



FLOODLIGHT

FEATURED PRODUCTION

August 2018

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 8 - 23, 2018

Written by
Tracy Letts

Produced by
Lloyd Bittinger

Directed by
Susan Devine

Our next production is *August: Osage County*, a Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning play about Beverly and Violet Weston and the family they created and ultimately destroyed. The history of the Weston family is revealed when the three Weston daughters return home after their father Beverly goes missing. As they await the outcome of the search, the past is revealed through the stories they tell, the accusations they make, and the futures they choose. Exploring how our past is our prologue, the play shows how difficult it is to escape our families of origin. Although tragic, it includes a lot of comic relief.

Producer **Lloyd Bittinger** and Director **Susan Devine** are very pleased to announce an amazing cast and crew: **Fred C. Lash** (Beverly Weston), **Diane Sams** (Violet Weston), **Nicky McDonnell** (Barbara Fordham), **Michael Fisher** (Bill Fordham), **Camille Neumann** (Jean Fordham), **Carlotta Capuano** (Ivy Weston), **Elizabeth Keith** (Karen Weston), **Gayle Nichols-Grimes** (Mattie Fae Aiken), **Tom Flatt** (Charlie Aiken), **Greg Wilczynski** (Little Charles Aiken), **Katarina Frustaci** (Johnna Monevata), **Eric Kennedy** (Steve Heidebrecht), and **Paul Donahoe** (Sheriff Deon Gilbeau).

The production staff includes Stage Managers **Joan Lada** and **Sherry Clarke**, Assistant to the Director and Assistant Props Designer **Laura Fargotstein**, Lighting Designer **Franklin Coleman**, Master Electrician **Micheal J. O'Connor**, Sound Designer **Alan Wray**, Costume Designer **Beverley Benda**, Wardrobe Chief **Margaret Snow**, Set Designer and Set Builder **Dan Remmers**, Set Dresser **Charles Dragonette**, Props Designer **Margaret Chapman**, Makeup Designer **Robin Maline**, Set Painter **Mary Speed**, Stage Combat Choreographer **Steve Lada**, Photographer **Matt Liptak**, Rigger **Russell Wyland**, Rehearsal Assistant **Lorenn Hess**, Double Tech Dinner Caterer **Lawrence O. Grey, Jr.**, and Opening Night Party Caterer **David McCallum**.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Russell Wyland, President

Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for
Membership

Kirstin Apker, *Floodlight* Coordinator

Linda Wells, *Floodlight* Editor

Next Floodlight September 10th

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President's Column



Russell
Wyland

The Answer Is: Communication

Communication. It is the right answer to almost every question and every challenge facing any organization. Does LTA need more volunteers? Communicate more. Does LTA want more audience members? Communicate more. Does LTA want to connect new volunteers with the shows that need them? Communicate more. It's so simple! If we just are better communicators, we will create a theatrical utopia in the middle of Old Town. Alas, it is much easier said than done.

The biggest challenge right now is audience numbers. Across the D.C. area, theaters – both community and professional – are battling for a smaller audience. There are many hypotheses about why our audiences are shrinking: a general malaise/exhaustion, concerns about job security, the declining number of older audience members not being replaced by younger members. At LTA, we have been working on all these areas through better communication: letting people know that we are putting more tickets on discount sites, keeping subscription rates flat this year and with only the most modest of increases in the coming year, appealing to new audiences by trying new shows and new types of theater, finding new ways of communicating to audiences who might not think of LTA when they ask the question, "What should I do tonight?"

At the end of the day, however, one type of communication matters most – the communication of one happy audience member to a potential audience member. Did you see a good show at LTA? Tell your co-workers and acquaintances, tell your Facebook friends, tell your followers on Twitter. Remind them that tickets to high-quality theater don't have to break the bank. LTA offers high-quality, meaningful theater for \$21 to \$34 per performance (compared to \$100, if you're lucky, at professional theaters). That, my friends, is communication that will matter.

My colleagues on the Board and I will continue to think of new ways to tell people what we do and how we do it. If you get a chance to help us in this effort, please do.

Finally, I want to publicly thank the team that puts the *Floodlight* together. **Kirstin Apker** and **Linda Wells** have done a remarkable job of keeping the communication flow moving at LTA. In an article on the importance of communication, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge their incredible work.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Russell Wyland, President

New Members

Emmy Kampe

Stephanie Koehler-Backus

Amy Lapthorne

Carlos Ramirez

Janae Witcher

Alexandra Whittington

Upcoming Auditions

Dracula is a suspenseful, seductive, gothic horror tale of the struggle of a group of mortals against a powerful vampire. The residents of London try to piece together the clues of Dracula's appearances and growing influence in a valiant attempt to save themselves and their loved ones from a hideous fate.

For the Audition

Please prepare a one- to two-minute dramatic monologue.

All characters will use accents: Dutch for Van Helsing, Eastern European for Dracula, and British for all other characters. Feel free to audition using a character-appropriate accent if you are able. An accent coach will be available to those who are cast.

Please bring a headshot and résumé, if possible, and be ready to list all conflicts during the rehearsal and performance period of August, September, October, and November. Three to five rehearsals per week will be scheduled on weeknights and midday weekends from August 15th to October 12th, around the cast's conflicts.

Character Descriptions

Renfield: (Male, 25 - 50) A lunatic in thrall to Dracula, locked in an asylum run by Seward. He believes his master, Dracula, will give him eternal life, and in the meantime he consumes "life" by eating flies, spiders, and birds.

Mina Murray: (Female, 18 - 25) Fiancée of Jonathan Harker and friend of Lucy, a serious, ambitious woman. She is educated, driven, focused, and logical, but not joyless. She is an orphan and working class. She is protective of Lucy.

Lucy Westenra: (Female, 18 - 25) A friend of Mina, an energetic, young, innocent ingénue with three suitors. She is in love with the idea of love and enjoys all the male attention she is receiving. She is rich, spoiled, and used to indulging her whims.

Jonathan Harker: (Male, 20 - 30) Fiancé of Mina, an earnest young solicitor sent to do business with Dracula. He is eager to gain experience, achieve success, and finally be able to marry.

Dr. John Seward: (Male, 25 - 35) A suitor of Lucy, a doctor in charge of a lunatic asylum and a former student of Van Helsing. He is intelligent, determined, and certain of his abilities. He has studied dream interpretation and hypnosis and is driven to understand madness.

Count Dracula: (Male, 30 - 50) A Transylvanian noble who has purchased a house in London. A powerful, regal, enigmatic, figure. He is well read, but has been apart from society for centuries and so seems archaic. He is enticing, appealing, and seductive.

(continued on page 4)



DRACULA

OCTOBER 13 - NOVEMBER 3, 2018

Written by
Steven Dietz

Produced by
Charlotte Corneliussen
and Nick Friedlander

Directed by
Jennifer Lyman

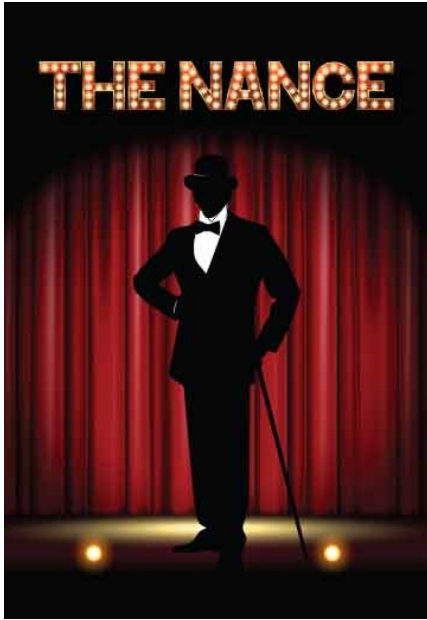
Audition Dates

Saturday, August 11, 2018
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 12, 2018
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Callbacks

Tuesday, August 14, 2018
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.



Thank You from *The Nance*

The last lights are turned off and the final song and dance numbers are done at The Irving Place Theater. We will all remember the good times and hope for more.

Many thanks to all the cast, crew, staff, musicians, and many behind-the-scenes volunteers who helped to make *The Nance* one of the most awesome experiences we have ever had the opportunity to be part of. This production will live with us for a long time.

Just goodbye...

Mary Beth Smith-Toomey, Producer

Frank D. Shutts II, Director

Christopher A. Tomasino, Music Director

Stefan Sittig, Choreographer

Matthew Popkin, Conductor

(continued from page 3)

Abraham Van Helsing: (Male 30 - 50) A doctor, lawyer, and professor from Amsterdam, the former teacher of Dr. Seward. He is restrained, analytical, and emotionally reserved. He is driven to solve mysteries.

Ensemble: 1 Male and 2 Females, 20 - 40, to play multiple roles such as Attendants, Maids, Villagers, Vixens (Brides of Dracula), and Corpses, as well as to help backstage with special effects and scene changes.

NVTA One-Act Play Festival

LTA was the brightest star at this year's NVTA One-Act Play Festival. The theatre entered two shows this year: *Dr. Scott*, written by **Aaron Scully** and directed by **Kate Ives**, and *Not Relative*, written by **Gary Kluger** and directed by **Juli Tarabek Blacker**. The shows were performed on Friday, July 20th, and Saturday, July 21st.

At the awards ceremony held at the James Lee Community Center on Sunday, July 22nd, *Dr. Scott* won six awards including Best Lead Actor (**Robert Smith**), Best Supporting Actress (**Nikki Simmons**), Best Supporting Actor (**Matt Neufeld**), Best Social Commentary, Best Director (**Kate Ives**), and Best Overall Production. The show was also nominated for Best Ensemble, Most Potential, Best Original Script, and Best Original Production.

Not Relative received a nomination for Best Social Commentary.

In addition, Producer **Brooke Angel** was nominated for Best Lead Actress for the one-woman monologue *Lessons I Learned From My Mother: Forgiveness*, and she was awarded a Best Volunteer award for her efforts and years of service to the NVTA One-Act Competition.

Brooke Angel, Co-Producer

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.

Forget the Village, It Takes a Small City

The July meeting of the Board was devoted to getting a winning team of department heads and committee chairs approved.

The following have been approved as members of the Board: Governor **Rachel Alberts** (President Pro Tem), **Jamie Blake** (Executive Secretary), **Carolyn Winters** (Board Secretary), **David Hale** (Treasurer), and **Barbara Helsing** (Archivist).

For the technical areas of the theatre, the Board approved **Beverley Benda** (Keyboard Chair), **Jeff Auerbach** and **Kimberly Crago** (Lighting Co-Chairs), **Alan Wray** and **David Correia** (Sound Co-Chairs), **Art Snow** (Special Effects Chair), **Jim Hutzler** and **Dan Remmers** (Shop Co-Chairs), **Russell Wyland** (Rigging Chair), **Jim Hart** and **Jay Bartol** (AV Co-Chairs), **Mary Hutzler** and **Leslie Reed** (Paint Co-Chairs), **Bobbie Herbst** and **Nicole Zuchetto** (Props Co-Chairs), **Jean Schlichting** and **Kit Sibley** (Wardrobe Co-Chairs), **Robin Maline** and **Susan Boyd** (Wigs and Make-up Co-Chairs), **Annie Vroom** and **Hilary Adams** (Costume Co-Chairs), and **Charles Dragonette**, **Judy Kee**, and **Kirstin Apker** (Set Decoration Co-Chairs).

Other chairs and coordinators include **Mary Hutzler** (Building Committee Chair), **Brendan Quinn** (Inventory and Bar Coordinator), **Lynn O'Connell** (Training Chair and Director Selection Chair), **Kristina Freidgen** (Play Selection Chair), **Frank Pasqualino** (One-Act Chair and NVTa Representative), **Kira Simon** (Awards Chair), **Ashley Amidon** (NextGen Chair), **Sherry Clarke** (Audition Coordinator), **Beverley Benda** (Academy Manager and Special Events Coordinator), **Fred Lash** (Marketing Chair), **Bobbie Herbst** (Playbill Coordinator), and **Kirstin Apker** (*Floodlight* Coordinator).

It's a winning team, and the Board is both grateful and eager to see what these devoted volunteers can do in the coming year.

Russell Wyland, President

Your Board of Governors at Work

Volunteer Appreciation Party



On Sunday, July 8th, LTA held its annual Front of House and Box Office Volunteer Appreciation Party. These volunteers are the face of LTA and help ensure that our patrons have a pleasant experience each time they see a show. What better way to thank them than with a party? Thanks to **Crissy Wilke**, **David Hale**, **De Nicholson-Lamb**, **Russ Wyland**, **Sharon Field**, and **Bobbie Herbst** for their help with this enjoyable event!

Tina McCrea, Business Manager

LTA Summer Camps Scrapbook



Photos provided by Tina McCrea

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Council Corner

Carolyn Winters
LTA Council Director
The Arts Build Communities

The “Buy a Brick” campaign is over! Fifteen new bricks will be installed in the courtyard at the beginning of August. The last “show” brick to be installed in the garden is for *The Nance*. Thanks again to **Tina Anderson** and **Lloyd Bittinger** for all the work they do to keep the Shakespeare Garden looking beautiful. Lloyd is open to any suggestions you might have for enhancing the courtyard.

Orson the Magnificent – The Magic of Orson Welles was a wonderful show. About 140 people were in the audience, and what an enthusiastic group they were! The talkback at the end of the show was great, and we all came away knowing a little bit more about Orson Welles.

As I write this article, I am thinking about our Council’s executive committee. I am preparing for the *Jesus Christ Superstar* double tech dinner, **Tina Anderson** just had laser eye surgery, **Lloyd Bittinger** is producing *August: Osage County*, and **Margaret Evans-Joyce** is producing *Jesus Christ Superstar* and then heading to Ireland with the Alexandria Singers! I am so pleased to be associated with such caring and active volunteers.

Our next Council meeting is Sunday, September 30th. At our meeting in June, there were 54 Council members in attendance. (That’s all the restaurant can hold.)

It’s traditional that we select a chair for the nominating committee. The positions of Vice Director and Recording Secretary will be open. So start thinking whether you would like to serve on the executive committee for the Council. It’s actually a lot of fun.

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
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Alexandria, VA 22314

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Mark Your Calendars

8/11 – 8/12	<i>Dracula</i> auditions
9/8	<i>August: Osage County</i> opens
9/22 – 9/23	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> auditions
9/30	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!