



Floodlight

Tickets for ...*Allergist's Wife* on sale now

FEATURED PRODUCTION

NOVEMBER 2015



DECEMBER 4 - 19, 2015

Adapted by
Rachael Hubbard

Produced by
Lloyd Bittinger

Directed by
Rachael Hubbard

Music Direction by
Linda Wells

**Order your
tickets now!**

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

We are proud to present *A Christmas Carol* at The Little Theatre of Alexandria. This holiday production has truly become an Alexandria tradition and is heralded throughout the metro area as a must- see show.

Our Director, **Rachael Hubbard**, has adapted and updated the script, and our Musical Director, **Linda Wells**, has changed and/or added many musical pieces to the production.

Additional members of our production staff are: **Lloyd Bittinger**, Producer; **Beverly Ashcraft**, Assistant Producer; **John Scherfel**, Assistant to the Producer; **Grace Machanic**, Choreographer; **Jean Schlichting** and **Kit Sibley**, Costume Design; **Becky Patton**, Double-Tech Dinner; **Rebecca Harris**, Hair/Wig Design; **Jeffrey Scott Auerbach**, Lighting Design; **Lori Bonette**, Make-Up Design; **Micheal O'Connor**, Master Electrician; **Virginia Lacey**, Opening Night Party; **Doug Olmsted**, Photographer; **Whitney Lloyd**, Property Design; **Russ Wyland**, Rigging and Set Decoration; **Andrea D'Amato**, Set Design and Construction; **Alex Taliessen**, Set Painting; **Lynn Lacey**, Sound Design; **Art Snow**, Special Effects; **Austin Fodrie**, Stage Manager; **Margaret Snow**, Wardrobe; and **Leah Hays**, Young Actor Coordinator.

Bringing this holiday story to life is our excellent cast: **Jayson Altieri, Jr.**; Belle's Child, Young Dick Wilkins, Running Boy; **Clare Baker**, Belle; **Bob Brenner**, Ebenezer Scrooge; **Nathaniel Burkhead**, Tiny Tim; **Daniel Calderon**, Marley; **Carson Carr**, Young Scrooge, John; **Colin Davies**, Mr. Whitham; **Avery Clifford Evans**, Boy Cratchit; **Matthew Fager**, Bob Cratchit; **Celeste Gary**, Belle's Child, Fan; **Eva Gary**, Martha Cratchit; **Lindsey Gattuso**, Belinda Cratchit; **Terry Gish**, Old Joe; **Kacie Greenwood**, Mrs. Cratchit; **Lawrence O. Grey, Jr.**, Fezziwig, Poulterer; **Johnie Hays**, Peter Cratchit; **Leah Hays**, Mrs. Hogarth; **Olivia Hays**, Lillian, Caroline; **Tristiana Hinton**, Ghost of Christmas Past; **Morgan Jay**, Belle's Child, Turkey Boy, Running Boy, Ignorance; **Dan Lavanga**, Mr. Hopwood; **Whitney Lloyd**, Fred's Wife, Mrs. Fezziwig; **Heather Norcross**, Ghost of Christmas Present; **Erik Rieloff**, Fred, Ghost of Christmas Future; **Iain Schlegel**, Boy Scrooge; **John Tyler Trope**, Dick Wilkins, Topper; **Daler Truitt**, Belle's Child, Running Boy; **Viktoria Truitt**, Child Soloist, Beggar Girl; **Linda Wells**, Mrs. Dilber; and **Katya Zaitsev**, Girl Cratchit, Want.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Lloyd Bittinger, President
Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for
Membership
Heather Norcross, Floodlight
Coordinator
Linda Wells, Floodlight Editor
Next Floodlight Dec 11th

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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.

Recently I had the opportunity to give a backstage tour to a visiting exchange student from Germany, along with her mother and local sponsors. A question came up during the tour asking if the many people involved at LTA actually volunteer their time and do not get paid. The answer was yes, of course, as indeed there are hundreds of people who contribute to the success of the theatre in a huge variety of ways. That question inspired me to address some topics related to the enormous number of hours given by the people involved in our volunteer organization.

Each year, the producers for each of our productions gives the MVP (Most Valuable Player) Award to someone in their cast or crew who made an outstanding contribution to the success of the production. This year, when it came time to present the MVP Award for *A Christmas Carol* (2014), I was called to the stage to make the presentation. Unfortunately, and for various reasons, I was not only unprepared, but I did not know who the recipients of the MVP Award were. My sincere apology. The producers for last year's *A Christmas Carol* wish to acknowledge **Andrea D'Amato** and **Brian Sentman** as their MVP Award recipients. Congratulations to Andrea and Brian.

Since the last issue of this newsletter, we have lost some of our very valued volunteers from years past. **Anne Lash** recently passed away. It was a shock to many of us who had attended the Council dinner only a few days earlier where Anne was also present. Anne served LTA many times as president, producer, and business manager in the past.

Carla Scopeletis, who directed and produced many, many productions at LTA, passed away a few weeks ago. Her last production here at our theatre was the highly successful *Dial M for Murder*.

We learned recently that a former member, **Kim-Scott Miller**, was fatally injured in a fall from his balcony. Kim-Scott made many contributions to LTA over the years including organizing and updating our archival materials. He donated the baby grand piano that is in the Council Room of LTA (Green Room). The piano had belonged to his parents.

Our condolences to all of the friends and families of those we have recently lost.

To all of you who volunteer or have volunteered just a little, sometimes, as well as those stalwarts who volunteer a huge amount of time I say, "Thank you! It is sincerely appreciated!"

Lloyd Bittinger, President
All for Love of Theatre!

GOVERNOR FOR EDUCATION Roland Branford Gomez

In 1968, almost three years after moving from New York City to Northern Virginia to become a partner in a retail operation, I discovered The Little Theatre of Alexandria. It was love at first sight -- what a wonderful, lovely, elegant little community theatre.

My theatrical background up to that point had been as a child actor on a New York City Sunday children's radio show, *Coast to Coast On A Bus*, with Milton Cross. I was on that show from the age of six through age 12. The show was broadcast on WJZ (which became WABC). I was broadcasting from the Radio City Manhattan Studios, shared with WEAJ, which became NBC. I also understudied the role of Harlan in *Life with Father* on Broadway. A few years later, I understudied the young lead in another Broadway show -- *Tomorrow the World* with Ralph Bellamy.

Later, after returning from the Korean War, I established myself in the Off-Broadway theater scene by joining Eugene von Grona as a partner in the Off-Broadway company of the Actor's Lab. I played leads in a few productions until I decided I preferred directing and teaching.

Prior to my Korean War experience, I had studied with Herbert Berghof and his wife, Uta Hagen. Upon my return to New York, I studied with Harold Clurman (distinguished Broadway director) and John Daggett Howell (Jose Ferrer's voice teacher). Later, I also worked with another Broadway director, Jose Quintero. Still later, I joined the Actors Studio to work with Lee Strasberg.

When I joined LTA, the education department had two classes. Helen Todd taught a lovely children's class and a man named Gordon taught a fine adult acting class. At some point, I became Vice President of Education (now called Governor for Education).

The wonderful board at LTA allowed me the freedom to build the education department to what it is today. We now have at least nine classes/six teachers in the Youth Education department and 11 classes/ nine teachers in the Adult Education department. During the summer, we have at least five classes for adults and the successful LTA Summer Theatre Camp. In the course of a few years, we have built one of the best community theater education programs in the country. The fine teachers we searched for as the programs developed, fortunately, are mostly still with us. They are the best you will find anywhere.

Our teaching staff for the children's education classes is comprised of **Katherine Dillaber, Ashley Hammond, Roberta Masters-Cullen, Heather Sanderson, John Waldron, and Linda Wells**. They all have a great understanding of children and know how to help them grow and express themselves.

It is wonderful to watch some of our children, who come to us extremely shy, grow to a place where they become extroverts. Whether they pursue theater or not, they have developed skills that will help them be successful in their endeavors.

Our teaching staff for the adult education classes is comprised of **Rich Amada, Michael Baker, Jr., Beverley Benda, Amy Carson, Sarah Holt, Keely Kirk, Michael Page, Heather Sanderson, John Waldron, and myself**.

The students who participate in our classes have varying levels of experience. A wonderful thing about our teachers is that they will always help the less experienced students "catch up," so to speak, with the students who are more experienced.

Here is another great thing about our education department: Students study and learn throughout the fall and winter/spring terms. Then at the end of the second term, in early spring, we have the "final class" -- the fabulous showcase for both the youth and the adults. In the showcases, the students - children and adult -- can demonstrate their theatrical creativity on LTA's main stage for two performances. We encourage our wonderful members to come out and support the showcase performers!

From time to time, I meet the mother of a child in one of our children's classes who tells me, "I studied here many years ago with Miss Todd. I loved it." Helen Todd and I became great friends, and I loved her. She even took my class when I started teaching the advanced acting class. If any of you remember Helen, ask me my "Helen Todd story."

The education department has grown at LTA, and serves our community as a place to learn and grow -- and most of all, to make new friends and have fun!!!

Your Board of Governors at Work

Since our last Board of Governors meeting here are some of the topics that have been or are on the table at this time:

- Because we only own the footprint of the building itself, and the city owns the flowerbeds and sidewalks, we have to file an application for encroachment in order to install the special access ramp at the front of the building as approved by the membership at the last Annual Meeting. Our official Encroachment Application has been submitted to the City of Alexandria, Department of Planning and Zoning, and we are scheduled to be on the agenda for the department meeting on January 5, 2016, and then the City Council meeting scheduled for January 23rd.
- **Frank Shutts II**, Governor for Seasonal Planning, continues in the process of selecting the plays and musicals for the next season along with the board. An email will be sent to members and subscribers asking them to pick their favorite plays from years past so the board can consider putting some of these on the schedule for the 2016 - 2017 season.
- Each year, around the first part of November, we initiate our Annual Donation Campaign. Letters asking for annual donations will be sent out in early November to our members and subscribers.
- For the past several months, we have been in discussions with an organization in New York City called the Actors Connection. This organization sponsors classes, lectures, and seminars all related to acting or something to do with theater. They now have branches in Los Angeles and London and would like to establish a D.C. connection. This is an ongoing project and we hope to have a weekend seminar sponsored by the Actors Connection early next year.
- We are getting geared up to participate in the annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade which will be on Saturday, December 5th, starting at 11:00 a.m. The Little Theatre will have a contingent in the parade using our cast from this year's production of *A Christmas Carol* and perhaps some members of the cast of our current production of *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*.
- Our Governor for Building, **David Hale**, has reported that new carpeting has been installed in the business office and box office. In addition, a new ceiling with improved lighting has been installed in the shop area backstage left.
- The Council of LTA has offered to provide an additional AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and we are in the process of making this purchase. This AED will be located somewhere in the front-of-house area.
- **Beverley Benda**, our Governor for Artistic Support, is developing plans for duties and responsibilities for the Wardrobe Department.
- **Bobbie Herbst** has been approved as the temporary Playbill Coordinator. We continue to look for someone to perform this task on a more permanent basis.

There are many other important ongoing and repetitive 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!

Between Curtains

LTA Award Winners

Sound Design - Janice Rivera and David Correia for *Monty Python's Spamalot*
Props Design - Helen Bard-Sobola and Rebecca Sheehy for *Monty Python's Spamalot*
Costume Design - Jean Schlichting and Kit Sibley for *The Rocky Horror Show*
Lighting Design - Ken and Patti Crowley for *The Rocky Horror Show*
Set Design - Grant Kevin Lane for *God of Carnage*
Set Painting - Diedre (De) Nicholson-Lamb for *The Rocky Horror Show*
Set Construction - Dan Remmers for *The Rocky Horror Show*
Set Decoration - MYKE for *The Game's Afoot*
Makeup Design - Susan Boyd for *The Rocky Horror Show*
Hair Design - Susan Boyd for *The Rocky Horror Show*
Best Bit Role - Michael Gale as Mime, Puppeteer in *Monty Python's Spamalot*
Best Minor Role - Malcolm Lee as Eddie/Dr. Scott in *The Rocky Horror Show*
Best Supporting Role in a Musical - Matt Liptak as Riff Raff in *The Rocky Horror Show*
Best Supporting Role in a Play - Anna Fagan as Stella Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire*
Best Lead Role in a Musical - Ashlie-Amber Harris as Lady of the Lake in *Monty Python's Spamalot*
Best Lead Role in a Play - Allison Block as Annette Raleigh in *God of Carnage* AND Janette Moman as Mae West in *Dirty Blonde*
Best Musical Director - Paul Nasto for *Monty Python's Spamalot*
Best Choreographer - Stefan Sittig for *The Rocky Horror Show*
Best Stage Director - Wade Corder for *Monty Python's Spamalot*
Overall Production - *Monty Python's Spamalot*: Rachel Alberts, Bobbie Herbst and Russell Wyland, Producers; Wade Corder, Director
Junior Technical Excellence - Ally Sobola
Outstanding New Member - Marzanne Claiborne, Ira Forstater and Rebecca Sheehy
Long and Exceptional Service in Single Department - Annie Vroom
Outstanding Service to LTA - Grant Kevin Lane

MVP Awards

Monty Python's Spamalot - Austin Fodrie and Pamela Leonowich
A Streetcar Named Desire - Michael Forcina and Jim Hutzler
The Rocky Horror Show - Austin Fodrie
A Christmas Carol - Andrea D'Amato and Brian Sentman
The Game's Afoot - Jim Hutzler and Jeff Nesmeyer
God of Carnage - Leslie Reed and Art Snow
The Odd Couple (Female Version) - Myke Taister
Dirty Blonde - Charles Dragonette, Alex Mees, and Meggie Webster

ANNUAL DONATION CAMPAIGN

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is just beginning the Annual Donation Campaign.
Donations received will support numerous projects within the theatre and are tax deductible. Please watch for your donation letter in the mail.
Donations may be made by cash, check, or credit card.
If you wish to participate in our Annual Donation Campaign, please call Virginia Lacey, Business Manager, at (703) 683-5778, extension 2.

LTA's Annual Holiday Party

Sunday, December 6th @ 7:30 p.m.
LTA Green Room

Please join us for a night of festivities to celebrate the coming holidays.

Annual LTA Ladies Holiday Dinner & Gift Exchange

Monday, December 14, 6:00 p.m. (Dinner served at 6:45 p.m.)

El Primero, 241 S Van Dorn Street, Alexandria, Virginia

Cost: \$35.00 (Includes taxes and tip)

Bring a \$15 - \$20 gift to be exchanged! (Optional)

Please select your entrée:

- Grilled Chicken Breast with rice and mixed vegetables
- Grilled New York Steak with mashed potatoes and mixed vegetables
- Fajitas (choose either chicken, beef, or vegetable) served with tomatoes, onions, green peppers, rice, beans, guacamole, sour cream, and Pico de Gallo
- Grilled Salmon with rice and mixed vegetables

RSVP by December 7th. Limited Space!

Mail your selection with payment to
Margaret Evans-Joyce, 5707 Indian Court,
2D, Alexandria, VA 22303

Cash or Check only. Make checks payable to Margaret-Evans Joyce.

NO REFUNDS OR ENTRÉE CHANGES ONCE RESERVATION IS MADE!

THANK YOU!

from In The Heights

The lights have come down on Washington Heights for the last time on the LTA stage but not in the hearts and minds of the cast, staff, and crew of our show! We want to thank the many volunteers who helped to make *In the Heights* the special and successful production it was. We especially want to remember **John Utter**, who house managed so many shows for us just before his untimely death.

Thank you to everyone who shared the joy of *In the Heights* with us. It was an amazing place to spend the summer of 2015!

Mary Beth Smith-Toomey, Producer
Frank D. Shutts II, Director
Christopher A. Tomasino, Musical Director
Stefan Sittig, Choreographer

and Laughing Stock

Another playhouse summer is over for LTA's summer stock farce, *Laughing Stock*. The mosquito frequency ratio to the temperature humidity index was perfect to ensure our audiences enjoyed their peek behind the curtain. We do note that the skull is really and truly missing after making a guest appearance at the closing night party (where no crab and artichoke dip was dumped on anyone). Anyone knowing FL's whereabouts should contact LTA. Bruce, the lead bat, has returned to his cave and the tea cart is in for total rehab. A reminder to everyone to turn in those pencils!

The Producers, **Jamie Blake** and **Becky Patton**, along with Director **Shawn Byers** and his faithful assistant **Brendan Quinn** thank the cast and crew for the hard work and tremendous energy needed to bring this madcap romp to life. Much gratitude to our audiences for their attendance and laughter -- we hope you want to come out and play with us as a result!

New Members

Charlotte Alberts
Jayson Altieri, Jr.
Douglas Amidon
Brooke Angel

Michael Dobbyn
Michelle Edmonson
Luke Memmo

Christian Menendez
Omar Rocha
Janice Zucker

COUNCIL CORNER



LTA Council members enjoyed another grand opening night reception on October 24th, just prior to the curtain going up for the wonderful comedy, *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*. This was the last opening night reception for the year. The next one will be on January 16, 2016, when the Tony Award winning musical *Grey Gardens* opens to kick off a brand new year.

The opening night events are wonderful opportunities for Council members to catch up on the latest theatre news and hear comments from the producers and director while enjoying some light appetizers and a glass of wine. You can also be part of the sing-along around the baby grand piano, which includes familiar show tunes and golden oldies.

With the fast-approaching holidays comes the time for Council members to gather to decorate the theatre, giving it a delightful festive look. This fun event takes place on the Saturday morning after Thanksgiving (November 28th). Both the interior and the exterior of the theatre will be decorated. Theatre patrons and those strolling by outside will have the opportunity to enjoy the holiday look throughout the season. Those interested in helping with this event are urged to contact project leaders **Sharon Field** or **Rance Willis**.

Council members are urged to reserve Saturday, February 20, 2016, on their calendars for the Annual Meeting and Dinner that will be held in the LTA Green Room. The dinner will be catered by Ben's Catering Service and will be preceded by the business meeting, including the election of our Director and Financial Officer for two-year terms.

If you would like to find out how to become a part of this dynamic organization and join us in supporting LTA many different ways, please contact me or one of the Council officers.

I wish each of you a very happy holiday season, and I look forward to ...

Seeing you on the aisle at LTA!
John Johnson
LTA Council Director

The Little Theatre of Alexandria
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Mark Your Calendars

11/14	... <i>Allergist's Wife</i> closes
12/4	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> opens
12/6	Holiday Party
12/14	Ladies Night

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!