



FLOODLIGHT

FEATURED PRODUCTION

January 2019



FEBRUARY 23 - MARCH 16, 2019

Written by
Moss Hart
and George S. Kaufman

Produced by
Jamie Blake
and Eileen Doherty

Directed by
Stephen Jarrett

Offbeat, quirky, and downright hilarious, this Pulitzer Prize-winner has stood the test of time. It follows two families whose lives are thrown together when their children become engaged. This idealistic take on life, family, and love reinforces the idea that you can only live life to the fullest by doing whatever makes you happy.

The cast includes **Amy Griffin** as Penelope "Penny" Sycamore, **Raeanna Nicole Larson** as Essie Carmichael, **Chantel F. Grant** as Rheba, **Ted Culler** as Paul Sycamore, **Steve Rosenthal** as Mr. DePinna, **Jonathan Gruich** as Ed Carmichael, **Robert Freeman** as Donald, **Bernard Engel** as Martin "Grandpa" Vanderhof, **Emmy Leaverton** as Alice Sycamore, **Jerry Hoffman** as Wilbur C. Henderson, **Matt Tucker** as Tony Kirby, **Peter Halverson** as Boris Kolenkhov, **Melissa Dunlap** as Gay Wellington/Grand Duchess Olga Katrina, **James McDaniel** as Anthony W. Kirby, **Kate Ives** as Miriam Kirby, and **Mark Stein** as one of the T/G Men.

Producers **Jamie Blake** and **Eileen Doherty**, along with Director **Stephen Jarrett** and Assistant Director **Matthew Munroe**, are excited to create this production with **Shannon Starcher** and **Samantha Jensen**, Co-Stage Managers; **Grant Kevin Lane**, Set Design and Set Dressing; **Jim Hutzler** and **Jeff Nesmeyer**, Co-Set Construction; **De Nicholson-Lamb**, Set Painting; **Erin Nixon**, Costume Design; **Donna Hauprich**, Wardrobe; **Margaret Chapman** and **Helen Bard-Sobola**, Co-Props Design; **Art Snow**, Special Effects; **Franklin C. Colman**, Lighting Design; **Pam Leonowich** and **Nick Friedlander**, Co-Master Electricians; **Janice Rivera**, Sound Design; **Susan Boyd**, Hair and Makeup Design; **Matt Liptak**, Photographer; **Russell Wyland**, Rigging; and **Elizabeth Blake**, Double Tech Dinner.

We are still looking for an Opening Night Party host for Saturday, February 23rd. If you would like to get involved in this fun show, email Jamie Blake at jgblake76@yahoo.com or Eileen Doherty at dohertyep@gmail.com.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Russell Wyland, President

Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for
Membership

Kirstin Apker, *Floodlight* Coordinator

Linda Wells, *Floodlight* Editor

Next Floodlight March 25th

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703-683-0496

President's Column



Russell Wyland

Lessons from Leslie: Thinking about a Great Friend to LTA

For the past several days, I have been thinking about LTA member **Leslie Reed**. Leslie passed away on New Year's Eve in California. Her family was near, as was a book of memories from her work at LTA. For those of you who didn't know Leslie, she was a joy to be around: witty, worldly, smart, and honest. One typically found Leslie's name in the playbill under set painting or properties (she designed several shows and was a stickler for getting the color or the prop just right). She was a keen observer of EVERYTHING, and the master of the "innocent" question. She would often sit in the first row as I hung the curtains and would say, "Russ, I don't know anything about rigging, but I noticed that I can see backstage from this seat. Is that okay?" Of course, it wasn't okay, and of course, she knew plenty about what rigging was supposed to do. Her innocent questions were her way of providing a critical eye without ruffling feathers.

What set Leslie apart in my mind was her curiosity and love of new challenges. When I produced *Monty Python's Spamalot*, Leslie helped with both painting and props. In the second act, a fake chandelier was supposed to drop from the ceiling (à la Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*). We had no appropriate chandelier in our props collection, so I opted to build one. Out of light plywood, I cut a silhouette of the chandelier and asked Leslie if she could make it look like the real thing (or a good comic version thereof). [See page 4 for photos.]

Leslie turned the project into a mission. She researched fluorescent paint and types of crystals. She visited every store that had beads and then considered the best way to attach them. That chandelier – which appeared for about 30 seconds as a gimmick for a cheap laugh – was the most thought-out and elaborately decorated two-dimensional chandelier to ever appear onstage. BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH. Leslie was so proud of her chandelier that she wanted to give it her own twist. She decided to put a mask of a cat in the chandelier! She explained, "I need to put a phantom in it somewhere, don't I?" The chandelier appeared and disappeared so quickly that few or no audience members actually saw it. But every time it dropped, Leslie would watch from backstage and laugh herself silly.

What's the point of this story? To me, this is what's great about community theater. 1) Leslie embraced trying new things. She eagerly stepped in whenever needed and never feared the unknown. 2) Leslie made her theater work – even small tasks – her passion. She never did things by halves. 3) Leslie understood the magic of theater and how a little bit that could have been thrown away added to the larger production. 4) Leslie made the projects she undertook her own. Theater isn't rigid – it's a group of creative individuals finding ways to be both unique and in sync with each other, and Leslie understood this. I'm sure other producers, directors, cast members, designers, and crew members have similar stories about Leslie.

So, I am sure that Leslie left this life in the same way that she lived it at LTA. What's beyond this stage and this world? Who knows, but Leslie no doubt eagerly embraced it and has made that new place even more magical.

R.I.P., Leslie Reed.

Russell Wyland, President

Upcoming Auditions

The Savannah Disputation is the story of two elderly sisters who drop all niceties of southern charm when a young door-to-door evangelist comes knocking. This theological comedy blends the playwright's trademark sharpness of wit and depth of character while telling a story in which a crisis of faith arises when seemingly similar beliefs are discovered to be worlds apart.

For the Audition

Please prepare a one- to two-minute contemporary monologue for the initial audition. Those invited to return for callbacks will be asked to read selected scenes from the script.

All characters will use accents. The three female characters will have a Coastal/Lowland Southern English typical of Savannah. The male character may have an Eastern New England accent, typical of Boston. Feel free to audition using a character-appropriate accent if you are able.

Please bring a headshot and résumé, if possible, and be ready to list all conflicts during the rehearsal and performance period of March, April, and May. Three to five rehearsals per week will be scheduled on weeknights and midday weekends from March 6th through April 24th.

Character Descriptions

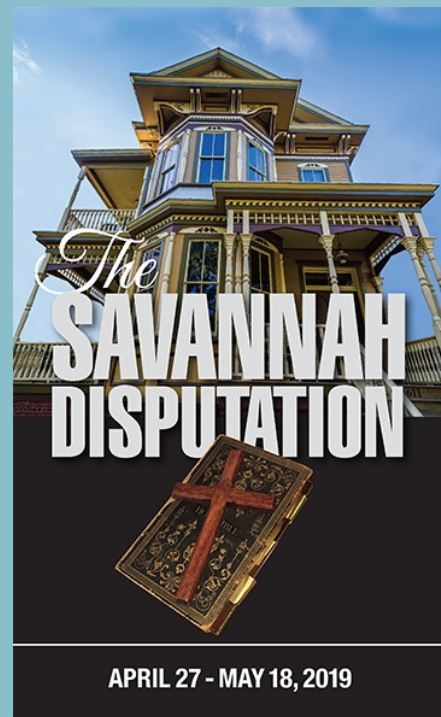
Both Mary and Margaret, the two sisters, should be able to convincingly play older women without the assistance of heavy makeup.

Mary: (Female, 75-85) Brash, crochety, straight-forward. Think Bea Arthur from *The Golden Girls*, but with a southern twang. A devout Roman Catholic in words, but not necessarily in deeds.

Margaret: (Female, 75-85) The more genteel of the two sisters, soft-spoken with a level of vulnerability and naivete that belies her age. Think Betty White.

Melissa: (Female, 30-40) Earnest, energetic. Full-figured. Among fundamentalist evangelicals, she is something of a misfit.

Father Murphy: (Male, 40+) Not your typical plump prince of the Church – appears more like a computer geek in street clothes. Highly intelligent, respectful, patient. **NOTE:** This part could be played by an African-American male.



Written by
Evan Smith

Produced by
Lynn O'Connell
and Kevin O'Dowd

Directed by
Will Jarred

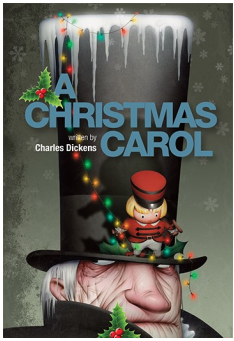
Audition Dates

Saturday, March 2, 2019
2:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 3, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Callbacks

Tuesday, March 5, 2019
7:00 p.m.



Thank You from *A Christmas Carol*

We'd like to extend a big thank-you to our cast, crew, production team, parents, front of house volunteers, and everyone else who made *A Christmas Carol* such a merry and fun experience this year!

Rachel Alberts, Maria Ciarrocchi, and Robert Kraus, Producers

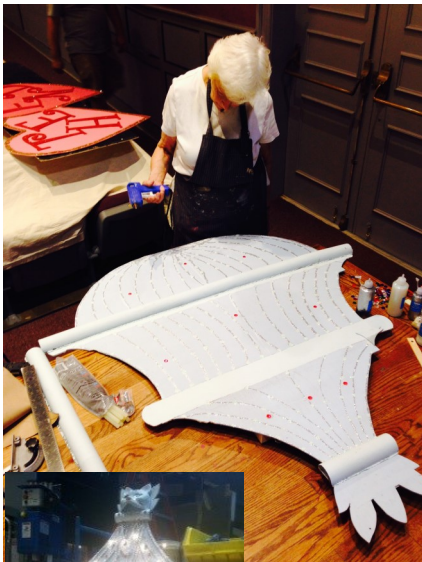
New Members

Michael deBlois	Matty Montes
Jean Fallow	Judith Navarro
Chantel Grant	Christopher Overly
Amy Griffin	Mark Stein
Raeanna Nicole Larson	Matt Tucker
Emmy Leaverton	

Ladies Night 2018

On December 3rd, the ladies of The Little Theatre of Alexandria gathered for their annual holiday shindig at Tempo Restaurant in Alexandria. Armed with plenty of wine, they chatted and feasted on pecan-encrusted salmon, cavatelli Amatriciana, veal scaloppini, chicken Marsala, and boeuf Bourguignon before indulging in exquisite desserts and exchanging eclectic gifts. A big thank-you goes to first-time hostess extraordinaire, **Rachael Hubbard**, for overseeing the festivities!

Remembering Leslie Reed



(Left) Leslie hard at work on her beloved chandelier for *Monty Python's Spamalot* (2014)
(Below) Working on set painting for *In the Heights* (2015)



Photos by
Luana
Bossolo



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 Tina McCrea at 703-683-5778 ext. 2 or email Tina@thelittletheatre.com.

Upcoming Auditions

The Little Theatre of Alexandria stages a charmingly madcap adventure about love, life, and man's eternal love affair with ... golf. Ken Ludwig's play will take you on a hilarious romp that pulls the rug out from underneath the stuffy denizens of a private country club. Filled with mistaken identities, slamming doors, and romantic missteps, this furiously paced comedy recalls the best of the Marx Brothers' classics.

For the Audition

Auditions are open and no appointments are required. Auditionees will be given monologues and/or sides when they arrive at auditions. The director will ask auditionees to read their pieces as different characters.

To save time, auditionees are strongly encouraged to print out and complete their audition forms before arriving at auditions. To download an audition form, visit LTA's website at www.thelittletheatre.com and click on "Performances," then "Auditions."

Auditionees will be asked for a complete list of their conflicts starting on callbacks (March 26th) through strike (June 30th). Once rehearsals begin, only emergency conflicts will be honored beyond those provided at auditions.

If you have a headshot and acting résumé, you may submit them with your audition form, but these materials are not required. Auditionees may be asked to have their pictures taken.

Character Descriptions

Justin (male, mid-20s) is offbeat, sweet, anxious, eager, a bundle of nerves. He is Bingham's new eager-to-please assistant. He once crashed his cart into a water hazard.

Louise (female, mid-20s) is a waitress at the Quail Valley Country Club. She is very attractive, and a bit flighty, but studious. She also can bawl her eyes out at a moment's notice.

Henry Bingham (male, mid-40/50s) is the Executive Director of Quail Valley Country Club. He is witty and cynical at times. He gets into a high-stakes bet on a golf tournament and is determined to do what it takes to win. He is also unhappy in his marriage to Muriel. As a young man, he had a 23 handicap. (Note: May have a British accent. Auditionees are encouraged to use one if it's solid, but not required.)

Pamela (female, late 30s) is sporty, beautiful, tanned, sophisticated, a bit loose, and a bit of a drinker. She has an excellent short game.

Dickie Bell (male, mid-40s) is the Executive Director of Crouching Squirrel, a rival club. He is a bit obnoxious, including his fashion sense, but tries to come off as good-natured. Could quite possibly be "Newman" from *Seinfeld*. He takes a few too many mulligans.

Muriel (female, mid-40s) is the wife of Bingham. She is a sturdy woman with the qualities of a drill sergeant. She somehow has a soft spot for Dickie and a mean slice.

FLOODLIGHT



KEN LUDWIG'S
a fox on the fairway
JUNE 8 - 29, 2019

Written by
Ken Ludwig

Produced by
Luana Bossolo
and Russell Wyland

Directed by
Scott J. Strasbaugh

Audition Dates

Saturday, March 23, 2019
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 24, 2019
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Callbacks

Tuesday, March 26, 2019
7:00 p.m.

The Campagna Center and Mid-Year Thanks

The recent news that there are plans afoot to create condos and a multilevel parking structure where the Campagna Center now stands has taken the Board somewhat by surprise. The possible sale of the property – LTA's immediate neighbor to the southwest – has been rumored for many years. This new development – not necessarily bad news – must be watched carefully as it develops, to make sure LTA's interests are protected throughout the process.

To this end, the Board has joined our other neighbors – including the Historic Alexandria Foundation and Weber Designs – in an effort to stay abreast of the situation. Business Manager **Tina McCrea** and Governor for Public Relations **Rachel Alberts** represented the theatre at the first public meeting to discuss the new development project. The project is moving slowly right now, and the governors agreed to keep members abreast of what we learn when we learn it. Stay tuned.

Much of the business that comes before LTA's Board of Governors involves thanking people for their contributions. At the December meeting, the Board heard reports that the annual donation drive has again shown the generosity of LTA's members and subscribers. Donations are import to the overall functioning of the theatre, and the Board thanks **Tina McCrea** and her group of workers for getting the solicitation in the mail in such a timely manner and for managing the responses when they arrived. Even more than that, the Board thanks the donors for their generosity and, in many cases, heartfelt notes of appreciation. LTA is truly blessed.

The Board thanked Governor for Membership **Maria Ciarrocchi** and members of NextGen LTA (formerly known as the Millennial Committee) for hosting a wonderful holiday party. It's an important tradition. The Board also offered its appreciation to Governor for Development **Sarah Holt** and LTA teacher **Heather Sanderson** for coordinating LTA's representation in Alexandria's Scottish Walk festival. Finally, the Board expressed its deep gratitude to the LTA Council for once again sponsoring the decoration of the theatre building during the holidays. Their magic transforms LTA into something special, and the good cheer they bring reminds Alexandria why LTA is an important institution within the community.

Russell Wyland, President

Your Board of Governors at Work

WATCH Nominations

Outstanding Set Design in a Play: **Matt Liptak** – *Dracula*; **Matt Liptak** – *Harvey*; **Dan Remmers** – *The Nance*

Outstanding Set Construction in a Musical: **Tom O'Reilly** – *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Outstanding Set Construction in a Play: **Jim Hutzler** and **Jeff Nesmeyer** – *Dracula*; **Jim Hutzler** and **Jeff Nesmeyer** – *Harvey*; **Tom O'Reilly** – *The Nance*

Outstanding Set Painting in a Play: **Stacey Becker**, **Matt Liptak**, and **Mona Wargo** – *Dracula*; **Sandy Kozel** – *The Nance*

Outstanding Set Decoration in a Play: **Stacey Becker** and **Matt Liptak** – *Dracula*; **MYKE** – *The Nance*

Outstanding Lighting Design in a Play: **Jeffrey Scott Auerbach** and **Kimberly Crago** – *Dracula*; **Ken** and **Patti Crowley** – *The Nance*

Outstanding Sound Design in a Play: **David Correia** and **David Hale** – *The Nance*; **Janice Rivera** – *Dracula*

Outstanding Costume Design in a Play: **Jean Schlichting** and **Kit Sibley** – *The Nance*

Outstanding Makeup Design in a Play: **Felicia Hecker** – *The Nance*; **Larissa Norris** – *Dracula*

Outstanding Hair Design in a Musical: **Kadira Coley** – *Anne of Green Gables*

(continued on page 7)



Council Corner

You Can't Take It With You is one of my favorite plays. I first saw it 35 years ago when Frank and I were living in Tehran, Iran. Council members **Jamie Blake** and **Eileen Doherty** are co-producers, and of course, we have many Council members working on the show.

Our next business meeting is Sunday, March 31st, at 3:30 p.m. at Tempo Restaurant. At that time, we will be electing the vice director and recording secretary. **Rance Willis** is chair of the Nominating Committee.

Council membership renewals will be in April. This is just a reminder that the last show you can use your Council tickets for is *The Savannah Disputation. A Fox on the Fairway* is the first show of the new Council year.

The Executive Committee has been busy updating the Council's Policy and Procedures manual. We hope to have it ready and sent out to members before the March meeting.

Carolyn Winters
LTA Council Director
The Arts Build Communities

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



(continued from page 6)

Outstanding Special Effects: **Art Snow** – *Dracula*

Outstanding Cameo in a Musical: **Andy Izquierdo** as “King Herod” – *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Outstanding Cameo in a Play: **Fred C. Lash** as “Beverly Weston” – *August: Osage County*

Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play: **Evie Graham Jewett** as “Young Elizabeth” – *The Audience*; **Gayle Nichols-Grimes** as “Mattie Fae Aiken” – *August: Osage County*; **Charlene Sloan** as “Sylvie” – *The Nance*

Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play: **Jeff Elmore** as “Renfield” – *Dracula*; **Jack B. Stein** as “Efram” – *The Nance*

Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play: **Nicky McDonnell** as “Barbara Fordham” – *August: Osage County*

Outstanding Lead Actor in a Play: **Chuck Dluhy** as “Chauncey Miles” – *The Nance*; **Andy Izquierdo** as “Elwood P. Dowd” – *Harvey*

Outstanding Ensemble in a Play: *August: Osage County*; *The Nance*

Outstanding Music Direction: **Christopher A. Tomasino** – *The Nance*

Outstanding Direction of a Play: **Frank D. Shutts II** – *The Nance*

Outstanding Play: *August: Osage County*; *The Nance*

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

2/23	<i>You Can't Take It With You</i> opens
3/2 - 3/3	<i>The Savannah Disputation</i> auditions
3/23 - 3/24	<i>A Fox on the Fairway</i> auditions
3/31	LTA Council meeting

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 2018 – 2019 season are:

President.....	Russell Wyland
Governor for Artistic Support.....	Susan Boyd
Governor for Box Office.....	David Hale
Governor for Building.....	Frank D. Shutts II
Governor for Development.....	Sarah Holt
Governor for Education.....	Michael J. Baker, Jr.
Governor for Front of House.....	Diedre Nicholson-Lamb
Governor for Membership.....	Maria Ciarrocchi
Governor for Production.....	Alan Wray
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!