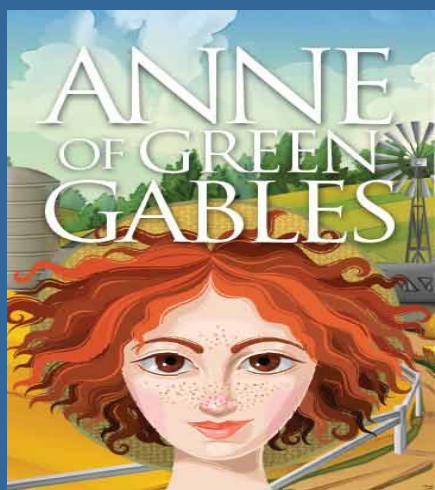




FLOODLIGHT

FEATURED PRODUCTION

December 2017



JANUARY 13 - FEBRUARY 3, 2018

Music by
Norman Campbell

Lyrics by
Don Harron, Norman Campbell,
Elaine Campbell, Mayor Moore

Book by
Don Harron

Produced by
Robert Kraus and Alan Wray

Directed by
Michael J. Baker, Jr.
Musical Direction by
Colin Taylor

Choreographed by
Christina Cayeere

LTA presents this delightful tale of a red-headed orphan girl adopted by the Cuthbert siblings, Marilla and Matthew, who originally wanted a boy to help out on the farm. Despite the mix-up, Anne soon charms the residents of Green Gables and the nearby town of Avonlea with her fun spirit and comical adventures. Director **Michael Baker**, musical director **Colin Taylor**, and choreographer **Christina Cayere** present this enchanting and tuneful musical that the whole family will enjoy.

Joining producers **Robert Kraus** and **Alan Wray** and assistant producer **Charlotte Corneliusen** are the talented and versatile design and production team of **Margaret Evans-Joyce** and **Charles Dragonette** (Stage Managers), **Michelle Hall**, **Mary Ferrara**, and **Rob Cork** (Assistant Stage Managers), **Mary Hutzler** (Set Design), **Jim Hutzler** and **Jeff Nesmeyer** (Set Construction), **Stacy Becker** (Set Painting), **Kit Sibley** and **Jean Schlichting** (Costume Design), **Kadira Coley** (Hair/Wig Design), **Lori Bonnette** (Makeup Design), **David Correia** (Sound Design), **Jennifer Lyman** and **Michael Page** (Lighting Design), **Leslie Reed** and **Rebecca Sheehy** (Properties Design), **Charles Dragonette** (Set Dressing), **Margaret Snow** and **Robin Woo** (Wardrobe), **Russ Wyland** (Rigging), and **Matt Liptak** (Photographer).

The cast includes **Cassie Cope** (Anne Shirley), **Tony Gilbert** (Matthew Cuthbert), **Michelle Ballard** (Marilla Cuthbert), **Christopher Miller** (Gilbert Blythe), **Kate Ives** (Rachel Lynde), **Anna Maria Shockey** (Diana Barry), **Elizabeth Colandene** (Miss Stacy), **Kellie McHugh Dragity** (Mrs. Spencer), **Aerika Saxe** (Mrs. Sloan), **Patricia Lawless** (Mrs. Blewett), **Erica Irving** (Mrs. MacPherson), **Shannon McCarthy** (Mrs. Pye), **Tyler King** (Mr. Phillips/Earl), **Joel Durgavich** (Minister/Stationmaster), **Lucy Breedlove** (Prissy Andrews), **Camille Neumann** (Josie Pye),

(continued on page 5)

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Russell Wyland, President
Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for
Membership
Kirstin Apker, Floodlight
Coordinator
Linda Wells, Floodlight Editor
Next Floodlight January 22nd

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President's Column



Russell
Wyland

Throw Away the Script

I confess, improv (i.e. improvisation) scares me. While I think of myself as a free spirit, I prefer having a script, a routine, a well-considered plan. LTA's mainstage shows – scripted, rehearsed, planned – are my comfort zone, and I wouldn't trade them for the world. And yet there is a different, vibrant side of theater – “a cult,” according to Sarah Holt – that throws away the script, dives into the unknown, and in the process, creates waves of laughter. This other side of theater is alive and well at LTA in the form of improv classes and LTA's own improv troupe. If you aren't familiar with improv, read on.

LTA has sponsored improv classes since 2001. As I recall, the original rationale for these classes was to build speaking confidence and help traditional comic actors explore different techniques. What has blossomed is so much more. I recently visited a class and had my eyes opened. At a time when LTA (and most other theaters in our area) are trying to expand audiences and talent pools, this class reflected a refreshingly broad swath of participants: young, old, white, black, men, and women (and everything in between). They practiced their skills – a unique set of tools and games that trains them to think on their feet and boldly trust their abilities. Best of all, the spirit of the class was unmistakably *community*: diverse actors worked and laughed together, congratulated and encouraged each other. It was a truly positive sense of community.

The improv craze at LTA is the handiwork of **Sarah Holt** and **Keely Kirk**, both of whom have impressive credentials for their work. Holt trained with the famous Groundlings in New York City and was an early member of the Washington Improv Theater (WIT). Kirk was a principal performer with the Laughing Gas Comedy Improv in Miami before decamping to Chicago and training at Second City, the group that gave us so many of the talents on *Saturday Night Live*. Holt and Kirk combined forces almost a decade ago to form LTA's own improv troupe, The Retrocessionists. Approximately once a month, “the Retros” hold public performances in the LTA Green Room on nights when the rest of the theatre is inactive. At first, they attracted audience members who were already familiar with improv – former students, members of other area improv troupes, et cetera – but then word got out. Their most recent show in mid-November included over 50 audience members, many of whom come to LTA only for the improv!

Announcements of upcoming improv performances are made on social media and on the LTA website. (See <http://thelittletheatre.com/performances/#specialevents>).

What's next for improv and The Retrocessionists? Stay tuned as the board, Holt, and Kirk put their heads together about ways to bring improv – and a whole different kind of theater – to a larger LTA audience this spring.

Russell Wyland, President

Upcoming Auditions

From the writer of the critically acclaimed Netflix drama, *The Crown*, playwright Peter Morgan takes you behind the scenes of Buckingham Palace. For the past 60 years, Queen Elizabeth II has met with each of her 12 prime ministers in private weekly meetings. Both parties of the meetings agree to never repeat what is said in these private “audiences.” From Winston Churchill to Margaret Thatcher to David Cameron, Morgan imagines what these meetings would be like as they span decades of the Queen’s reign. Join us as we peer into the woman behind the crown and the moments that have formed the modern monarchy.

For the Audition

Auditionees should prepare a one-minute contemporary monologue. The audition will also include readings from the script. British accents are a plus, but not required. Race is not an issue.

We are not looking for impressions but for actors who can capture the essence of the characters!

If you have a black-and-white headshot and acting résumé, you may bring them with you. However, auditionees may be asked to have their picture taken by the LTA photographer.

Please bring an accurate list of rehearsal conflicts with you to the audition.

Character Descriptions

Queen Elizabeth II: (female, 40s+) A woman who always has to be the grownup in the room. Someone who every day sacrifices her own identity for something larger than herself.

The Equerry: (any sex, any age) The link between the audience and what’s happening on stage. Think of Tom Wingfield meets Puck. Needs to be able to paint a room with their words.

John Major: (male, 50s) Prime Minister by accident. Someone who never wants to disappoint. Likes anonymity.

Winston Churchill: (male, 70s) He’s Winston f%\$*ing Churchill. *Also plays Anthony Eden and a detective.*

Harold Wilson: (male, 50s) Apologetic. Just so happy to be here. Loves to govern and loves government.

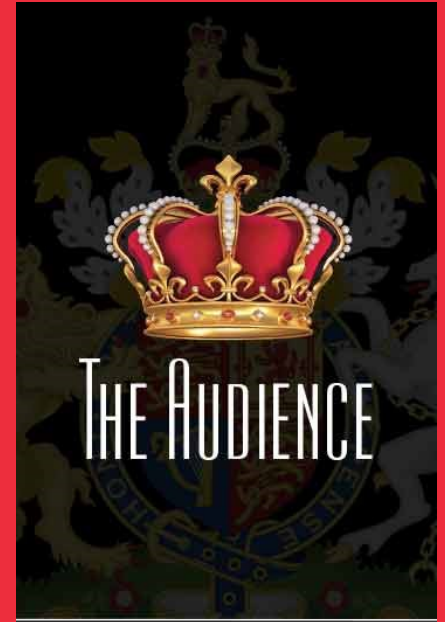
Gordon Brown: (male, 40s) Jolly old chap so we don’t all see through him. Wonkiest of policy wonks. *Doubles as a private secretary.*

Margaret Thatcher: (female, 50s) Six months older than the Queen and don’t you forget it. Never avoids confrontation. *Doubles as Bobo, the Scottish nanny.*

Tony Blair: (male, 40s) The Great Modernizer with his Cheshire cat smile. Does things his way. *Doubles as David Cameron*

Young Elizabeth: (female, 10 - 14) A young woman getting used to life as the Heir Apparent, a position that comes with its growing pains.

FLOODLIGHT



FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 17, 2018

Written by
Peter Morgan

Produced by
Rebecca Sheehy
and Russell Wyland

Directed by
Ruben Vellekoop

Audition Dates

Saturday, December 16, 2017

2:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 17, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Callbacks

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

7:00 p.m.

For additional information or to volunteer for this production, please contact Russell Wyland at RussellWyland@gmail.com.



Thank You from **Vanya and Sonya and Masha and Spike**

On behalf of director **Howard Vincent Kurtz**, we would like to thank all the actors, designers, and crew for their work and dedication on this show and for making it so meaningful. It was truly a team effort, and it was a great pleasure to work with such an amazing and talented group of people. This was a fun and relevant show, and everyone's vision and collaboration brought Bucks County, Pennsylvania, to life in a lovely way. As we portray molecules in the wake of climate change, we project our voices and inhabit our molecular characters.

To **Lynn Lacey** and **Sherry Clarke**, we say thank you for being there for us and for your dedication and due diligence as stage managers, both deliberate and accidental. A hearty welcome to LTA newcomer **John Fernandez**, and thanks for your commitment to set designer

Howard Vincent Kurtz's vision. Thanks also to **John Fernandez** and **Jim Hutzler** for supervising the building of that gorgeous set and to **Sandy Kozel** for the beautiful painting of it. We acknowledge costume designers **Howard Vincent Kurtz** and **Amanda Jarvis** for their lovely work and **Margaret Snow** and her wardrobe crew for making sure the cast got into and out of those fine costumes. **Geoff Baskir's** props were simple and effective, and the set dressing by **Marian Holmes** and **Russ Wyland** made us all feel at home. All of this was bathed in the gorgeous glow of **Jeff Auerbach's** and **Kimberly Crago's** lights. **Alan Wray's** sound design was, as always, delightful.

Finally, we send our appreciation to **Mario Font**, **Lorraine Bouchard**, **Carol Preston**, **Marilyn Pifer**, **John Paul Odle**, and **Hannah Lee Grothaus** for their commitment to their roles in *Vanya and Sonya and Masha and Spike*.

Thank you, everyone!

Genie Baskir and **Elissa Hudson**, Co-Producers

Scottish Christmas Walk 2017

On December 2nd, members of **Heather Sanderson's** youth theater classes and their parents, plus a few other generous volunteers, represented The Little Theatre of Alexandria in the annual Scottish Christmas Walk through Old Town. **Jim Howard**, Governor for Development, coordinated their participation in the parade. Thanks to all our marchers for braving the chill to represent LTA with enthusiasm!



Photos by Heather Sanderson and Jim Howard.



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.

During the past month, the Board of Governors said farewell to Governor for Box Office **Rae Edmonson**. Rae and his family moved west to Loudoun Country. While we expect to see Rae at LTA every now and again, distance (and traffic) convinced him to step down. Even as we said goodbye to Rae, the board appointed **Bobbie Herbst**, a box office veteran, to fill out the remaining portion of Rae's term. We salute Rae and wish him and his family all the best. We also thank Bobbie for agreeing to step into this role.

Much of the board's work in the last month has been on the topic of theatre safety, with several projects falling into that category. Governor for Building **David Hale** recently had new safety lights installed at the Academy. While we can't make the steps less steep, we can light them better to avoid slips and spills. In addition, David continues to work with a fire safety contractor and the Board of Trustees on a long-overdue plan to bring LTA up to code with new fire alarms, sprinklers, and fire-sensing equipment. For her part, Governor for Front of House **De Nicholson-Lamb** is coordinating efforts to schedule more CPR/AED classes for LTA volunteers.

These efforts come against the backdrop of a newly approved and distributed Emergency Evacuation Plan. The heavy lifting on this plan was done by former Governor for Front of House **Jean Coyle**, who completed it just as she stepped down from her position. The plan is now spreading out to all governors, department chairs, house managers, producers, and others so that they can familiarize themselves with the details. Let's hope we never have to use it.

Finally, the board has been trying to find new ways of reminding LTA volunteers to make sure the building is secure whenever they leave. In the past several months, we've had incidents where doors were found unlocked (or even propped open). It is every person's responsibility to make sure the building is secure. When in doubt, lock it.

Like you, board members are looking forward to the holiday season. We wish to thank the Council of The Little Theatre of Alexandria for the beautiful work they did in making our building look festive. The council's outstanding work and support over the years have done so much for LTA, and the board is very grateful.

Finally, we wish you a very happy holiday season and a bright, theater-filled 2018! Remember that tickets, classes, and gift certificates make great gifts.

Russell Wyland, President

Your Board of Governors at Work

(continued from page 1)

Anastasia Tuffin (Gertie Pye), **Katie Kellenberger** (Ruby Gillis), **Sophia Riazi-Sekowski** (Tillie Boulter), **Jake Ehrlich** (Charlie Sloane/Cecil), **Grant Hamilton** (Moody MacPherson), **Kieran O'Dell** (Gerry Buote), **Aaron Eckloff** (Tommy Sloane), **Elyssa Bosco** (Lucilla Harris), **Harry MacInnis** (Billy), **Katherine Gould** (Susie), **Rae Venna** (Mimi), **Eva Jaber** (Eva), **Brielle Kirk** (Brielle), **Janet Cooper** (Janny), **Sophia R. Meller** (Sophia), and **Emma Lacey** (Erin).

LTA Holiday Party

Sunday, December 17, 2017

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

LTA Green Room (Council Room)

Join us for festive merriment guaranteed to put Mr. Fezziwig's party planning skills to shame!
No RSVP necessary, just make plans to join us
on December 17th!

Governor's Message Production

The Little Theatre of Alexandria has a long and respected history of producing plays and musicals that appeal to a very wide audience. Our subscription season typically consists of seven productions: two musicals, one drama, three comedies, and one "wild card" (maybe a mystery). We also have a non-subscription seasonal play that started out as a fundraiser and is now a production that's eligible for our in-house LTA Awards. Other non-subscription productions may be added at the discretion of the Board of Governors. Such additions might include a one-act play competition, a late-night show, a series of one-act plays, an improv evening, or another one-time event.

For each production, the Board of Governors approves the director, producer(s), musical director, and choreographer. The Governor for Production is the primary liaison between the production staff and the Board of Governors, although all governors have specific interests in each production.

The Governor for Production is responsible for identifying and recruiting producers. Wait for it ... wait for it ... BINGO ... just what I want to talk about with you. The Board of Governors has selected our next season. It is making sure we can get the rights to each play and musical. We will then select directors and then producers!

You are probably saying to yourself right now, "Who, me? A producer? Where do I start?" Well, to put your mind at ease, LTA has a fantastic production manual that will guide you step by step. There are usually two producers per show. The tasks are meant to be divided and each producer has their tasks to fulfill. The key to a great production team is communication.

If you are interested in producing, email me at mevansjoyce@yahoo.com. Producers with experience, please also let me know that you are interested. It's a grand season.

Margaret Evans-Joyce
Governor for Production

New Members

Michelle Ballard	Patricia Lawless
Elyssa Bosco	Harry MacInnis
Elizabeth Colandene	Shannon McCarthy
Janet Cooper	Christopher Miller
Samantha David	Camille Newmann
Aaron Eckloff	Steve Palkovitz
Mariah Fraker	Sophia Riazi-Sekowski
Erica Irving	Anna Maria Shockey
Eva Jaber	Cristina Shockey
Katie Kellenberger	Amina Tafrawe
Brielle Kirk	Karen Toth
Keely Kirk	

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Council Corner

The holidays will soon be over, and I want to thank all the council elves and LTA members/guests who helped put the decorations up and take the decorations down. Special thanks to **Tina Anderson** and **Sharon Field** who co-chaired the event, to **Brooke Angel** for coordinating the outside decorations, and to **Luana Bossolo** for taking care of the inside of the theatre. Fun was had by all, with food, libations, and great conversations!

In the last *Floodlight*, I mentioned that the Council was working on a special event. Things have been coming together, and we are pleased to let you know that we will be hosting a special matinee on Saturday, June 16, 2018. **Lars Klores**, actor and LTA member, has written a new play that premiered at the Capital Fringe Festival last summer. It was so popular that three additional performances were added and the show was moved to a larger venue.

The show is entitled ***Orson the Magnificent – The Magic of Orson Welles***.

As Fringe Festival reviewer Ben Demers wrote in DC Theatre Scene, “You probably know Orson Welles for *Citizen Kane* and *War of the Worlds*, but did you know he was also an accomplished magician? In *Orson the Magnificent*, consummate showman Lars Klores takes audiences on an utterly enjoyable ride through Welles’ lifelong love of illusions, laced with awe-inspiring tricks and a

captivating history of magicians in America.”

More details about ticket prices, how to order tickets, and the time for the matinee will be coming in a few months. For now, mark “June 16th matinee performance” on your calendar, or you will regret that you didn’t!

In other news, the council has formed the Shakespeare Garden Committee consisting of **Lloyd Bittinger** (chair), **Tina Anderson**, **Robert Kraus**, **David McCallum**, **Heather Sanderson**, and myself. Our goal is to maintain and enhance the Shakespeare Garden in the courtyard. Lots of great ideas came from our first meeting! Last year, we were asked to hold another “Buy a Brick” campaign, so we will do that sometime this spring.

The next council meeting is February 17, 2018. At that time we will elect our director and financial officer for two-year terms. See you there.

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



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

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Business Office: 703-683-5778 x2

Fax: 703-683-1378

www.thelittletheatre.com

Mark Your Calendars

12/16 – 12/17	Auditions for <i>The Audience</i>
12/17	LTA Holiday Party
1/13	<i>Anne of Green Gables</i> opens
2/17	Council of LTA meeting and elections

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!