. Despite her life of leisure, Marjorie is unfulfilled as she aspires to be a writer of profound intellectual books. Her husband Ira is a retired allergist devoting his life to the homeless to cure them of their sinus problems. Her mother Frieda lives down the hall and constantly complains about her digestive tract. Her doorman Mohammed always volunteers to help her. Marjorie plummets into despair when her therapist dies, leading to a destructive incident at the Disney Store. Her life is turned around when a long-lost, flamboyant childhood friend, Lee, pays a surprising visit and moves in, to the suspicion of her husband and mother. Marjorie revels in her friend's adventurous spirit, while the others wonder when this mysterious guest will ever leave. Replete with hilarious one-liners, references to 19th-century authors, and celebrity zingers, *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* is wall-to-wall laughs.

## Auditions

All roles are open. You will be asked to fill out an information sheet and a conflict calendar, so please know your other commitments ahead of time. Feel free to bring a resume and a headshot, but this is not required. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script.

## Character Descriptions

**Marjorie (40s - 50s)** – the allergist's wife is one of those women spotted at Zabar's: smart, but slightly fretful in chic designer clothing, clutching a copy of *The New York Review of Books*. Marjorie is passionate about her intellectual aspirations, endearingly evoking Kafka, Rimbaud, Beauvoir, and Hesse (her all-time favorite) as well as her description of her unpublished novel in which both Helen Keller and Plato are characters. She is bewildered by her husband's valiant volunteerism and frustrated by her mother's constant criticism. She longs to discover her self-expression and is thrilled when her friend Lee inspires her to assert it.

**Lee (40s - 50s)** – formerly known as Lillian Greenblatt, Lee is her own invention: a free spirit with a resume that includes accompanying the Nixons to mainland China and a role as an extra in a Fassbinder movie. She is an unrepentant name-dropper (her early days in Greenwich Village were spent with Kerouac and Baldwin), while displaying a Zen self-consciousness. She has no boundaries and is totally comfortable in her own skin, and with her sensuality.

**Ira (50s)** – a successful allergist, he retires while still vigorous to pursue his passion to free the homeless of their nasal congestion. He notes his accomplishments and reputation without boasting and maintains a genuine modesty. He loves Marjorie and is concerned for her welfare and state of mind.

**Frieda (60s - 70s)** – has no filter whatsoever – whatever comes to her mind, she says it. She has an opinion about everything. She adores her son-in-law and doesn't completely understand her daughter. She is a creature of habit and likes things as they are, which is why Lee's intrusion is so unsettling to her. Most of all, she is preoccupied with her digestive system.

**Mohammed (20s - 30s)** – the sincere, charming, well-meaning, and always helpful doorman. He genuinely likes Marjorie and has only the best intentions for her. His readiness to go above and beyond his regular duties is demonstrated when he is unexpectedly called upon after the mysterious visitor arrives.

## GOVERNOR FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Robert S. Kraus

Our mission is to maintain and support the technical areas of the theatre.

First, I want to thank the LTA members for the honor of allowing me to serve once again as your Governor for Technical Support for the next two years. My areas of responsibilities include all technical aspects in the areas of lights, sound/intercom, rigging, shop, stage managers' equipment, paint, special effects, televisions, and projectors. Essentially, my departments are responsible for everything in and around the stage and oversee the care and maintenance of equipment in the following work spaces: stage area, shop, lighting and paint rooms, and sound and light booths. I can not do this by myself. Thus, I have assembled a first-rate team of very dedicated and experienced department chairs. Please join me in thanking them for taking on their departments for the next two years and keeping LTA #1 in Technical Support.

Chairs of the Lighting Department: **Kimberly Pitcher-Crago** and **Jeffrey Scott Auerbach**

Kimberly Pitcher-Crago - I'm super excited to be a part of Team Tech at LTA! I look forward to working with my lights co-chair, Jeff Auerbach, as well as all of the knowledgeable folks who have been making LTA shine for years. Recently, we purchased Desire D40s to replace some of the aging Nexeras. Designers have been pleased with the performance of these instruments, which provide general wash light, changing colors, strobe, and more. Jeff and I will continue to update and assess the inventory as we collect feedback from designers and audiences. I also plan to continue the work of Liz Owens. Liz had been organizing, updating, and digitizing many aspects of the lighting department. I greatly appreciate all of the support I've already received!



Jeffrey Scott Auerbach - I have been designing lights for local community theaters for almost 15 years now. In the last couple of years, I designed a few shows at LTA including *God of Carnage* and *Boeing Boeing*. This is my first time being a member of a community theater as well as being a chair of a lighting department and working with a board in this capacity. Kimberly and I plan to continue Liz Owens' work in keeping the light shop neat and clean,

updating equipment as we see fit, and perhaps adding new and exciting equipment to LTA's inventory. I would also like to build stronger relations with other community theaters in the area.

Chair of the Sound Department: **David Correia**

The Sound Department has been upgrading the equipment in the sound booth with the purchase of a new amplifier and mixer. The new mixer will allow us to have more than 16 body microphones in a musical if we need them. The Sound Department will look into purchasing additional body microphone equipment to bring our units to 20. However, more expensive purchases may need to be made in the future due to the federal government taking over some of the frequency bands used in our body microphones. This decision is pending.



## Chair of the Rigging Department: **Russell Wyland**



Russ Wyland has been the theatre's rigging chairman (a one-person department) for about 17 years. For every show, he hangs the large black curtains to mask the backstage areas visible around sets, makes signs drop from the ceiling, and travels scrimms and other drops along a track controlled by the stage manager. Russ has held a number of other positions at the theatre, including President (three years), LTA Council President (two years), Governor for Building (two years) and Governor for Production (seven years and counting). He produces shows, decorates sets, hosts parties, and works backstage. If you have an interest in learning rigging, please let Russ know!

## Chairs of the Shop: **Daniel Remmers** and **Jim Hutzler**

Jim Hutzler has worked on numerous shows at LTA in set construction, painting, and stage management, and was co-master carpenter on *Spamalot* last summer under the direction of Set Designer Grant Kevin Lane.



Dan Remmers has designed previous sets at LTA, including *Proof*, *Dial 'M' for Murder*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Move Over, Mrs. Markham*. He is a self-described math geek.

## Co Chairs of the Paint Department: **Kevin O'Dowd** and **Leslie Reed**

Kevin "Dutch" O'Dowd is a native of Northern Virginia and has been a member of LTA for over 17 years. He appeared onstage in *Shadowlands* before becoming involved in props and producing. Kevin started painting sets after getting an SOS from Suzanne Diffley for the show *No Sex Please, We're British*. Kevin has been paint chair for about ten years, and was recently pleased to take on Leslie Reed as a co-chair. By day, he works for Falls Church Public Schools as a Special Education Paraprofessional and the recess "teacher."

Leslie Reed was enchanted by LTA's warmth and creative genius the first time she was asked to help with the props for *Blithe Spirit*. A magical door had opened for her to reveal a world of make-believe fabricated from hard work, imagination, superb talent, and a super-abundance of cooperation and organization. She believes gathering props, painting sets, calling volunteers, researching details, cleaning, sweeping, and sewing are all building blocks of a production and being able to do it in the LTA community has truly been a gift for her.

Chair of the Special Effects Department: **Arthur Snow**

Special effects involves the use of equipment that produces a surreal atmosphere or creates an unexpected/shocking surprise. Current equipment includes fog machines, low fog machines, hazers, a bubble machine, and blank firing pistols. The value of this equipment is determined by its frequency of use and quality of maintenance. If a show's plans call for such use, we would like to accommodate those needs, and this would be best done with early arrangements by way of a producer. Other effects of the present and future may include breakaway glass, blood effects/knife wounds, luminescence, fire/fireworks, blank firing rifle, and an ornithopter.



Chair of the A/V (Video) Department - **Jim Hartz**

A/V (Video )is the newest department at LTA, answering the call for more video projections in our productions. The most recent was a double-screen setup utilizing rear screen and electronic technology in *Dirty Blonde*. We will be working closely with the directors of upcoming shows and exploring modernizing our equipment.

## New Members

Vanessa Arvidson  
Jeff Auerbach  
Kimberly Crago  
Chelsea Crane  
Teresa Danskey  
Daniel DeVera  
Iris Ellis

Veda Engel  
Christy Fischer  
Marcelo Guzman  
Steve Halleman  
Doris Halleman  
Larissa Heyman  
Joey Ledonio

Nina Ledonio  
Kelli Lightfoot  
Andres Ponce  
Pokhui Ravis  
Jacqueline Salvador  
Oscar Salvador  
John Scherfel

# THANK YOU!

from *Dirty Blonde*

The memory of Mae West and her witty one-liners will live on forever, but her portrayal on the LTA stage has ended. While there will always be unlikely love affairs built on mutual obsession, Jo and Charlie's relationship has come to an end. The wigs have been packed away, the vaudeville marquee with its rear projection screen has been torn down, and the theatre has gone dark. LTA's production of *Dirty Blonde* has come to a successful end. Marian Holmes and Russell Wyland, producers, and Jennifer Lyman, director, thank the cast and crew for their hard work and creative energy during the exhilarating run of *Dirty Blonde*. A big thank-you to one and all for bringing this funny, touching, and demanding show to our stage. And to the audience: thanks for coming up and seeing us. Remember, it is better to be looked over than overlooked.

## COUNCIL CORNER



Fifty Council members gathered on June 14th at Primo Restaurant in Alexandria for the Spring Dinner Meeting. A highlight of the meeting was the awarding of Life Membership status to **Tom and Alice O'Connor**. The O'Connors are longtime members of LTA and the Council, and have made substantial contributions to both organizations.

During the business meeting, membership and financial reports showed that there are now 78 members, and that the Council is in a sound financial condition.

Activities of the Council during the past year included providing for the refurbishing of several plaques in the Green Room, CPR/AED courses for show producers and stage managers, and financial support for an LTA scholarship program.

The Council officers, in cooperation with LTA, are researching the feasibility of providing an electronic digital message center for the theatre. The electronic screen would show announcements of future theatre activities and programs.

The opening night receptions continue to be popular events for LTA Council members. The receptions are held from 6:30 p.m. to 7:20 p.m., and provide an opportunity for members and their guests to greet one another preceding opening night performances. Opening night is a time to bring out the snazzy clothes (black tie optional or evening clothes are encouraged) and enjoy the festive evening. Members meet the producers and director of the show, and there is joyous singing accompanied by the piano stylings of Joyce Lindahl. It goes without saying that a grand time is had by all.

If you are wondering about the identities of these people who seem to have so much fun attending the various Council events, including the private opening night receptions, and who support LTA in many different ways, you can find the Council membership list on the back cover of LTA's playbills. Please let us know if you would like to have your name included so that you can join in on our good times. You can consider this to be your personal invitation.

I hope you are enjoying your summer, and I look forward to . . .

*... Seeing you on the aisle at LTA!*

John Johnson

LTA Council Director

**The Little Theatre of Alexandria**  
**600 Wolfe Street**  
**Alexandria, VA 22314**

Box Office: 703-683-0496

Business Office: 703-683-5778x2

Fax: 703-683-1378

www.thelittletheatre.com  
asklta@thelittletheatre.com

## Mark Your Calendars

8/15                    *In The Heights* closes  
8/22 - 23            *...Allergist's Wife* auditions  
9/5                     *Laughing Stock* opens

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors, under the direction of the President, is responsible for managing the affairs and operations of The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

The Governors for the 2015-2016 season are:

President.....Lloyd Bittinger  
Governor for Artistic Support.....Beverley Benda  
Governor for Box Office.....Rae Edmonson  
Governor for Building.....David Hale  
Governor for Development.....Jim Howard  
Governor for Education.....Roland Gomez  
Governor for Front of House.....Eddie Page  
Governor for Membership.....Maria Ciarrocchi  
Governor for Production.....Russ Wyland  
Governor for Public Relations.....Rachel Alberts  
Governor for Seasonal Planning.....Frank Shutts  
Governor for Technical Support.....Robert Kraus  
Additional officers are:  
President Pro-Tem.....Rachel Alberts  
Treasurer.....David Hale  
Board Secretaries.....Margaret Evans-Joyce and Carolyn Winters

## Volunteer Info

**Did you know that it takes the time and talent of nearly 150 volunteers to stage each production?**

**For more information on volunteering at LTA, please contact:**

**Maria Ciarrocchi**  
**Governor for Membership**  
**mariabelle22@gmail.com**

**Thank you for your service!**