



FLOODLIGHT

FEATURED PRODUCTION

September 2021



October 16 – November 6,
2021

Written by
Frederick Knott

Produced by
Alicia Goodman and
Margaret Evans-Joyce

Directed by
Heather Benjamin

The classic 1966 thriller *Wait Until Dark* follows its heroine, Susy Hendrix, through a suspenseful game of cat and mouse. Susy, who recently became blind, unwittingly possesses a doll filled with illicit drugs, which is being sought by a sinister group of con men who have traced it to the Greenwich Village apartment Susy shares with her husband. When Susy discovers the true nature of her situation, she and the young girl upstairs launch a daring counterplot against the thieves.

Producers **Alicia Goodman** and **Margaret Evans-Joyce** and director **Heather Benjamin** are excited to present this show. Leading the cast is **Mel Gumina** as Susy Hendrix. The three con artists are played by **Brendan Quinn** as Mike Talman, **Brendan Chaney** as Sergeant Carlino, and **Adam Adkins** as Harry Roat. **Juliet Strom** and **Julia Stimson** share the role of Gloria, the girl who lives upstairs, and **Michael Townsend** and **Bill Gery** play the two policemen.

A first-rate production team is led by assistant director **Michael Fisher** and stage managers **Lauren Markovich** and **Nick Friedlander**. **Stefan Sittig** serves as both fight and intimacy choreographer. **Julie Fischer** designed the set, and as lead builder is working with **Mona Wargo** as set painter and **Hilary Adams** as set dresser. **Griffin Voltmann** designed the period props. Making sure the actors look their parts are **Jean Schlichting** and **Kit Sibley**, co-costume designers, and **Chanel Lancaster**, makeup and hair designer. **Margaret Snow** serves as wardrobe mistress. The lighting designers are **Jeff Auerbach** and **Kimberly Crago**, and master electricians are **Micheal O'Connor** and **Pam Leonowich**. Rounding out the crew are **Janice Rivera** as the sound designer, **Matthew Randall** as the photographer, and **Russ Wyland** as the rigger. Sit back and enjoy!

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The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Frank D. Shutts II, President

Stacey Becker, Governor for
Membership

Kirstin Apker, *Floodlight* Coordinator

Linda Wells, *Floodlight* Editor

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President's Column



Frank
Shutts

“Summer’s lease hath all too short a date.” William Shakespeare

A lot has happened since spring. First and foremost, LTA joined the majority of theaters locally and nationally in requiring proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 or a negative test result from anyone wishing to attend our productions and also requiring the continued wearing of face coverings. Some thought that it was a hard decision for the Board to make. It was not. The safety of our members and patrons comes first, and theater itself needs healthy participants to return to full capacity and full ability. The response from all sides has been mixed, but the vast majority of people approve of the measures that have been taken. While there are some patrons who have chosen to take a hiatus from us, we hope that time will bring us all together again soon.

I remember looking into the birth registry in Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, and reading right before the entry for William Shakespeare the Latin phrase “hic incipit pestis” (here begins the plague). How we all long to read “hic finit pestis” (here ends the plague)! *If you can, please vaccinate.* It’s the only way out.

Upon **Tina McCrea**’s departure, **Crissy Wilke** moved over to the Business Manager position, and **Jeff Westlake** was hired as our new Box Office Manager. **Chris Tomasino** filled my old Governor for Development slot, and **Beverley Benda** assumed her former spot as Governor for Artistic Support when **Susan Boyd** announced her early retirement. Thank you to Tina and Susan for your years of service to LTA. Welcome Jeff, Chris, and Beverley!

The Board is busy looking at our upcoming 2022 – 2023 season, finding directors and producers, reviewing our mission and vision statements, updating our Code of Ethics, and working with the ever-changing metrics of COVID-19. The theatre is in desperate need of producers, front of house managers, box office attendants, and ushers. If you are interested (training provided), please contact **Alan Wray** or **Eleanore Tapscott** about your interest in producing or **Monty Montgomery** or **Ira Forstater** regarding your interest in front of house or box office positions.

Frank D. Shutts II

LTA President

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COVID-19 update for *Wait Until Dark*: Everyone working on the play – cast, members of the crew and production team, box office and front of house personnel – has been confirmed as vaccinated. Audience members, who must also be fully vaccinated, should plan to wear their masks for the entire performance. There will be a 15-minute break between Acts I and II.

New Members

Azubuike Johnson

Joan Evans

William Gery

Dr. Salik Farooqi

DeJeanette Horne



Thank You from *Fences*

The stunning set from Pittsburgh's Hill District has been dismantled and the production team disbanded, but the spirit of August Wilson's *Fences* will remain at LTA for a long time to come. We thank everyone who volunteered their time and talent for this great American drama. A special thank-you goes to actors **Albert** and **Maya Bolden**, **DeJeanette Horne**, **Brenda Parker**, **Mack Leamon**, **Jared Diallo**, and **Ayyaz Choudhury**. Kudos to stage managers **Brittany Huffman** and **Sherry Clarke** and assistant director **Marzanne Claiborne** for their hard work. Another special thank-you goes to all the designers – **Michael Donahue**, **Tom O'Reilly**, **Luana Bossolo**, **Margaret Chapman**, **Joel Durgavich**, **Bobbie Herbst**, **Ken** and **Patti Crowley**, **Pam Leonowich**, **Micheal O'Connor**, **Alan Wray**, **Farrell Hartigan**, **Robin Worthington**, and **Kadira Coley** – for their impressive work, but especially to **Matt**

Liptak, who was deeply involved in every aspect of the show's look and demonstrated once again that he is second only to God in creating a tree.

Russell Wyland, Producer

Eleanore Tapscott, Director

Education Update

It's been wonderful to see how LTA's Shakespeare Garden has matured since its official opening in June of 2017. The red and white roses creeping up the trellis on the auditorium wall are especially magnificent. The plaque next to the garden's iron-gated entrance announces that *The Play's the Thing*, and no better phrase coined by Shakespeare can sum up the amount of 'play' that's taken place this past year, when the garden was turned into an outdoor classroom space.

Tiny tots have listened to and then acted out fairy tales, early elementary children have used the garden's steps as a myriad of imaginary settings – a boat, a cave, even a mayoral office! As the days have grown shorter, older children have enthralled each other with ghost stories. Sticks found among the plants have become wands, benches have been turned into beds, and flowerbeds have become the focus of scavenger hunts as children try to identify the flowers and herbs depicted in the colorful pamphlets. All this takes place under the watchful eye of the etching of William Shakespeare, who presides in the middle of the courtyard.

The Shakespeare Garden is a gift to the theatre from the LTA Council, which also provides partial scholarships for classes, camps, and workshops. For details email Heather Sanderson at bardsplay@gmail.com. Class and workshop information can be found at thelittletheatre.com/education.

Heather Sanderson

Governor for Education



Photos by Heather Sanderson

Governor's Message

Seasonal Planning

Interested in Serving on LTA's 2022 - 2023 Director Selection Committee?

Committee Chair **Franklin Coleman** and I are looking for volunteers to serve on the Director Selection Committee for the 2022 - 2023 season. Applications will be accepted through October 15, 2021.

This committee is responsible for interviewing director candidates for LTA's upcoming season. Committee members will be expected to critically evaluate what each candidate can bring to LTA. The time commitment is December 2021 to March 2022. Much of this work will be done via discussions over email to accommodate committee members' busy schedules. Interviews with applicants may take place via Zoom or in person. Lastly, the committee makes a recommendation to the Board of Governors, and the Board determines the final slate of directors.

You do not need to be a member of or subscriber to LTA to apply, but you must be prepared to join or subscribe if selected. Additionally, if you plan to direct during the season, you cannot serve on the committee. There is one other requirement: we need committee members who are willing and able to use GoogleDocs and email extensively, as well as Zoom, as all director applications will be shared via GoogleDocs, many discussions will take place over email, and applicant interviews may take place via Zoom.

The Timeline

- ♦ October 2021 – Call for directors
- ♦ December 2021 – Committee reads applications and votes on top two to three candidates per show
- ♦ January 2022 – Interviews either via Zoom or in person

The Shows

- ♦ *Something Rotten* – Director selected
- ♦ *A Design for Murder*
- ♦ Holiday-themed production
- ♦ *Sister Act* – Director selected
- ♦ *Lettice and Lovage*
- ♦ *Mary Queen of Scots* – Director selected
- ♦ *The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of Your Prescence at a Celebration of Their First One Hundred Years*

You may be wondering why some of the shows already have directors selected. Due to the pandemic, LTA had to be flexible with its programming to ensure the safety of audience members, actors, crews, and staff. Shows slated in earlier cancelled seasons have been rescheduled and included, with their original directors, in the new season.

If you would like to have some input on what appears on the LTA stage, please [apply](#)! However, there are a limited number of spots on the committee, and we need to ensure that there is a balance between all the different areas of production. Regrettably, we will not be able to accommodate everyone who expresses interest.

If you have questions, please contact us at ltaseasonalplanning@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Franklin C. Coleman, Chair, Director Search Committee
Eleanore Tapscott, Governor for Seasonal Planning

Upcoming Auditions

Bright Star is the story of one woman at two different points in her life: the first, when she is a wild young thing growing up barefoot and carefree in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina; the second, when she is a well-to-do magazine editor in Asheville, 22 years later. Her story is inevitably woven with that of an idealistic young man named Billy, with whom she shares a mysterious connection.

Audition Notes

Please prepare 16 - 32 bars of a song that you feel confident singing and that shows off your voice. It is preferred that you sing in the style of the show and we ask that you do not sing a song from *Bright Star*. You may be asked to share a short story from your life with the intention to showcase your acting abilities. Please note: this can be a personal story or fictitious, or a few options will be provided if should you rather read from a script.

Character Descriptions

Alice Murphy (female presenting, early 30s-40s, about F3-C5): Alice at age 38: an editor of a southern literary magazine; intelligent, keen, professional – but with an air of melancholy. She is a spunky spirit with a strong sense of self. Alice goes after her dreams with an empowered voice. The same actress will also play Young Alice at age 16: rebellious, high-spirited, adventurous – looking to break out of small-town life and experience the world. Must be a very strong singer and comfortable in folk and bluegrass styles.

Billy Cane (male presenting, early 20s, about C3-A4): a soldier returning home from WWII; an aspiring young writer; fresh, open, optimistic, charming, a little naïve. Seeking an actor who moves well and presents strong energy as a dream seeker. Strong mover with a bright, natural bari-tenor.

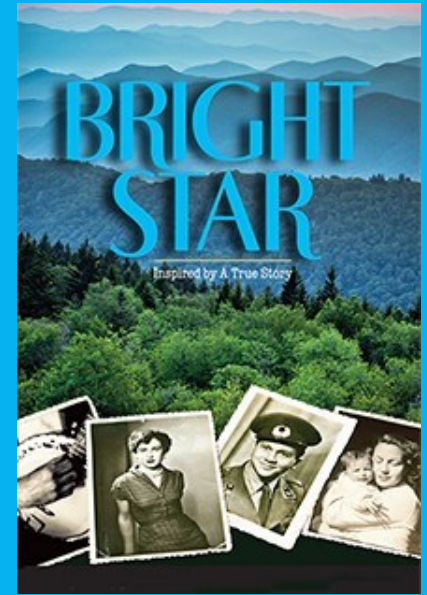
Jimmy Ray Dobbs (male presenting, 30s-40s, about C3-A4): the son of Mayor Dobbs and beau of young Alice. Charming, and intelligent; from a family of wealth and power, being groomed by his father for a similar future in the family business; an independent thinker who is not afraid to stand up for his beliefs and for truth. The same actor will play both roles of young and spunky Jimmy Ray in his 20s, as well as calm and present Jimmy Ray 20 years later. Very strong singer in a pop-folk style, bari-tenor.

Mayor Josiah Dobbs (male presenting, mid 50s-mid 60s, about A2-G4): the Mayor of Zebulon; a political and financial powerbroker – distinguished, even elegant, an imposing and controlling presence; has a genuine interest in protecting his son's future and his family name, but in doing so is ultimately pushed to a point of extreme and irrevocable cruelty.

Margo Crawford (female presenting, early 20s, B3-F#5): a small-town bookstore owner; a childhood friend of Billy's who now harbors romantic feelings towards him; sharp, kind, and an intellect. A sweet, warm folk voice, showcasing the daily turns of young love.

Daryl Ames (open presenting, mid 20s-40, about C3-E4/open): an observant and direct assistant at the *Asheville Southern Journal*. Brings comic relief, is precise and specific in delivery. Dry and witty, with great comic timing.

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January 15 – February 2,
2021

Music, Book, and Story
by Steve Martin
and Edie Brickell

Produced by
Hilary Adams
and Jamie Blake

Directed by
E.J. Jonas

Audition Dates

Saturday, October 23, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 24, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Callbacks

Tuesday, October 26, 2021
7:00 p.m.



Council Corner

It was a little over a year ago that I used my platform as LTA Council Director to advocate and push for increased volunteerism among the Council membership. It was especially important as the theatre was about to step into uncharted territory and launch its “Small Theater for Unusual Times” series in the midst of a pandemic. I asked Council members to step up and help out in any way, shape, or form that would be comfortable and safe for them.

And step up they did!

I recently asked **Donna Hauprich**, the Council’s Recording Secretary, to peruse each of the show programs over the past year and identify Council member volunteers, whether they be front of house, backstage, or on stage.

Over the course of the “Small Theater ...” shows last fall and the four shows produced since the start of the year, 32 Council members (55% of the membership) volunteered to crew a total of 50 times and work front of house a total of 60 times, representing hundreds of volunteer hours. All of this came in the midst of a pandemic.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize those Council volunteers and say thank you to each of them for their ongoing dedication and support of LTA.

Lloyd Bittinger
Jamie Blake
Luana Bossolo
Kacie Carlyle
Margaret Chapman
David Correia
Kimberly Crago
Paul Donahoe
Joel Durgavich
Margaret Evans-Joyce
Peter Fannon

Ira Forstater
Donna Hauprich
Barbara Hayes
Bobbie Herbst
Marian Holmes
Kirk Lambert
Zell Murphy
Jeff Nesmeyer
Patricia Nicklin
Lynn O’Connell
Micheal O’Connor

Benjamin Robles
Heather Sanderson
Jean Schlichting
Mary Beth Smith-Toomey
Margaret Snow
Howard Soroos
Margaret Soroos
Patricia Spencer Smith
Russell Wyland
Kenneth Zabielski

I think that one of the hallmarks of the LTA Council and one of the main things that connects all of us is our love of theater and of LTA. As Council Director, I will continue to encourage our members to demonstrate their commitment through volunteerism – donating their very valuable time and their many talents.

Zell Murphy
LTA Council Director

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Mark Your Calendars

10/16 *Wait Until Dark* opens

10/23 – 10/24 *Bright Star* auditions

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Lucy Grant (female presenting, early 20s-30, A3-D5): vibrant personality with a smart sense of humor. A dynamic and strong dancer/singer. Brings a flirtatious energy to the *Asheville Southern Journal* as a modern working woman. Comfortable and strong belt while dancing.

Daddy Murphy (male presenting, mid 50s-mid 60s, A2-G4): Alice's father; an authoritative and a stern disciplinarian; devout views on the world in regards to family and children, hardworking, a poor but proud farmer.

Mama Murphy (female presenting, 50-mid 60s, G3-C5): Alice's mother. Warm and hardworking woman at the center of her family. A fierce protector of her daughter, who she knows is deeply gifted, but a handful. Comfortable with harmonies.

Daddy Cane (male presenting, mid 40s-60s, C3-A4): Billy's father. A warm, loving country man. Loves to read and is a dedicated father/husband. Has kept a secret for many years and brings simplicity to solitude.

The Ensemble (14-70): looking for a dynamic and multigenerational group of performers. Ensemble members will be utilized as singers, dancers, and movement/foley artists. The ensemble will be asked to move scenery, create lighting effects, and be featured movers throughout the storytelling scenes. The storytelling process will be active and ensemble members should expect to be involved and to sing in multiple features.

Dance Ensemble (14-70): A few of the ensemble members will be featured dancers. Dance technique, partnering experience, and expressive storytelling movement will be featured heavily.

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!