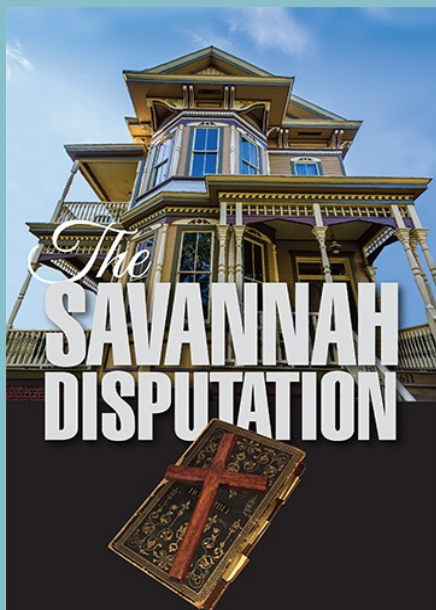




# FLOODLIGHT

## FEATURED PRODUCTION

March 2019



APRIL 27 - MAY 18, 2019

Written by  
Evan Smith

Produced by  
Lynn O'Connell  
and Kevin O'Dowd

Directed by  
Will Jarred

Some of "that old-time religion" is dished out in this short, sweet comedy that is as light and delectable as the banana pudding served by one of the gracious southern matrons in *The Savannah Disputation*, coming to LTA's stage this spring. People have fought, bled, and died over theological differences, but nothing so unseemly goes on in this genteel play.

Co-Producers **Lynn O'Connell** and **Kevin O'Dowd** and director **Will Jarred** are pleased to announce our cast: **Ashley Amidon** plays Melissa, a self-described missionary (aka, "a missionary to Catholics") who plans to convert two elderly sisters in Savannah, Georgia. Mary, played by **Mary Jo Morgan**, is the more stubborn of the two sisters and is concerned that timid Margaret, played by **Patricia Spencer Smith**, may have had her faith shaken by the young proselytizer. To combat the forces of uncertainty, Mary invites the local Catholic priest, played by **Michael Fisher**, to the sisters' next meeting with Melissa. Then we see generational dynamics at work as the unwavering certainty and energy of youth is pitted against the wisdom of experience.

Our talented production team includes **Juli Tarabek Blacker** (Assistant Director), **Kira Hogan** and **Donna Reynolds** (Stage Managers), **John Burgess** (Set Design), **Dan Remmers** (Set Construction), **Russ Wyland** (Rigging), **Deborah Remmers** (Set Decoration), **Franklin Coleman** (Lighting Design), **Alan Wray** (Master Electrician), **David Correia** (Sound Design), **Ashley Amidon** (Costume Design), **Maureen Roulte** (Hair and Makeup Design), **Jamie Blake** and **Robin Worthington** (Wardrobe), **Betty Belanus** and **Susan Townsend** (Properties Design), **Sandy Kozel** (Set Painting), **Kyle Reardon** (Photographer), **Janice Rivera** and **Peter Halverson** (Opening Night Caterers), and **Russ Wyland** and **David Hale** (Double Tech Dinner).

### The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Russell Wyland, President

Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for  
Membership

Kirstin Apker, *Floodlight* Coordinator

Linda Wells, *Floodlight* Editor

*Next Floodlight May 6th*

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# President's Column



Russell  
Wyland

## Unsung Heroes, Redux

I have occasionally used this column to sing the praises of members who are “unsung heroes.” That is, members who volunteer their time to do work on tasks that don’t appear in the playbill and aren’t visible to most members. Let’s learn about a few more of these volunteers.

The first person does appear in the playbill. Over the years, she has designed props, served as wardrobe mistress, and worked box office. But did you know that **Barbara Helsing** is LTA’s Archivist? With equal parts mechanical precision and dogged persistence, Barbara collects LTA’s history – things such as reviews, cast and crew lists, rehearsal schedules, ads, and photos – so that future generations will know the good work we’ve done. The work of the archivist is of vital importance, but it happens quietly behind the scenes and without fanfare. Thank you, Barbara, for doing this great service.

The second person is also known to LTA audiences for being on stage in a wide variety of shows and roles. No matter how busy **Brendan Quinn** gets, he ensures that LTA can offer snacks and drinks to our audience members and partygoers. While many of our supplies are purchased and delivered, others must be obtained, paid for, and schlepped to LTA. Brendan is LTA’s candy man, and scores of audience members are deeply grateful for his work.

Finally, did you ever wonder how the *Floodlight* gets prepared? You enjoy reading it eight times per year. It magically appears in your inbox thanks to the diligent work of **Kirstin Apker**. What few see is that Kirstin has the unenviable task of prying articles from busy people, enforcing the deadlines, and then making sure each article meets high editorial standards. Thanks for making the *Floodlight* happen, Kirstin (and sorry for being late with my submissions yet again.)

Of course, there are many, many, many “unsung heroes,” so stay tuned for more such articles.

**Russell Wyland**, President



## CPR Certification Training Class at LTA

When: Tuesday, April 23rd, at 7:00 p.m.

Where: LTA Academy, First Floor

Cost: \$75.00

Check payment only.

Make check payable to Response & Rescue.

Those who complete the training class will be issued their completion certificate the day of the class. Those who wish to participate will need to RSVP no later than April 9th to **Diedre Nicholson-Lamb**, LTA Governor for Front of House, at [dnicholsonlamb8@verizon.net](mailto:dnicholsonlamb8@verizon.net).

# Upcoming Auditions

Have you always dreamed of being a Broadway producer? How about singing on the Great White Way? If so, join us for this summer's production of *The Producers*! **We strongly encourage actors of color to audition for this show.**

## For the Audition

Please bring a calendar with your conflicts from May 4th through August 18th. If you have a résumé with a recent headshot, please bring it. You can download the audition form at [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com) ahead of time.

Please prepare a comedic 32-bar song NOT from the show. Please bring your sheet music; no recorded music or a capella singing will be accepted. An audition pianist will be provided.

Please come prepared to dance, wearing jazz shoes or jazz sneakers only. A dance routine will be taught at auditions. **Tap will be seen only at callbacks.**

## Character Descriptions

**Max Bialystock:** (Male, A2 to F#4, mover) Portly man in his 50s. Formerly a successful Broadway producer who hasn't had a hit in many years. A desperate and destitute washed-up "has been" living paycheck to paycheck, longing for the good old days.

**Leo Bloom:** (Male, A2 to F4, strong mover) Meek-mannered accountant in his mid 30s. A rule follower/goody two-shoes. Uncomfortable with authority and prone to hysterics, he has an unhealthy attachment to his blue blanket. Suffers from a nervous condition His dream is to be a Broadway producer.

**Franz Liebkind:** (Male, F2 to G4, mover) Wild-eyed German immigrant in lederhosen and a German Army helmet. Loves his pigeons, musicals, and the Führer. Book writer of *Springtime for Hitler*. Very protective of German (and specifically Nazi) culture.

**Roger DeBris:** (Male, G#2 to G4, dancer or strong mover with tap dance ability) Theatrically over the top director of *Springtime for Hitler*. He is an aging queen looking for validation in his work, which he fears have just been "silly entertainments." Unaware of the world outside of Broadway musicals.

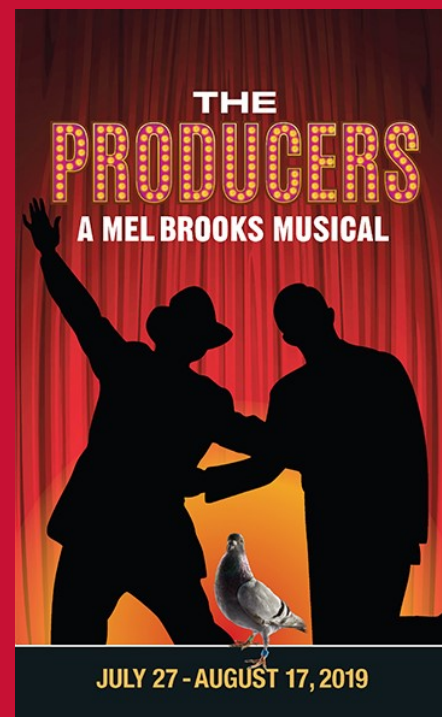
**Carmen Ghia:** (Male, C3 to A4, strong mover to dancer) Roger De Bris' "common-law assistant." A thin, strange-looking man in a black turtleneck. Slightly effeminate and catty when provoked, he has a deep love for Roger and his art.

**Ulla:** (Female, E3 to G5, dancer) Gorgeous young Swedish blonde. Clearly a knockout and knows how to flaunt it. A budding ingénue with legs for days and a belt that won't quit. Extremely comfortable in her body and with her sexuality. Sweet and sexy.

For the ensemble, we are looking to cast up to 8 males and 8 females who are strong singers/dancers/actors. Tap ability is a plus but is not needed for every dancer. The following featured roles will be cast from the ensemble:

**Hold Me Touch Me:** (Female, any range, dancer) One of Max's old lady investors. Always up for playing "one dirty little game." Sexy-crazy and loaded.

(continued on page 7)



Music and Lyrics by  
Mel Brooks

Produced by  
Mary Beth Smith-Toomey

Directed by  
Kristina Freidgen

Musical Direction by  
Colin Taylor

Choreographed by  
Stefan Sittig

## Audition Dates

Saturday, May 4, 2019

2:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 5, 2019

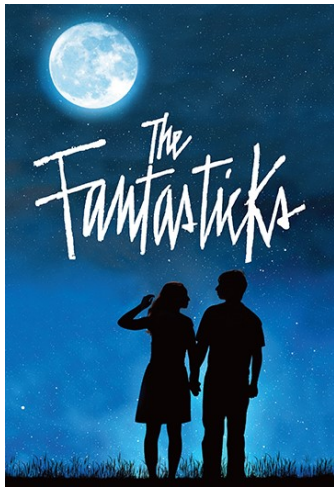
7:00 p.m.

## Callbacks

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

7:00 p.m.





## Thank You from *The Fantasticks*

Thanks to the creative and dedicated designers, the ingenious technicians, the talented and energetic cast and musicians, and the imaginative directors for a memorable production of *The Fantasticks* that warmed our audiences during January. In addition, we appreciate the support of the Board of Governors and the theatre staff for helping us to bring this love story to life.

**Sharon Field and Rance Willis**, Co-Producers

**Tina Anderson**, Assistant Producer

**Eleanore Tapscott**, Director

## Get Excited for New Classes!

Announcing LTA's summer session of adult classes! Join us for improv, directing, acting, voice overs, and more! To view a full schedule and register online, click the link below. Classes begin as soon as next month!

<https://campscui.active.com/orgs/TheLittleTheatreofAlexandria?orglink=camps-registration#/selectSessions/2623107>

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

#### Costume Department Co-Chair

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is currently looking for a Costume Department Co-Chair. If you enjoy costuming and working with people, this is the job for you! Duties include:

- ♦ organizing and maintaining LTA's costume inventory and storage area
- ♦ assisting LTA costume designers with finding items in LTA's inventory
- ♦ managing LTA's costume loan program to include helping costumers find items and maintaining a tracking system for loaned items
- ♦ coordinating volunteers and interns to help with the costume department
- ♦ assisting with costuming LTA participants in Alexandria City parades and events
- ♦ providing costume assistance for LTA's educational showcases and one-act performances
- ♦ coordinating costume donations to LTA.

Those who are interested should contact **Susan Boyd**, Director for Artistic Support, at [susan.fashionpolice@gmail.com](mailto:susan.fashionpolice@gmail.com).

### 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](mailto:Tina@thelittletheatre.com).

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

It's time to think about the LTA Election! 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 LTA from producing shows, directing, teaching, volunteering in the box office, ushering, house managing, and 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 10, 2019**, at LTA. Under our bylaws 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 bylaws, 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 10th:

**President** (one-year term)

**Governor for Box Office** (two-year term)

**Governor for Front of House** (two-year term)

**Governor for Membership** (two-year term)

**Governor for Seasonal Planning** (two-year term)

**Governor for Technical Support** (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 **Monday, April 29, 2019**, to the following people and addresses: **Joanna Henry** ([mjoannahenry@yahoo.com](mailto:mjoannahenry@yahoo.com)) or **Bobbie Herbst** ([mautumn@aol.com](mailto:mautumn@aol.com)), Co-Chairs of the LTA Nominating Committee, and **Tina McCrea**, Business Office Manager ([tina@thelittletheatre.com](mailto:tina@thelittletheatre.com)), with the subject line: LTA Nominating Committee. You may also call the LTA Business 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

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

**Governor:**

- 1) Be an active member of LTA for at least two years prior to nomination
- 2) Have served as a producer, director, department chairman, Governor, or a member of a standing committee
- 3) Demonstrate the expertise and motivation related to the work requirements of the department to be managed
- 4) Demonstrate interest in LTA and a proven sense of responsibility

**Terms of Office:**

President      One year

Governor      Two years

The President may be renominated for as many as three successive terms and serve as President for four years consecutively.

Governors may be renominated for two additional terms as the Governor for the same department. Then a year must elapse before an individual is again eligible for the same office. There is no restriction on running for a different office if not eligible for the same office.

## ***LTA WATCH Award Winners***

Outstanding Set Design in a Play: **Dan Remmers** – *The Nance*

Outstanding Set Construction in a Play:  
**Tom O'Reilly** – *The Nance*

Outstanding Set Painting in a Play: **Stacey Becker, Matt Liptak, and Mona Wargo** – *Dracula*

Outstanding Lighting Design in a Play: **Jeffrey Scott Auerbach and Kimberly Crago** – *Dracula*

Outstanding Sound Design in a Play: **Janice Rivera** – *Dracula*

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

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

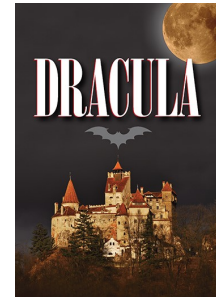
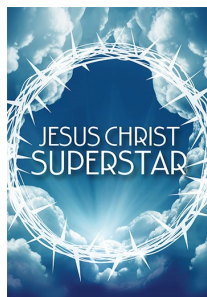
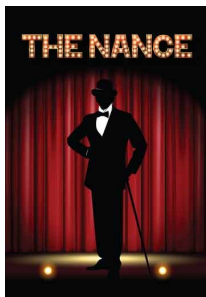
Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play: **Jack B. Stein** as "Efram" – *The Nance*

Outstanding Lead Actor in a Play: **Chuck Dluhy** as "Chauncey" – *The Nance*

Outstanding Ensemble in a Play: *The Nance*

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

Outstanding Play: *The Nance*  
Produced by **Mary Beth Smith-Toomey**  
Stage managed by **Becca Heisner and Marg Soroos**



## Your Board of Governors at Work

Bad weather thwarted the Board in February, with the monthly meeting cancelled because of snow and ice. That didn't mean inactivity, however. The Board named **Bobbie Herbst** and **Joanna Henry** as co-chairs of the LTA Nominating Committee. The other committee members are **Joel Durgavich**, **Richard Isaacs**, and **Nick Friedlander**. The goal of the nominating committee is to identify as many qualified candidates as possible for the Board of Governors and then encourage these members to throw their hats into the ring. If you are interested in running, you can contact Bobbie and Joanna through the business office. Open this year are the positions of President, Governor for Box Office, Governor for Front of House, Governor for Technical Support, Governor for Seasonal Planning, and Governor for Membership.

The Board continues to monitor three Alexandria projects with a great deal of interest. First, the storage garages near the intersection of Route 1 North and Pendleton Street continue to be the site of a major housing development. Keeping access to the garages and making sure that LTA (and our neighbors) are kept abreast of developments is a major concern. So far, the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority has been responsive to both our requests and our inquiries. Second, the plans for redevelopment of the Campagna Center continue, but progress appears slow at this stage, and we have learned very little that's new. Obviously, the Board will continue to monitor the situation. Finally, members of the Board will attend a meeting with the city that will decide the fate of the pay parking spaces immediately across Wolfe Street from the theatre. That public hearing is March 16th.

Finally, the Board is turning its attention to the development of a new budget for the coming fiscal year, which begins May 1st. Look for more on the budget in upcoming issues of the *Floodlight* and, of course, the membership will receive a full report on the current year's budget at the Annual Meeting on Monday, June 10th. Mark your calendars.

**Russell Wyland**, President

(continued from page 3)

**Marks:** (Male, any range, dancer) Leo's boss at the accounting agency. Short-tempered cigar-chomping little tyrant.

**Bryan:** (Male, tenor, dancer) Roger's gay set designer.

**Kevin:** (Male, tenor, dancer) Roger's gay costume designer.

**Shirley Markowitz:** (Female, alto, dancer) Roger's lesbian lighting designer, a squat fireplug of a woman with a masculine voice.

**Scott:** (Male, any range, dancer) Roger's gay choreographer. An accomplished dancer.

**Sabu:** (Male, any range, dancer) Roger's exotic house boy. Extremely physically attractive.

**Jack LaPidus:** (Male, tenor, dancer) One of the singing Hitlers at the audition.

**Donald Dinsmore:** (Male, any range, dancer) Auditionee for the role of Hitler. Dances like a wooden doll.

**Jason Green:** (Male, baritone/tenor, dancer) Auditionee for the role of Hitler. Short, rotund man. Very actor-y with a fake German accent.

**Sergeant:** (Male, any range, dancer) Policeman with New York Irish accent.

**Officer O'Rourke:** (Male, any range, dancer) Policeman with New York Irish accent.

**Officer O'Riley:** (Male, any range, dancer) Policeman with New York Irish accent.

**Officer O'Houlihan:** (Male, any range, dancer) Black policeman with New York Irish accent.



## Governor's Message Box Office

The weather cancellation of the first Sunday performance of *The Fantasticks* was an unfortunate trick played by Mother Nature. The Sunday matinee is the most popular performance we have, and cancelling a sold-out show is not done lightly.

How does this decision get made? The decision to perform or not perform due to weather is made by the president, the show producer(s), and the Governor for Production. For performances that take place Tuesday through Saturday, the decision is made by 3:00 p.m. for the 8:00 p.m. curtain; for matinees, the decision is made by noon for the 3:00 p.m. performance. Each person has a role to play. The producer must tell his/her cast and crew what's happening. The Governor for Production alerts the other governors and other people scheduled to use the theatre. The president alerts the Governor for Box Office and the box office manager.

In this most recent snow event, **Crissy Wilke**, our box office manager, instantly changed the box office telephone message, sent a prepared notice to ticket holders via Vendini, and posted an alert on LTA's website. During the days that followed, Crissy and a group of intrepid volunteers worked to reschedule or refund all 215 tickets. That's a lot of phone calls! It's a lot of work, and I want to thank Crissy and her crew for their hard work, cheerfulness, and thoroughness.

With the coming of spring, thoughts at the box office turn to subscriptions. When I became a member in the mid-1970s, LTA had no subscribers. We were strictly a membership theatre. Now we have many fewer members but a robust subscriber base that is the envy of most theaters – both professional and community – in the area. If you're a subscriber, you will be getting your subscription renewal packages soon. Subscribers enjoy discounted tickets, a choice of seats, and a choice of performances. The 2019 - 2020 season is a going to be a great one, and we hope to welcome back our subscribers and find a few more!

**David Hale**

Governor for Box Office

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## Council Corner

**Evans-Joyce** is having fun at the audition table, and Lloyd is busy getting ready for the spring maintenance of Shakespeare's Garden.

**Carolyn Winters**  
LTA Council Director  
*The Arts Build Communities*

Our next Council meeting is Sunday, March 31st, at Tempo. We start socializing at 3:30 p.m., with the business meeting starting at 4:00 p.m. and dinner at 5:00 p.m. Vice Chair **Tina Anderson** will be sending out the meal selection shortly. As always, you can pay with cash or credit card. Finance Officer **Lloyd Bittinger** will be taking your meal payments and will also be able to take your Council membership renewals.

**Rance Willis** is chair of our Nominating Committee this year. At the March meeting, we will be electing the Vice Chair and Recording Secretary. Each office is for a two-year term which will begin on May 1st.

You cannot use Council tickets for *The Savannah Disputation* unless you have renewed your Council dues by April 15th. If you already have a ticket for that show and have not renewed, you will be asked to pay \$21.00 for a Wednesday or Thursday show or \$24.00 for a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday show.

Council membership renewal forms will go out in March. Yearly dues are \$75.00.

Lloyd will be sending out the updated Policies and Procedures Manual before the March meeting. Please read it, as we will be approving it at the meeting.

So I am ready for spring! Tina is recovering from her eye surgery, **Margaret**

## New Members

Jonathan Gruich

Mary Wallace

## 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](http://www.thelittletheatre.com)

## Mark Your Calendars

3/31	LTA Council meeting
4/27	<i>The Savannah</i> <i>Disputation</i> opens
5/4 - 5/5	<i>The Producers</i> auditions
6/8	<i>A Fox on the Fairway</i> opens
6/10	LTA Annual 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](mailto:mariabelle22@gmail.com)

**Thank you for your service!**