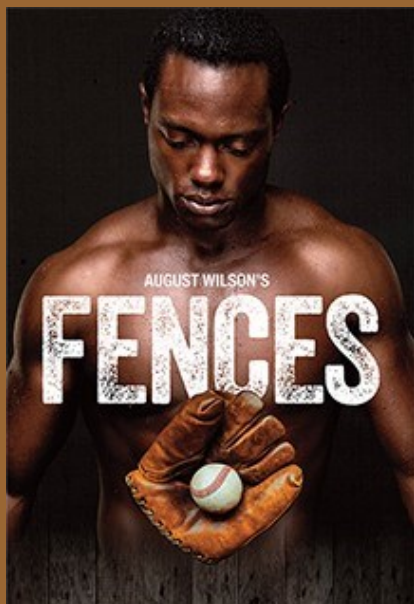




FLOODLIGHT

FEATURED PRODUCTION

August 2021



September 11 – 25, 2021

Written by
August Wilson

Produced by
Russell M. Wyland

Directed by
Eleanore Tapscott

Producer **Russell Wyland** and Director **Eleanore Tapscott** are excited to present a masterpiece of American drama. The fourth play in August Wilson's Pittsburgh Cycle, *Fences* tells a story of love, anger, family hardship, and reconciliation set in Pittsburgh's Hill District during the 1950s. It is one of ten plays set in the Steel City that explore 100 years of the African-American experience.

Leading the cast are **Albert Bolden** and **Brenda Parker** as Troy and Rose Maxon. The cast is completed by **DeJeanette Horne** as Troy's best friend Bono, **Mack Leamon** as Troy's older son Lyons, **Jared Diallo** as Troy and Rose's son Cory, **Ayyaz Choudhury** as Troy's lovable but psychologically damaged brother Gabriel, and **Maya Bolden** as the optimistic child Raynell.

A first-rate production team is led by Assistant Director **Marzanne Claiborne** and Stage Managers **Sherry Clarke** and **Brittany Huffman**, assisted by **Brook Easterly**. **Michael Donahue** serves as fight director. **Matt Liptak** has designed another breath-taking set, drawing inspiration from August Wilson's beloved Hill District. Working closely with Matt are **Tom O'Reilly** as set builder, **Luana Bossolo** as set painter, and **Russell Wyland** as set decorator. **Margaret Chapman**, **Joel Durgavich**, and **Bobbie Herbst** are designing period props. Making sure the actors look their roles are **Farrell Hartigan** and **Robin Worthington**, co-costume designers, and **Kadira Coley**, make-up and hair designer; Robin will also serve as wardrobe mistress. Rounding out the crew is **Alan Wray**, sound designer.

An important COVID update for *Fences*. Everyone working on *Fences* – cast, members of the crew and production team, box office and front of house personnel – have been confirmed as vaccinated. Audience members, who must also be fully vaccinated, should plan to wear their masks for the entire performance. The show will run a total of 160 minutes, which includes a 15-minute break between Acts I and II.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Frank D. Shutts II, President

Stacey Becker, Governor for
Membership

Kirstin Apker, *Floodlight* Coordinator

Linda Wells, *Floodlight* Editor

Next Issue September 2021

Inside This Issue

President's Column	Page 2
Thank You	Page 3
Governor Intros	Page 3
Governor's Message	Page 4
Auditions	Page 5
New Members	Page 5
Council Corner	Page 6
Education Update	Page 7

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

President's Column



Frank Shutts

A group of LTA members assembled on Tuesday, July 26th, at El Paso Mexican Restaurant in Alexandria to wish **Tina McCrea** a fond farewell.

Tina has served in both positions in our front office, starting as the Box Office Manager 16 years ago and then moving over to Business Manager following **Virginia Lacey's** departure. Tina has served LTA well during her time with us and now moves on to help middle-schoolers in Prince William County as a library assistant. Thank you, Tina, for a job well done!

At its July 21st meeting, the Board of Governors unanimously approved moving **Crissy Wilke** over to the Business Manager position. Welcome, Crissy! A search for a new Box Office Manager is underway.

During the same July meeting, the board elected **Chris Tomasino** to fill the position of Governor for Development, which was vacated when I was elected President. Now it looks as if we have another position to fill as Governor for Artistic Support **Susan Boyd** is leaving the area to enjoy retirement. The Board also approved the development of a Past Presidents Committee to serve as an advisor to the Board when needed. All past LTA presidents were invited to join, and all said yes. This gives us a committee of ten past presidents with a combined 40-year history to advise the Board on issues where long-term memory and experience are needed.

While we are off and running with the remainder of our 2021 - 2022 season, we are still mindful of the effect that the pandemic has had on us. Although we require our volunteers (on stage and off) and our staff and contractors to be vaccinated, we do encourage all volunteers to mask up when they are in the building if possible. The dreaded Delta variant and the unvaccinated have slowed the progress we were making earlier this year. During the bubonic plague Shakespeare wrote in and took his actors to perform in the countryside. Likewise, we have produced small plays for small audiences and held classes both on Zoom and outdoors. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and together, we will get through this.

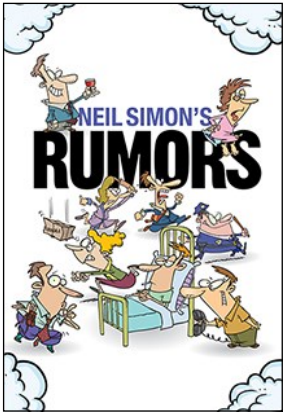
Finally, let me thank **Russ Wyland** for leading the theatre for the past four years, and especially the last. Russ not only helped to define our response to COVID-19 and to the restrictions put upon us, but he also worked on every show: producing two and both rigging and assisting with Front of House duties for all four. Thank you, Russ!

Also deserving mention are our trustees and our treasurer, who somehow managed to pay the bills while keeping our nest egg growing. Thank you to **Nick Burakow** and his fellow trustees and to **David Hale**!

Frank D. Shutts II
LTA President



Front Row: Russ Wyland, Marian Holmes, Tina McCrea, Lloyd Bittinger. Second Row: Jim Hutzler, Kath Dillaber, Frank Shutts, Ken Brown, Stacey Becker, Mary Hutzler, Zell Murphy, Bobbie Herbst, Art Snow.



Thank You from *Rumors*

The rumor going around is that we have to say goodbye to the cast and crew of *Rumors* and leave this crazy dinner party at Sneden's Landing forever. Thank you to everyone who helped to bring this first show of the 2021 - 2022 season to the stage. It was great to see so many people in the audience and to hear so much laughter! I guess we will never know exactly what happened to Charlie and Myra, but we had a great time trying to figure it out.

Nick Friedlander and Jennifer Lyman, Co-Producers

Sarah Holt, Assistant Producer

Matthew Randall, Director

Introducing the New Members of the Board of Governors

Development

Hello, I am Chris Tomasino, and while many of you know me as a music director, I am currently LTA's Governor for Development. My position is responsible for long-term planning and the financial development of the theatre. This is achieved by participating in the Budget Committee and Advanced Planning Committee and by acting as a liaison between them and the Board. The Governor for Development helps coordinate theatre fundraising activities via donation drives, grant proposals, membership bequests, and other general donations. Lastly, this position coordinates LTA's sponsorship program and the lottery for each production's sponsor nights. If being part of LTA's Budget or Advance Planning committees sounds interesting to you, please send me an email at ctomasino.lta@gmail.com.

Front of House

I am Monty Montgomery, the new Governor for Front of House. When I came to The Little Theatre several years ago to see the musical *Gypsy* and then again to see *Chicago*, I never imagined that I would eventually be responsible for a small part of its operations. Fast forward a few years: my wife told me that LTA needed people to help the caterer for the opening night party (ONP) of the musical *West Side Story* (see a pattern here?) so I volunteered. I wasn't yet a member, but this was something with which I could easily help. After assisting with several shows, I became the *de facto* lead volunteer for ONPs. Later I became the lead bartender and handled inventory management for intermission concessions and for ONP food, beverages, and supplies. Along the way, I have also ushered a few times.

Why do I tell you this tale? One does not have to know how to act, sing, paint, or swing a hammer to greet a patron when they arrive. One does not have to be an extrovert to prepare food and carry the trays for an ONP. One does not have to know how to serve an extensive list of mixed drinks to serve as a bartender. One does not even have to be a member to do any or all of these duties. A person of any age can serve, and no time commitment is too small. All one needs is a desire to serve and be part of something greater than oneself.

If you or any of your friends are looking for a place where a small amount of time will have a great impact, you need not look any further than Front of House. We are the first people that the audience sees when they enter the theatre, and we can help to set the tone for a great evening. Currently we are in need of house managers and ushers for *Fences* (<https://signup.com/go/JCYxOiv>). In the future when we have ONPs again, we will be looking for people to help prepare and serve food. Do not let inexperience stop you – we will train you. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at littletheatre.foh@gmail.com.

(continued on page 4)

Governor's Message Membership

As the new Governor for Membership, I am excited to welcome all of our patrons, members, and volunteers back to the theatre in an almost post-pandemic world. At the same time, I am concerned that our membership numbers are very low and that retaining our current volunteers has been a challenge.

Five years ago, I volunteered to be a painter on a little show at LTA called *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Since then, through continuous volunteering, I have become a lead paint designer, chair of the paint department, producer, costume co-chair, lead safety officer, and now a member of the Board of Governors.

With our safe and cautious reopening, there are several new programs on the horizon to ensure that there are volunteer opportunities for anyone interested in learning to produce, to become a department chair or a member of the Board, or to embrace any other theater-related interest that you may have.

The first such program, which I am introducing here, is LTA's Mentoring Program. The goal of this initiative is to rigorously cultivate a cadre of volunteers who will be prepared to move into our leadership positions, from lead designers to governors.

So how will this work? You let me know what interests you – let's say dressing sets, designing props, or producing – and I will match you with a seasoned set dresser, props designer, or producer with whom you may apprentice. (For instance, I happen to know that the current Governor for Building is looking to mentor someone who is interested in learning the ropes of that position.) Obviously, this can't be achieved without our experienced volunteers. You are integral to making this ambitious program into the great success that I know it can be. We must show our newer volunteers that we value their passion for LTA.

Eventually these partnerships will develop into a robust succession plan so that when positions need to be filled, there will be knowledgeable volunteers ready to take the lead. These two new programs are vital to all volunteers feeling welcomed and having opportunities and to the very future of our wonderful community theatre. New eyes = fresh ideas!

I hope to see everyone around the theatre.

Stacey Becker

Governor for Membership

(continued from page 3)

Seasonal Planning

I am Eleanore Tapscott, the new Governor for Seasonal Planning. I am looking forward to working with the Board on planning the slate of shows that LTA will be producing in upcoming seasons. Be on the lookout for open calls for Play Reading Committee members, as committee service is one of several ways to engage with and support the theatre. If your time is limited and precludes possible committee service, please share with me your thoughts and suggestions about the shows you think could (or should) be produced at LTA. You can reach me via email at ltaseasonalplanning@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

Upcoming Auditions

Adapted from the 1843 book by Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol* follows a miserly, embittered man who embarks on a journey of self-discovery and reclamation through the aid of several spirits who remind him of the true meaning of Christmas.

Audition Notes

Auditions will consist of sides from the script and one Christmas carol or short classical holiday song of your choice. An accompanist will be provided.

EVERY ACTOR MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19 AND BRING PROOF (vaccination card, copy, or digital photo) TO THE AUDITION.

While you are waiting to audition, you will be asked to wear a face mask covering both your nose and your mouth. You will be permitted to remove your face mask during the audition.

If you have a headshot and acting resumé, you may bring them with you; if not, you may be asked to have your picture taken by the audition coordinator. Please bring an accurate list of rehearsal conflicts with you to the audition.

LTA will conduct basic background checks on all cast members due to the presence of underage actors.

Character Descriptions

We will consider any gender and person of color for any role. Not every role is listed. British dialects will be used in this production. Young actor roles are double cast and rehearsals and performances will be divided evenly.

Ebenezer Scrooge: A brittle man who has retreated from the world behind a wall made of money. Unable to connect with those around him, he is given an opportunity for redemption through several spirits that visit him.

Ghost of Marley: Scrooge's deceased business partner who hopes to dissuade Scrooge from his current path

Ghost of Christmas Past: The embodiment of love and loss. Ethereal and serene, they aid with processing painful but important memories.

Ghost of Christmas Present: The embodiment of family and charity. Has a large, joyful presence but knows how to drive a point home.

Bob Cratchit: Scrooge's long-suffering clerk and father of Tiny Tim.

Mrs. Cratchit: An outspoken woman who loves her family fiercely.

Fred: Scrooge's nephew who is determined to never give up on his uncle.

Young Scrooge: Ebenezer Scrooge as a young adult.

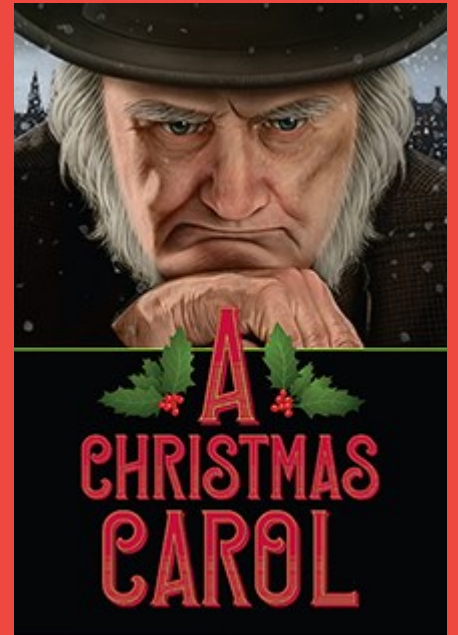
Belle: Young Scrooge's fiancée.

Dick: Young Scrooge's coworker and friend.

Mrs. Pipchin: Scrooge's housekeeper; Cockney accent preferred.

Tiny Tim: The disabled child of Bob and Mrs. Cratchit whose cheerful nature uplifts everyone around him.

(continued on page 6)



December 3 – 18, 2021

Adapted by
Donna Ferragut

Produced by
Stacey Becker
and Ira Forstater

Directed by
Carol Jean Clark

Audition Dates

Monday, September 13, 2021

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 18, 2021

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Callbacks

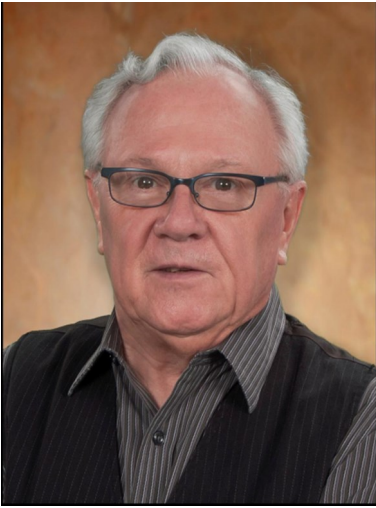
Thursday, September 23, 2021

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

New Members

Sarah Liebman

Anna Shannon



Council Corner

About 20 years ago, I became a member of the LTA Council, and it has always been a rewarding experience for me. But why? What have I gotten out of it, what have I contributed, and now where is it going to go? Have things changed, and if so, what has changed?

It is my belief that reasons to continue as a member of the Council have changed, and considerably so. When I first became a member, the emphasis was on financially supporting projects that the theatre could not afford or with which it just needed help. These financial projects used to be paramount, while the side benefit was the opportunities for socialization that we all had from working with each other and getting together a few times a year, raising a glass, and having a good time with like-minded theater enthusiasts and friends.

What has changed now, I believe, is that although the theatre can still benefit from the support of the Council, it should do so in additional ways. We must not lose sight of the fact that our financial projects still have value, but there are two other areas that I now see as being equally important.

1) During the past many months, the Council has supported front of house activities by encouraging volunteers to usher, house manage, and in some cases work the box office. Going forward, one of our primary projects should be to support all areas within the theatre that need an extra jolt to keep them rolling along. There are so many areas in which we can foster volunteerism, the very nature of our organization. These projects could be as important as buying a new grand drape, an improved light board, or a box office computer system.

2) One of the best things that I've personally gotten out of being a member of the Council relates to the social benefits of working together, having fun, and sharing with like-minded theater enthusiasts and friends. Such activities include holiday decorating, hosting pre-show receptions and parties, and working together as a group to make our Shakespeare Garden and patio area one of which we can be very proud.

As we move forward, I intend to work with the Executive Committee (elected Council officers) and other Council members to increase the number of social events we have so people can get together more often and just have fun hanging out with each other, sharing a meal, and enjoying each other's company.

In sum, I want our mission to be one that encourages financial projects, increases volunteerism, and provides lots of social opportunities for our members. Please join us in supporting these efforts by continuing to maintain your Council membership. If you are not a member, I invite you to join us and help us continue to make this a group that benefits the theatre and at the same time has a heck of a lot of fun doing it!

Lloyd Bittinger
Financial Officer

(continued from page 5)

Boy Scrooge: Ebenezer Scrooge as a child. Ignored by his father and left at boarding school, his little sister is the biggest joy in his life.

Peter: Oldest Cratchit son.

Martha: Oldest Cratchit daughter.

Belinda: Middle Cratchit child.

Young Fan: Boy Scrooge's frail but joyful sister.

To view and download sides, audition form, and conflict calendar, [CLICK HERE](#).

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

Box Office: 703-683-0496

Business Office: 703-683-5778 x2

Fax: 703-683-1378

www.thelittletheatre.com

Mark Your Calendars

9/11 *Fences* opens
9/13 , 9/14, *A Christmas Carol*
9/18 auditions

Education Update



This year's recipient of LTA's \$1,000 High School Scholarship Award is 18-year-old **Sophie de Waal**. In addition to her memorable performance on LTA's main stage as Marie Antoinette in *The Revolutionists*, Sophie has also given back to the children of LTA through her many hours of community service as a camp counselor and classroom assistant. Sophie, who began taking classes at the theatre when she was ten, is a founding member of our Student Ambassador program for high schoolers. She will be continuing her theater studies at Sarah Lawrence College in the fall. For more information on the High School Scholarship Award and the Student Ambassador program, visit <http://thelittletheatre.com/education/>.

Heather Sanderson, Governor for Education

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 2021 – 2022 season are:

President.....	Frank D. Shutts II
Governor for Artistic Support.....	Beverley Benda
Governor for Box Office.....	Ira Forstater
Governor for Building.....	Kenneth Brown
Governor for Development.....	Christopher A. Tomasino
Governor for Education.....	Heather Sanderson
Governor for Front of House.....	Monty Montgomery
Governor for Membership.....	Stacey Becker
Governor for Production.....	Alan Wray
Governor for Public Relations.....	Rachel Alberts
Governor for Seasonal Planning.....	Eleanore Tapscott
Governor for Technical Support.....	Ken Crowley

Additional officers are:

President Pro-Tem.....	Ira Forstater
Treasurer.....	David Hale
Board Secretary.....	Lynn O'Connell
Executive Secretary.....	Jamie Blake
LTA Council Director.....	Zell Murphy

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:

Stacey Becker,
Governor for Membership
membershipgovlta@gmail.com

Thank you for your service!