

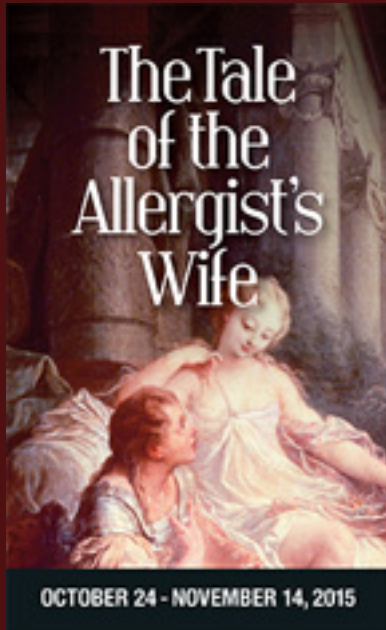


Floodlight

Tickets for *Laughing Stock* on sale now!

FEATURED PRODUCTION

SEPTEMBER 2015



Written by
Charles Busch

Produced by
Jay Cohen and
Jim Howard

Directed by
Michael Kharfen

**Order your
tickets now!**

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

Tickets on Sale now for
The Tale of The Allergist's Wife
running October 24th through
November 14th.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Lloyd Bittinger, President
Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for
Membership
Heather Norcross, Floodlight
Coordinator
Linda Wells, Floodlight Editor
Next Floodlight Nov. 6th

Contents

President's Column	Page 2
Upcoming Auditions	Page 3-5
Governor's Message	Page 6
... Governors at Work	Page 7
Between Curtains	Page 8
Council Corner	Page 9

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.

One last hurrah for our Celebration of Life for our dear friend **Ernie Sult**, who left us in May. Ernie was the member who had been with us the longest – he joined the theatre when he was 16 years old and had been a member for the past 74 years. That in itself is remarkable!

Equally remarkable are all of those who helped us put together the Celebration of Life (COL) for Ernie on Sunday, July 26th. Our sincere thanks go to the generous support offered by the following:

The entire cast of *In the Heights* sang a song from the show to start off the COL. What a nice touch this was, and it really set the tone for the event. The director of the show, **Frank Shutts II**, coordinated this portion of the event. **Jean Coyle** and **Rance Willis** read poems as a part of the COL, and **Linda Wells** played the piano during the reception and sing-along.

Lenard and Sharon Dove donated beautiful large floral arrangements for the stage and the LTA Council Room. The food for the reception was prepared and served by **Ronnie Hardcastle**, **Virginia Lacey**, **Benny Robles**, and **Dan, Margie, and John Remmers**. Our bartender was **Sherry Lord**.

Eddie Page prepared a special video that was played during the COL, showing many of the programs for shows in which Ernie had acted over the years. **Alan Wray** did the set-up for the microphone used during the ceremony and balanced the sound. Other support for the COL was provided by the Board of Governors, and the LTA Council made a financial contribution to the event.

Ernie was a very special member, and he will be remembered for years to come. A heartfelt thank you goes to all of these wonderful and generous people who helped to make this Celebration of Life so memorable.

One final note related to remembering one of our recently departed volunteers: **John Utter**, who had been volunteering as an usher and a house manager for the past few years, died very unexpectedly on Monday, August 24th. We were all shocked to hear this news, as John had been very active in the front of house as recently as the closing of *In the Heights*. John was a longtime resident of Old Town and had three children and eight grandchildren. He had a long and colorful career in airline management and was very active in his church here in Alexandria. During the past season, John had volunteered for front of house more times than any other usher or house manager.

He always did a terrific job, and we will miss him very much. John was 72 years old. Our condolences to his family and friends.

Lloyd Bittinger, President
All for Love of Theatre!

UPCOMING AUDITIONS



DECEMBER 4 - 19, 2015

Adapted by
Rachael Hubbard

Produced by
Lloyd Bittinger

Directed by
Rachael Hubbard

Music Direction by
Linda Wells

Audition Dates
Saturday, September 26th
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 27th
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Callbacks
Tuesday, September 29th
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

To volunteer for this production,
please contact the producer.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is proud to present the timeless holiday classic *A Christmas Carol*. This heartwarming story of compassion and transformation told by the two gentlemen narrators is sure to put you in the Christmas spirit, bringing to life the beloved characters of Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, and Tiny Tim.

Roles include 11 men, 7 women, and 9 young actors. Two roles may be played by a man or a woman.

Actors may be required to play various roles and should be comfortable with some dancing and singing, as both will be required throughout the show. The ability to play an instrument is also considered an asset.

Auditions: Auditions are first come, first served. No appointments are necessary. If you have a headshot and acting resume, you may bring them with you. However, all auditionees will be asked to have their picture taken by the LTA photographer.

Special Note: Artificial snow and fog will be used in this production. If you have a concern about the use of artificial snow and fog, this should be brought to the attention of the producer before auditioning, as it will be a consideration in the decision-making process for casting.

Character Descriptions:

Ebenezer Scrooge: (Middle to old age) discontented and jaded

Gentleman 1: (Any age) distinguished businessman. This is a large role -- Gentleman 1 is also a narrator

Gentleman 2: (Any age) distinguished businessman. This is a large role -- Gentleman 2 is also a narrator

Bob Cratchit: (Middle aged) hard-working, good-hearted father

Fred: (Late 20s to mid-30s) handsome and fun-loving

Marley: (Middle to old age) ghostly apparition

Fezziwig: (30s to 60s) fun-loving and friendly

Ghost of Christmas Present: (Any age) male or female, gregarious and knowledgeable

Topper: (20s to 30s) a gentleman in love with the female population

Dick Wilkins: (20s) sincere, hard-working fellow

Fred's Wife: (20s to 30s) pretty, in love with Fred

Lillian: (20s to 30s) pretty, enjoys a party

Young Scrooge: (20s) handsome, sometimes sullen

Belle: (20s) pretty, with a certain sadness about her

Ghost of Christmas Past: (Any age) magical and whimsical woman

Ghost of Christmas Future: (Any age) role will be double-cast

Mrs. Fezziwig: (30s to 50s) happy wife

Mrs. Cratchit: (Late 30s to 40s) a strong woman who speaks her mind

Martha: (Teens) young lady

Peter Cratchit: (9 to 13) responsible and well-meaning

Belinda Cratchit: (8 to 12) dutiful daughter

Boy Cratchit: (6 to 7) happy and energetic

Girl Cratchit: (6 to 7) wants to be a grown-up

Tiny Tim: (5 to 7) handicapped and sweet

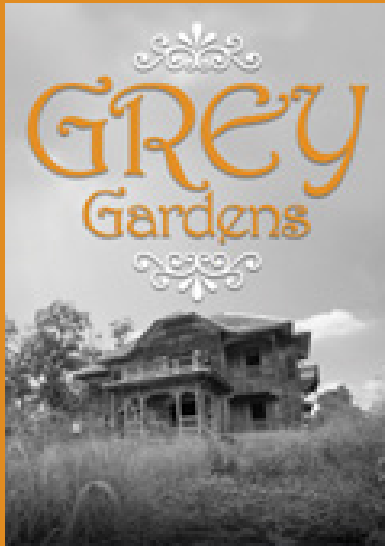
Boy Scrooge: (7 to 10) solitary and melancholy

Fan: (7 to 10) Scrooge's sister, loving and kind

Turkey Boy: (9 to 12) charming, has a great personality

Child Soloist: has solo singing ability

UPCOMING AUDITIONS



Book by

Doug Wright

Music by

Scott Frankel

Lyrics by

Michael Korie

Directed and Choreographed
by **Christopher Dykton**

Music Direction by
Steve Przybylski

Produced by
**Rachel Alberts and
John K. Monnett**

Audition Dates
Sunday, October 25th
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 27th
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Callbacks
Wednesday, October 28th
7:00 p.m.

To volunteer for this production,
please contact Rachel Alberts at
rachelaclu@gmail.com

Grey Gardens is a musical in two acts. It takes place at Grey Gardens, the Hamptons home of the Beales. The time period is two different years: Act I is in 1941, Act II is in 1973. *Grey Gardens* explores the lives of Edith Bouvier Beale and her daughter Edith "Little Edie" Bouvier Beale, relatives of Jackie Kennedy. In Act I, we see the Beales on the day of Little Edie's engagement party to Joseph Kennedy, which ultimately ends in the breaking of the engagement. In Act II, their home, Grey Gardens, is in shambles and so are their lives, Edith and Edie, now live as recluses, along with stray animals. They relive moments from their past, and Little Edie talks about escaping from the decaying mansion -- though she never will.

The cast consists of 9 musical theater actors: 3 females, 4 males, and 2 juvenile females. All actors, except the older actress playing Big Edie, play two different roles (noted below). Please note the age ranges listed are for the look of the actors auditioning, not the characters. The flexibility in age range will assist casting choices, so that generations in the script make sense dramatically. It is important to note that three actresses portray Big and Little Edie between the two acts.

It is highly recommended that all actors auditioning be familiar with the documentary *Maysles Brothers' Grey Gardens*: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GP2KjNge1FY>), which serves as the source for the second act.

Auditions

- Prepare a musical theater song in the style of (but not from) *Grey Gardens* that best shows off your voice. Bring the sheet music in your key; an accompanist will be provided.
- Bring your resume.
- Bring your head shot, if available.
- Bring an accurate list of conflicts that you have.
- There will be no dance/movement combination at the audition. The movement audition will take place at callbacks if needed.
- Reading from the script at auditions will be at the director's discretion.

Character Descriptions

Younger Edith Bouvier Beale - "Big" Edie / Older "Little" Edie - Female, age 45-55, plays mother Edith in Act I and daughter Edie in Act II. Must be a multi-faceted actress of presence, skilled in both drama and comedy. She needs to portray an unknowingly dominating Mother Edith Beale who runs her family's emotional life, particularly that of her daughter Little Edie in Act I. As Little Edie in Act II, she tells the audience in a documentary style, about her life at Grey Gardens and her continuing desire to break away from her home and her mother. Ultimately, due to her love for her mother and her emotional insecurity, she does not leave. Vocal: As Big Edie (Act I): legit to F5, as Little Edie (Act II): mix/belt to D5. Must come to auditions prepared with both Big Edie's Mid-Atlantic English/Transatlantic accent and Little Edie's affected version of the same.

Grey Gardens **Auditions continued**

Older Edith Bouvier Beale - "Big" Edie - Female, ages 65-75, a focused woman who tends to think in a more stream of consciousness style. She recalls her days of glory entertaining guests at lavish parties in the heyday of Grey Gardens. She oversees her home with a will of steel, and is not one to mince words. She is resigned and at peace living her life in the decrepit Grey Gardens, amid its squalid conditions. Vocal: Character alto E3-C5. Must come to auditions prepared with Big Edie's Mid-Atlantic English/Transatlantic accent.

Younger "Little" Edie Beale / Sister Marla - Female, ages 20-30, will portray young Edie in Act I, and participate in the ensemble in Act II, with a major solo as Sister Marla in the church choir scene, mix/belt to D5, soprano to B-flat 6. She's vivacious and entrancing, a classic musical theater ingénue. She's on the verge of life as she glories in her engagement to Joseph Kennedy and sees the hope of a life that will make an impact on the world. She has a very close and loving relationship with her mother. Must come to auditions prepared with Mid-Atlantic English/Transatlantic accent with hints of affectation.

Joseph Kennedy Jr. / Jerry - Male, ages 20-30, the first-born of the political Kennedy family, Joseph Kennedy is planning to marry Little Edie, but ultimately breaks from her when he learns of her risqué past in Act I. In Act II, he plays young handyman Jerry who works around Grey Gardens and captures the attention of both Edies. Vocal: tenor, C3-G4. Must be a strong dramatic actor who is good with accents: he needs to have the Kennedy Boston accent in Act I, a Long Island accent in Act II.

George "Gould" Strong / Ensemble - Male, ages 40s, Edith Bouvier's accompanist, confidant, and dear friend. In Act I, he is a composer and droll comic sidekick to Big Edie. In Act II, he participates in the ensemble. Vocal: baritone or tenor, C3-F4. Actor must be a strong dramatic and comedic actor who is a master of dry comic delivery – think Noel Coward. Must come to auditions prepared with a crisp Mid-Atlantic English/Transatlantic accent. It is a plus if the actor plays the piano well.

Major John Vernou Bouvier Jr. / Norman Vincent Peale - Male, ages 65-80, plays the strict, domineering patriarch of the Bouvier family in Act I and the famous minister and author of "The Power of Positive Thinking" in Act II. As Major Bouvier he is highly critical of his flighty and unfocused daughter Edith Bouvier, but dotes on Little Edie and her Bouvier cousins. Vocal: baritone, C3-E4. Strong actor with excellent stage presence.

Brooks Sr. / Brooks Jr. / Ensemble - Male, ages upper 20s to upper 30s, African American. He portrays loyal family servant Brooks Sr. in Act I, and his son, landscaper Brooks Jr., as well as a member of the ensemble in Act II. As both Brooks Sr. and Jr., he plays a man of respect and class. Vocal: baritone, C3-E4.

Jacqueline Bouvier / Ensemble - Female, ages 12-16, plays young Jackie in Act I. She is lovely, poised, and well mannered, in Act II, she is part of the ensemble. Vocal: juvenile mix belt, C4-E5.

Lee Bouvier / Ensemble - Female, ages 10-13, young Lee in Act I is tomboyish, energetic, and joyful, in Act II, she is part of the ensemble. Vocal: juvenile mix belt, C4-E5.

GOVERNOR FOR ARTISTIC SUPPORT

Beverley Benda

Governor for Artistic Support

IT'S JUST A CHAIR ...

One early fall Sunday last year, I was walking my 55-pound (!!) Shetland Sheepdog, Bailey, in my neighborhood. "Manors" had held a massive neighborhood yard sale the day before, so there were things left out on the street for Monday pick up.

As I passed a group of items at the curbside, I overheard friends talking from their porch. "It's too bad we can't give that chair away. It was always such a nice part of our living room," said Miriam. I looked back to the curb and saw a rather nice armchair sitting there, still in good shape. As Jim came down the drive, I noticed he was carrying an identical chair, also in good shape. He called, "Hey, Bev!" as he leaned this chair next to its twin.

It was then that I realized this second chair was only missing a leg, a piece Jim laid in the seat of the broken but stately furnishing. "What happened?" I asked. "It looks like it's still in pretty good shape otherwise." Jim took off his baseball cap and scratched the back of his head as he answered, "We've been thinking about changing the décor and when the dogs broke the leg playing, we thought it was time. Miriam loved these, but since we won't really be able to use them, we are tossing them. Besides ... it's just a chair."

I looked at the lovely pair and thought, with a little glue, maybe a nail or two, LTA could get a lot of use out of them. So I suggested perhaps donating them rather than 'tossing them to the curb.'

Since then, I have seen these chairs in many of our shows, often in different fabrics, but still lovely and still useful. And my neighbors got a thank-you letter to use for their taxes.

So the next time it looks like "just a chair," or "just a telephone," or "just a wedding dress," think about LTA. Make a donation, get a tax receipt, and WE will find a use for it. Remember: One person's junk is another person's treasure!

Your Board of Governors at Work

Since the last publication of *The Floodlight*, your Board of Governors has been busy. Here are some of the topics that have been or are on the table at this time:

-The board had previously agreed to make *A Christmas Carol* eligible for LTA awards, just as all other LTA productions are eligible. Our Awards Chairperson, Kira Simon, addressed the board with special concerns that needed to be worked out.

-Following the general election of officers at the Annual Meeting, there were two governor positions that were appointed by the board: Roland Branford Gomez as Governor for Education and Eddie Page as Governor for Front of House. Rachel Alberts, who had held the position of Governor for Education, was appointed to be Governor for Public Relations following the resignation of Becky Patton. The ADA Committee continues to report to the board about activities related to the membership approval of the placement of a ramp on the Wolfe Street side of the theatre. The process is extremely laborious and requires much preparation and jumping through hoops in order to go before the City of Alexandria Planning Commission and then the City Council. Four seats (jump seats) have been removed from the theatre in order to comply with ADA regulations. Eddie Page is the chairman of this committee.

-Jim Howard, Governor for Development, announced that LTA is almost ready to award up to two scholarships sponsored by the LTA Council.

-Roland Branford Gomez, Governor for Education, announced that three new classes have been added to the fall schedule.

-David Hale, Governor for Building, reported that the carpet in the business office and box office is soon to be replaced.

-Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for Membership, reported that she is developing a program to attract an increase in membership of 15% over the next year.

-Governor for Seasonal Planning, Frank Shutts II, offered trophy selections to the board, and a decision was made on a particular style of trophy which will be presented to LTA award recipients in the future.

-A decision was made on the upcoming play selection process, as presented by Governor Shutts. This will be a "people's choice" selection process whereby our members, subscribers, and others will be asked to make recommendations for the next season, with the final decisions being made by the board. The current season is called the "director's choice" season.

There are many other important ongoing reports and issues addressed by the board. These are just the highlights as your board continues to work for you.

Lloyd Bittinger, President
All for Love of Theatre!

The Little Theatre of Alexandria Begins Its General High School Scholarship Award Program

The Little Theatre of Alexandria recognizes outstanding high school students by awarding annual academic scholarships to deserving students. Through a generous donation (sponsored by the LTA Council), LTA is able to offer a maximum of two annual one-time \$1,000 college scholarships to local students. In 2015, LTA introduced these General High School Scholarship awards. The awards are for talented high school juniors and seniors who have participated in the LTA Student Intern Program. To be considered for an award, the students must have participated in at least one main stage production at LTA.

Nominations of eligible students should be submitted to the Governor for Development by producers, directors, and committee chairpersons throughout each year. From the list of nominations, the LTA Scholarship Selection Committee will select two recipients, one student as an actor and one in an area of technical support, and present them with scholarships at the theatre's Annual Membership Meeting in the spring.

Scholarship requirements

Eligible students must exhibit the following criteria:

1. Be a high school senior or rising junior from a Northern Virginia/Alexandria school
2. Be a legal resident of the United States and plan to use the scholarship for tuition assistance
3. Maintain a high school scholastic GPA of 3.0 or greater in a 4.0 point scale throughout their junior/senior year
4. Must attend college or technical school following high school graduation
5. Must have been a volunteer with The Little Theatre of Alexandria in the area of acting, technical theater, or general theater craft for at least one main stage LTA production within 18 months of this application

Completed applications can be submitted to the Governor for Development through the Business Office or mailed to LTA:

Scholarship Committee
The Little Theatre of Alexandria
600 Wolfe Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Applications must be postmarked or registered with the LTA Business Office no later than May 1, 2016.

Nomination forms are available in the LTA Business Office and are on our website.

New Members

Mathew Fager

Brian Selcik

Ann Rowan

Lauren Kramer

Austin Fodrie

COUNCIL CORNER



Maybe it is just me, but it seems that we went through summer in record time.

The Council Spring Dinner Meeting was held in July, we just concluded our Fall Dinner Meeting September 13th at Theismann's Restaurant, and holiday decorating time at the theatre is just around the corner.

As they say, "time flies when you are having fun" – and we do have fun at Council events. If you are not a Council member, please let me know so you can join in the fun.

The Council pre-opening night receptions at LTA continue to grow, and we hope you have been a part of these festive occasions. They are a grand time to catch up on the latest theatre news while enjoying some light refreshments before the curtain goes up for another opening night. You can also join those who gather around the baby grand piano singing familiar show tunes and golden oldies.

To make the evening even more special, we encourage "black tie optional" dress. If you haven't been to one of the opening night events, we suggest you plan on one for the future. I know you will have a great time.

For many years, the Council has contributed various types of equipment and services to LTA. Past contributions have included various technical enhancements, draperies, AED equipment, CPR courses, folding chairs, refurbishing of plaques, and grand curtains, to name only a few. Suggestions for Council projects are always welcome, so please let us know if you have one you would like to recommend.

The Council has a policy of acknowledging members and their immediate families when there is an illness or death in the family, but we can only do that when we know about it. We encourage you to let us know when you learn of such situations.

I hope you enjoy some lovely fall weather, 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

9/26 *Laughing Stock* closes
9/26 - 9/27 *Christmas Carol* auditions
10/3 LTA Awards Night
10/24 ... *Allergist's Wife* opens
10/25 *Grey Gardens* auditions

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!