



FLOODLIGHT

FEATURED PRODUCTION

May 2018



Written by

Douglas Carter Beane

Produced by

Mary Beth Smith-Toomey

Directed by

Frank D. Shutts II

Musical Direction by

Christopher A. Tomasino

Choreographed by

Stefan Sittig

Order Your

Tickets Now!

Call the Box Office

703-683-0496

It's 1930s New York, a time when it was easy to "play gay," but dangerous to be gay. A headliner called "The Nance" was usually played by a straight man who would portray a campy homosexual in musical vaudeville parodies.

However, in this play, Chauncey Miles not only plays a gay man but is a homosexual himself. *The Nance* will take you into the wild world of burlesque and tell the backstage story of Chauncey and his fellow performers.

Producer **Mary Beth Smith-Toomey**, Director **Frank D. Shutts II**, Music Director **Christopher A. Tomasino**, and Choreographer **Stefan Sittig** are thrilled and honored to present the area premiere of *The Nance*. They are joined by an outstanding team led by Co-Stage Managers **Becca Heisner** and **Marg Soroos**, Set Designer **Dan Remmers**, Lighting Designers **Ken** and **Patti Crowley**, Co-Costumers **Kit Sibley** and **Jean Schlichting**, Co-Sound Designers **David Correia** and **David Hale**, Properties Designer **Kirstin Apker**, Set Decorator **MYKE**, Set Builder **Tom O'Reilly**, Set Painter **Sandy Kozel**, Master Electrician **Micheal O'Connor**, Hair and Makeup Designer **Heather Hicks**, Wardrobe Lead **Sarah Gale**, Rigger and Opening Night Party host **Russell Wyland**, and Photographer **Matt Liptak**.

Our awesome and talented cast includes new names and faces as well as some already familiar to our LTA family! Please welcome **Chuck Dluhy** as Chauncey, **John Paul Odle** as Ned, **Jack Stein** as Efram, **Charlene Sloan** as Sylvie, **Danielle Comer** as Joanie, and **Janice Rivera** as Carmen.

If you want to work on this production, please contact our producer, Mary Beth Smith-Toomey, at mbstoomey@yahoo.com.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Russell Wyland, President

Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for
Membership

Kirstin Apker, Floodlight
Coordinator

Linda Wells, Floodlight Editor
Next Floodlight June 18th

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President's Column



Russell
Wyland

An Ode to the Turntable

Spring has been unusually timid this year, and it was only during the last few days that those of us working on the set of *Harvey* have been able to throw open the auditorium doors and enjoy the breeze as we worked. I am not a great builder, but I enjoy helping when I can and seeing how volunteers – most with little or no formal training in set building – bring sets to life.

This spring, one might say that the turntable has come back into fashion. *The Audience* had one that moved using a rope mechanism offstage. *Harvey* has three turntables that are used to create two very different sets. And I am told that *The Nance*'s set design also uses a turntable.

Audiences love it when LTA uses turntables. They have the same appeal as the old game show *Let's Make a Deal*, where audience members couldn't wait to see what was behind a closed door or under a box. But let me reveal a theater secret: turntables are at least twice the work of a traditional box set and are undertaken with great hesitation.

Instead of creating a single set, LTA's intrepid band of builders must create at least two sets when they use turntables, and they must find ways to keep both sets stable on what amounts to a lazy Susan. Painters must paint at least two sets, stagehands must be choreographed to move the turntable correctly, and set dressers must decorate two sets and have all their set dressing tacked down. When you see these moveable sets, please applaud them loudly. The people who create them deserve a "bravo" at every turn!

But there is a larger story here, too. When you see a turntable on stage these days, it typically means that there has been unusually good cooperation between shows. Such sets cannot be built in the usual two-week period allotted for them. In the case of *Harvey*, audiences owe a great debt to members of the Education program, who allowed set builders to construct and store walls and platforms during the period of their showcases. Kudos to showcase producers **Michael Baker and Mary Beth Smith-Toomey** and to the LTA teachers for being flexible. They have shown us the spirit of what community theater is all about.

Russell Wyland, President

Introducing Nicholas James Wilke!

Crissy Wilke, LTA's Box Office Manager, and her husband **Tom** announce the birth of their son! Nicholas James Wilke was born April 9th at 9:09 a.m. weighing 8 pounds 4 ounces and measuring 21 inches long.

Crissy is currently on maternity leave and will be returning to work towards the end of June. Cards can be sent to her home at 6028 Telegraph Road, Alexandria, VA 22310.

Congratulations to the Wilke family!



Announcement of Annual Meeting and Call for Nominations to LTA's Board of Governors

It's time to think about the LTA Elections! Now is your opportunity to serve LTA in another way. Become a member of the Board of Governors (BOG).

LTA's BOG is an active, working board whose members can be found doing every type of job at the theatre from producing, directing, teaching, volunteering in the box office, ushering, and house managing to the many other jobs required to help make LTA the wonderful place it is. The BOG also has fiduciary responsibility for LTA and the physical plant, as well as selecting the season, the directors, and the producers.

LTA's Annual Meeting and Election to the Board of Governors will be held on **Monday, June 11, 2018**, at the theatre. Under our by-laws and charter, you must be a paid Active or Past Active adult member age 18 or older to vote. All votes are conducted on the day of the election only and must be cast in person at LTA. Absentee or proxy ballot voting is not permitted. As required by our by-laws, a letter announcing the candidates for office and the annual meeting agenda will be sent to each eligible voting member.

We will be electing the following positions to the LTA Board of Governors on June 11th:

President (one-year term)

Governor for Artistic Support (two-year term)

Governor for Education (two-year term)

Governor for Box Office (one-year term)

Governor for Front of House (one-year term)

Governor for Building (two-year term)

Governor for Production (two-year term)

Governor for Development (two-year term)

Governor for Public Relations (two-year term)

If you are interested in running for office or want more information about a particular available position, please send an email of intent by **Friday, April 27th**, to the following people and addresses: Jamie Blake, Chair of the LTA Nominating Committee, at jgblake76@yahoo.com and tina@thelittletheatre.com, subject line: LTA Nominating Committee. You may also call the LTA Office at 703-683-5778, ext. 2, to speak with Tina McCrea. Nominations are permitted from the floor as well; however, all are subject to candidate suitability.

Below are the minimum qualifications for serving as the LTA President or as an LTA Governor:

President:

- 1) Five years of membership in LTA, the last two of which must be consecutive and immediately prior to nominations.
- 2) Demonstrated ability in or knowledge of the overall theatre operations.
- 3) Service on the Board of Governors.
- 4) Chairman of one or more Standing Committees.

Governor:

- 1) Two years minimum of active membership in LTA prior to nomination.
- 2) Previous service as a producer, director, department chairman, governor, or member of a standing committee.
- 3) Demonstrated expertise and motivation related to the work requirements of the department to be managed.
- 4) Demonstrated interest in LTA and a proven sense of responsibility.

Upcoming Auditions

Jesus Christ Superstar is a 1970 rock musical with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice. The musical started as a rock opera concept album before its Broadway debut in 1971. The musical is sung-through, with no spoken dialogue. The story is loosely based on the gospels' accounts of the last week of Jesus' life, beginning with the preparation for the arrival of Jesus and his disciples into Jerusalem and ending with his crucifixion. It depicts political and interpersonal struggles between Judas Iscariot and Jesus that are not present in the Bible.

This production will take place in a modern-day setting and non-traditional casting is an option (meaning some male roles can be assigned to women, including the roles of apostles. Note: the roles of Jesus, Judas, and Pilate will be assigned to men).

There are roles for guards, apostles, and ensemble members in addition to the principal roles listed below. Note: actors in most roles, including ensemble, will spend almost all their time onstage, and some will need to supply their own "street" clothes for costuming.

For the Audition

Please prepare 16 - 32 bars of a contemporary song – not limited to Broadway selections.

There will be no readings or dance audition.

Principal Roles

Jesus Christ: (tenor, A2 - G5) Title role, leader of the twelve disciples, called the "Son of God" and the "King of the Jews."

Judas Iscariot: (tenor, D3 - D5) One of the twelve apostles of Jesus, concerned for the poor and the consequences of Jesus' fame.

Mary Magdalene: (mezzo-soprano, F3 - Eb5) A female follower of Jesus who finds herself falling in love with him.

Pontius Pilate: (baritenor, A2 - B4) The governor of Judea who foresees the events of Jesus' crucifixion from beginning to aftermath in a dream and finds himself being presented with that very situation.

Caiaphas: (bass, C#2 - F4) One of the main antagonists of the show, the high priest who sees Jesus as a threat to the nation.

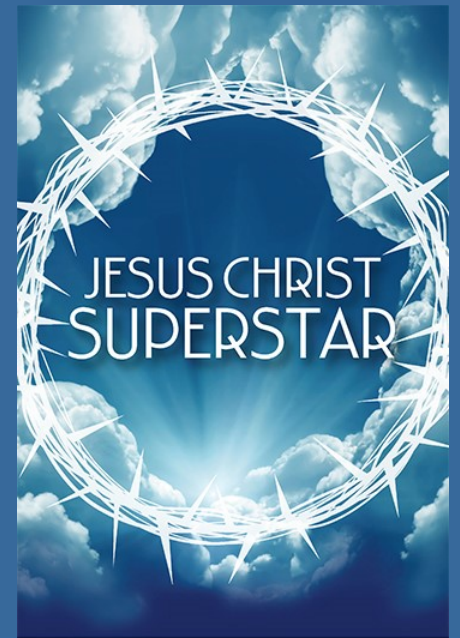
Annas: (countertenor, G2 - D5) One of the main antagonists of the show, a fellow priest at the side of Caiaphas who is persuaded by Caiaphas into seeing Jesus as a threat.

Peter: (baritone, A2 - G4) One of Jesus' twelve apostles, who denies Jesus three times on the night of Jesus' arrest to save himself.

Simon Zealotes: (tenor, G3 - B4) One of Jesus' twelve apostles, who urges Jesus to lead his followers into battle against the Romans.

King Herod: (tenor, C#3 - G4) The king of Galilee, to whom Jesus is brought for judgment after first being taken to Pilate. Should have a muscular build.

FLOODLIGHT



JULY 21 - AUGUST 11, 2018

Music by
Andrew Lloyd Webber

Lyrics by
Tim Rice

Produced by
Margaret Evans-Joyce,
Jim Howard,
and Robert Kraus

Directed and Choreographed by
Lisa Ann Bailey

Musical Direction by
Christopher A. Tomasino

Audition Dates

Saturday, May 12, 2018

2:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 13, 2018

7:00 p.m.

A Busy Spring

While governors' to-do lists sometimes seem never-ending, there are three particularly important tasks that appropriately occupy every Board every year: choosing a season (typically done in October and November), choosing directors and producers (typically done as soon as possible after the holidays), and establishing a budget. In the last month, LTA's governors have focused on all three, naming the director for *A Christmas Carol* and producers for each show, and also approving a budget for the fiscal year starting May 1, 2018.

The Board welcomes **Shelagh Roberts** as director of *A Christmas Carol*. Shelagh has appeared in several shows at LTA, has taught in the LTA education department, and has directed shows at other area theaters. Her passion for *A Christmas Carol* shone through, and the Board is delighted to bring her aboard.

The Board congratulates the following producers: **Margaret Evans-Joyce**, **Robert Kraus**, and **Jim Howard** (*Jesus Christ Superstar*); **Lloyd Bittinger** (*August: Osage County*); **Charlotte Corneliusen** and **Nick Friedlander** (*Dracula*); **Brooke Angel** (*A Christmas Carol*); **Sharon Field** and **Rance Willis** (*The Fantasticks*); **Jamie Blake** and **Eileen Doherty** (*You Can't Take It with You*); **Lynn O'Connell** and **Kevin O'Dowd** (*The Savannah Disputation*); and **Luana Bossolo** and **Russell Wyland** (*A Fox on the Fairway*).

Finally, the Board turned its attention to the budgeting process. Starting in February and lasting through mid-April, the budget committee met with the president and each governor to recommend allocations in hundreds of revenue and expense categories. The committee checks the previous year's spending against proposed spending, looks at anticipated challenges in the coming year, and then makes a proposal to the Board. In a special session, the Board then reviews each category and, ultimately, must approve a budget.

The Board would like to publicly thank this year's budget committee for its hard work. Members included Treasurer **David Hale**, Governors **Maria Ciarrocchi** and **Jim Howard**, financial trustee representative **Rance Willis**, and LTA members **Marian Holmes** and **Marzanne Claiborne**. It is no small undertaking, and the theatre is a better place for the dedication of this group.

LTA's operating budget is near \$1 million. Our building maintenance, payroll, capital depreciation, and productions account as our largest expenses. These are offset by box office revenue, donations, and education enrollment, which together account for most of our income. When all is said and done, the Board anticipates that LTA will again be in the black with a small "profit" that will be invested or used in the future.

Russell Wyland, President

Your Board of Governors at Work

Thank You from *The Audience*



The crown jewels have been returned to the Tower of London, Queen Elizabeth has returned to her collection of handbags, and audience members are again binge-watching Peter Morgan's *The Crown*. On behalf of ourselves and our director, **Ruben Vellekoop**, we want to express our sincere thanks to the cast, designers, crew members, and other volunteers who helped make *The Audience* a great critical and box office success. A special thanks goes to our stage managers, **Joan Lada** and **Christine Farrell**, for their hard work and their good counsel to a director new to LTA. Another big thank-you goes to our assistant stage managers Eli (who worked every performance!), Meredith, Joel, and Ken. It took two ASMs per night – using a lot of muscle – to operate the rotating stage. Finally, thanks to our (perhaps) unsung hero, **Carlotta Capuano**, who provided stealth advice to Ruben and some "choreography" to the actors.

So, with the final curtain, the queen and her dirty dozen Brexit stage left. Cheers!

Rebecca Sheehy and **Russell Wyland**, Co-Producers

FLOODLIGHT

Governor's Message

Box Office

As you walk through the front doors of LTA, one of the first friendly faces you will see is that of the box office volunteer at the “will call” window. That volunteer warmly greets patrons, distributes reserved tickets to guests, communicates questions from patrons to the box office volunteer sitting at the desk, directs patrons who wish to purchase tickets for a performance to that desk volunteer, answers many questions from new and veteran patrons, and, most importantly, provides courteous and professional customer service to LTA guests.

Using Vendini software, the box office desk volunteer processes ticket requests over the telephone and from walk-in theatre patrons, assisting patrons with seat selections and payment options. Monitoring ticket sales and ticket exchanges and communicating effectively with patrons over the telephone and in person give volunteers who are interested in theater box office procedures many opportunities to interact with our LTA community.

It takes over 150 people to stage each LTA production, and included in that volunteer group is our wonderful box office team. When there is a production on stage, box office shifts for the will call window volunteers are scheduled from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday through Saturday and 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. Box office shifts for the desk volunteers are 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday during runs of shows. Training is available, and new volunteers are mentored by veteran members of the box office team.

There are many benefits to becoming a box office team member. In addition to the regular LTA member benefits, box office volunteers enjoy working in an artistic atmosphere. They are also invited to attend receptions and appreciation events hosted by LTA for volunteers, and they have the opportunity to connect with the greater community of patrons, actors, designers, and technical theater experts.

To all of you who are searching for a volunteer role at LTA, we would love to have you join our box office team. There are positions available that will accommodate the busiest of schedules and provide opportunities for anyone who cares about the wonderful worlds of volunteerism and community theater. Come join us! Our box office volunteers are enthusiastic and eager to welcome new members to the team. For additional information, please contact the Box Office Manager, **Crissy Wilke**, at 703-683-5778 x1 or email crissy@thelittletheatre.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

To our current box office volunteers, thank you for your dedication and your assistance with our 2017 - 2018 season. With two productions left in the current season (*Harvey* and *The Nance*) and the beginning of the 2018 - 2019 season on our doorstep, we encourage you to sign up for box office shifts through the LTA website at thelittletheatre.com/opportunities/. If you do not want to use the online sign-up process, please call the office to request to be signed up for your preferred date and time. We will be very happy to assist you.

We value the contributions that all of our box office volunteers provide to LTA. Your assistance, your positive attitudes, your time, and your energy are the lifeblood of our success. Thank you for so much for your enthusiasm and dedication!

Bobbie Herbst

Governor for Box Office



Council Corner

The Nance. Tickets can be ordered at www.eventbrite.com; just type *Orson the Magnificent* in the search box.

Carolyn Winters

LTA Council Director

The Arts Build Communities

Finally the warm weather has returned!

Lloyd Bittinger, our Shakespeare Garden committee chair, has been busy working with Greenstreet Gardens to install the three trellises with New Dawn Roses, the new sundial, and new plants. The garden will soon be ready for summer. Special thanks to **Sharon Field** and her husband **Ron** for obtaining the sundial for us at a discount from The Shops at Mount Vernon.

Tina Anderson, our assistant director, kicked off our “Buy a Brick” campaign on April 13th. Please buy a brick! Your donation goes toward keeping our beautiful courtyard vibrant for years to come. In addition, you get the satisfaction of seeing the brick in the courtyard year after year – a remembrance of all the time you have spent at LTA putting on the shows!

Tina has worked with **Myke Taister** on designing our beautiful Shakespeare Garden brochure. A special thank-you goes to **Kacie Greenwood** for her outreach to the businesses encouraging their support of LTA.

Lastly, don’t forget to buy your tickets to ***Orson the Magnificent – The Magic of Orson Welles!*** **Mary Beth Smith-Toomey** is producing this show, which is fun for all ages. The performance will be on June 16th at 3:00 p.m., during the run of

New Members

Christopher Anderson

Catherine Gilbert

Lindsey Doane

Mary Jo Morgan

David Featherston

In Case of Emergency

Did you know that in case of an emergency, LTA has three AEDs (automated external defibrillators)?

They are located as follows:

- 1) in the lobby, near the Council (Green) Room
- 2) in the cast entrance hallway, near the backstage door
- 3) in the Alexandria Academy, on the first floor



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

5/12 – 5/13	Auditions for <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>
6/2	<i>The Nance</i> opens
6/11	Annual meeting and elections
6/16	<i>Orson the Magnificent</i> – <i>The Magic of Orson Welles</i> fundraiser

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 2017 – 2018 season are:

President.....	Russell Wyland
Governor for Artistic Support.....	Beverley Benda
Governor for Box Office.....	Bobbie Herbst
Governor for Building.....	David Hale
Governor for Development.....	Jim Howard
Governor for Education.....	Michael J. Baker, Jr.
Governor for Front of House.....	De Nicholson-Lamb
Governor for Membership.....	Maria Ciarrocchi
Governor for Production.....	Margaret Evans-Joyce
Governor for Public Relations.....	Rachel Alberts
Governor for Seasonal Planning.....	Ashley Amidon
Governor for Technical Support.....	Robert Kraus

Additional officers are:

President Pro-Tem.....	Rachel Alberts
Treasurer.....	David Hale
Board Secretary.....	Carolyn Winters
Executive Secretary.....	Jamie Blake
LTA Council Director.....	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!