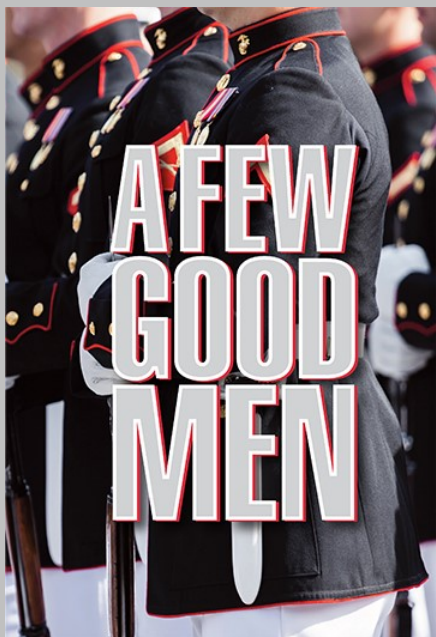




# FLOODLIGHT

## FEATURED PRODUCTION

August 2019



SEPTEMBER 7 - 28, 2019

Written by  
Aaron Sorkin

Produced by  
Robert Kraus

Directed by  
Kathleen Barth

You CAN handle the truth: *A Few Good Men* is coming to LTA! Come see the infamous courtroom in person, and get immersed in the world of the military. Director **Kathleen Barth** and Assistant Director **Rishabh Bajekal** breathe life into the witty words of Aaron Sorkin's script, with the help of Producer **Robert Kraus**, Co-Assistant Producers **Carol Clark**, **Katie Kellenberger**, and **Sam Jensen**, and Co-Stage Managers **Charles Dragonette** and **Peter Leresche**. Set Designer **John Downing**, Master Carpenter **Julie Fischer**, Set Painter **Mona Wargo**, and Set Decorator **Donna Reynolds** team up to take you from Guantanamo Bay to Washington, D.C., faster than any public transportation could dream of, and Lighting Designer **Ari McSherry** and Sound Designer **Krista White**, assisted by **Keith Bell**, bring you the light and sound to make you feel as though you're really there. Props Designer **Emma Williams** will dazzle you with amazing pieces, while Makeup and Hair Designer **Charlotte Corneliusen**, Costume Designer **Farrell Hartigan**, and Wardrobe Coordinator **Robin Worthington** will make the cast look fabulous and sharp. Military Advisor **Patrick Hogan** will have everyone standing at attention, Fight Coordinator **Michael Donahue** will keep everyone safe, and our Double Tech Dinner Coordinator **Monty Montgomery** will make sure everyone is fed. Finally, you won't want to miss Photographer **Ari McSherry's** striking production images.

You'll see some familiar faces onstage along with some fresh ones. The cast includes **Brendan Quinn** as Kaffee, **Miguel Rosario** as Kendrick, **Emma Wesslund** as Jo (with **Abbie Mulberg** understudying), **Nicholas Temple** as Ross, **John Paul Odle** as Dawson, **Jonathan Mulberg** as Weinberg, **Jeff Haslow** as Markinson, **Cliff Rieger** as Randolph, **Christian Kampe** as Howard, **Jared Diallo** as Downey, **Edwin Kindler** as Santiago, **Robert Montgomery** as Stone, **David Kimmelman** as Jessup, **Fred Lash** as Whitaker, and ensemble members **Johnny Goodwin**, **Ketrina Childs**, and **Patrick Hogan**.

### The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Russell Wyland, President

Brendan Quinn, Governor for  
Membership

Kirstin Apker, *Floodlight* Coordinator

Linda Wells, *Floodlight* Editor

*Next Floodlight* September 16th

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703-683-0496**

# President's Column



Russell  
Wyland

## Thinking about the Summer Musical

The summer musical is a type all its own. First and foremost, it is big – it fills our dressing rooms, it puts unbelievable demands on our resources, and it poses problems that we aren't sure how to solve.

LTA has a long history of presenting demanding summer musicals. Just before I arrived at LTA, we produced *West Side Story* for the first time. The late **Roland Branford Gomez**, the director, used to recall how the orchestra in the wings had to be on multiple levels. Once the set builder was finished building the set, he had to build the multi-story orchestra pit. Roland talked about the show with pride, but it clearly taxed the theatre and its technical (and special) capabilities. My first summer musical, *A Chorus Line*, had rotating mirror sections that caused great consternation during tech week, as I recall, but they dazzled audiences when the show finally opened.

A recurring theme to our summer musicals seems to be seemingly biting off more than we can chew. Is that such a bad thing? Being at LTA every night for the three weeks leading up to the opening of *The Producers* and often feeling that this summer's musical was just too much, I was reminded how the blood, sweat, and tears give way to joy, satisfaction, and the feeling of a job well done. With its resources, LTA is able to overcome more challenges than many other theaters, and the long run means that our singers, dancers, and actors get to really sink their teeth into their craft. And of course, we have often been rewarded for our ambition. Five summer musicals since 2000 were particularly well decorated. *The Coconuts* (2002), directed by **Christopher Dykton**, won both the Ruby Griffith Award for best overall production and the WATCH award for best musical. Other WATCH winners for best musical include *Cabaret* (2004), directed by **Frank Shutts**, *Hairspray* (2011), directed by **Sue Pinkman**, *Monty Python's Spamalot* (2014), directed by **Wade Corder**, and *In the Heights* (2015), also directed by **Frank Shutts**. In years when the LTA musical didn't win the top award, it was almost always nominated.

We shouldn't be afraid of an ambitious summer musical. LTA's team can do amazing things when we work together. The real beneficiaries are our audience members. Seeing *The Producers* on Broadway or the Kennedy Center isn't an option for many. Our ambition means that Alexandria audiences have access to great work.

To all those involved in *The Producers*, thank you.

**Russell Wyland**, President

# Upcoming Auditions

No one ever visits Hill House, especially not after dark. When three strangers are invited to join the mysterious Dr. Montague at the eerie house on the hill, not even their darkest dreams could have prepared them for what awaits. Based on the 1959 gothic horror novel by Shirley Jackson, and considered one of the best ghost stories of our time, this story is a chilling and mystifying study in mounting terror. Come join us – if you dare.

## For the Audition

Auditions will be cold readings from the script. We are looking for actors who can convey dry humor and emotional depth in the span of a few short lines.

## Character Descriptions

**Eleanor Vance:** (Late 20s to early 30s) She is a childlike, neurotic woman who has spent most of her adult life taking care of her ailing mother who has recently passed. Hill House is an opportunity to find adventure, or home.

**Mrs. Dudley:** (35+) She is the cook and housekeeper of Hill House (during the day). Exacting, foreboding and vampirish ... but sometimes comically so.

**Theodora “just Theodora”:** (Anywhere between 25 to 35) She is Eleanor’s opposite in every way. A glamorous and worldly woman who is eerily perceptive and intuitive.

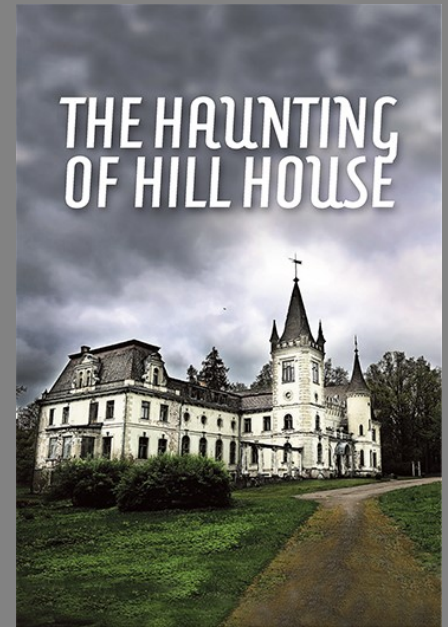
**Dr. Montague:** (40+) He is a familiar professor type. A man who seeks to find the truth about Hill House, but will enjoy a brandy while doing so.

**Luke Sanderson:** (Late 20s to late 30s) He is funny, a drinker and a bit of a cad, but charming. He will inherit Hill House one day.

**Mrs. Montague:** (35 to 40+) She is Dr. Montague’s wife, an overbearing woman who is perhaps more enthralled by the paranormal than her husband. Her methods are different, sometimes comical. Passive-aggressive and dramatic.

**Arthur Parker:** (35+) He is Mrs. Montague’s close friend. Ultra-masculine in a bumbling sort of way.

If you have questions, email the producers at [kenstace@comcast.net](mailto:kenstace@comcast.net) or [akwrayman@yahoo.com](mailto:akwrayman@yahoo.com).



**OCTOBER 19 - NOVEMBER 9, 2019**

Adapted for the stage  
by F. Andrew Leslie

From the novel  
by Shirley Jackson

Produced by  
Stacey Becker  
and Alan Wray

Directed by  
Maggie Mumford

## Audition Dates

Saturday, August 10, 2019

2:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 11, 2019

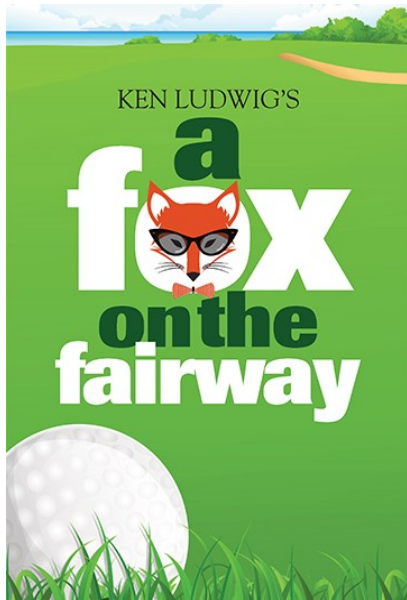
7:00 p.m.

## Callbacks

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

7:00 p.m.





## Thank You from *A Fox on the Fairway*

The putters are put away. The plaid pants have been returned to the costume room (thank goodness). And the cast and crew have adjourned to the 19th hole at Quail Valley Country Club.

It is with great joy and some sadness that co-producers **Luana Bossolo** and **Russell Wyland** and director **Scott Strausbaugh** say thank you to all involved in Ken Ludwig's golf-themed farce. Special thanks goes to **Ken Brown**, who built that amazing set in a week, allowing the cast and crew to get on the stage a full week earlier than anticipated.

In closing, the cast and crew offer one last golf joke: Why did the golfer wear two pairs of trousers? In case he got a hole in one.

Many thanks,

From the Management of Quail Valley Country Club

## Calling All House Managers and Ushers!

Have you heard about our new contest? Every time you usher, your name will be placed into a raffle drawing for a prize. House managers will be entered twice for each time they volunteer. The first prize is brunch for four at Laporta's, valued at over \$100! There will be a drawing for each show. So if you usher five times, your name will be entered five times. If you house manage two times, your name will be entered four times. Assistant house managers are treated the same as ushers. Sign-ups are located at <http://thelittletheatre.com/opportunities/#volunteer>.

## Ruby Griffith Awards

On July 14th, the British Players presented the 50th annual Ruby Griffith Awards for Excellence in Community Theatre at the Bretton Woods Recreation Center in Germantown, Maryland. Out of 21 companies that participated in the adjudication process, LTA received the award for Outstanding Achievement in a Play for its spring production of Evan's Smith's *The Savannah Disputation*. Congratulations to Co-Producers **Lynn O'Connell** and **Kevin O'Dowd**, Director **Will Jarred**, and the entire cast and crew for this well-deserved recognition of their excellence!

Members of *The Savannah Disputation*'s cast and crew celebrate their big win. Top row: Lynn O'Connell, Will Jarred, and Kevin O'Dowd. Bottom row: Mary Jo Morgan, Patricia Spencer Smith, and Franklin Coleman. Photo from Lynn O'Connell.



## 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).

## The New Board

The newly constituted Board of Governors met for the first time in July. It was a long meeting, filled with important administrative business, and several important items were discussed.

- ♦ For those who have not heard, the Campagna Center – our good neighbor along South Washington Street – reported that they have decided to renovate their current building and stay put. This means that the proposed condominium development is no longer an issue.
- ♦ **Charlie Dragonette** was approved as the new archivist, and it is the Board's hope that there will be a renewed emphasis on LTA's history, perhaps even including historical notes in upcoming issues of the *Floodlight*.
- ♦ Starting in the next issue of the *Floodlight*, in order to be more transparent about LTA business, the Board column will become a summary of the meeting.
- ♦ The project of renovating the women's restroom took a step forward with the Board reviewing the offers submitted so far by area contractors. The goal is to improve the facilities between the closing of *A Christmas Carol* and the opening of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*.

Each Board member put forward a new slate of committee chairs. The Board thanks all the outgoing chairs who have devoted time and energy to making LTA a better place and welcomes the incoming chairs. A full list of chairs will be published on the website and/or in the *Floodlight* soon.

**Russell Wyland**, President

# Your Board of Governors at Work

## New Members

Cheryl Bolt	Patricia Espinet	Ryan Phillips
Steve Cairns	Chad Friedman	Erin Pugh
Gina Cavallaro	Anna Gray	Chad Ramsey
Margaret Chapman	Carla Gray	Shannon Robichaud
Teagan Chirnos	Michael Gray	Lucia Rogers
Shah Choudhury	Thomas Gray	Michael Sarisky
Michael Cooper	Brittany Huffman	James Schuler
Brian Delp	Timothy King	Denise Settle
Darryl DeRose	Colleen Kleveno	Edward Settle
Karen Deluca	Drake Leach	Brandon Steele
Sirena Dib	Anne McPherson	Kathleen West

## Governor's Message Building

As I sit down to bring you, the membership, up to date on the state of our building, I begin my second year in this governorship. Of the many positions I have held at LTA, including president, this one is the most time-consuming. Hardly a day passes that I do not hear of some issue that needs to be addressed with our 58-year-old building or the garages that we own or the Academy building that we lease.

Let me pause here to thank **Tina McCrea** and **Chrissy Wilke**, our front office staff, who help resolve the myriad of issues that arise daily. Thank you! And while I am thanking people, I have to thank our wonderful Building Committee headed expertly by **Mary Hutzler** and her committee members **Myke Taister**, **Luana Bossolo**, and **Carolyn Winters**. Thank you!

If you haven't noticed, there is new carpet in the auditorium, in the foyer, up the stairs, and in the classroom. I think it looks lovely, and with the masterly installation we received by the same company who installed the carpet in the visitor's center at Mount Vernon, we expect it to serve us well for many, many years.

Furthermore, the theatre and its management, producers, and stage managers have almost figured out the new smoke detector/fire system. It sort of has a hair trigger that ordinary theatre doings set off: special effects like vapor, sometimes fog, putting up ladders, and other routine things. Let me thank those who have taken the time to figure out this beast. It may be burdensome, but we all want to protect our biggest asset!

In addition to the fixes and upgrades here and there, the committee has one more major project happening this winter: the renovation of the ladies room! Bids are coming in and we hope to have selected the winning vendor within the next month. The Council committed the first \$15,000 towards the cost, and the Board expects to ante up to another \$30,000.

Why the renovation? Ask any female member or patron who uses that facility! They will tell you the layout isn't conducive to efficient use, which causes the long lines and the complicated dances that go on when ladies are trying maneuver from stall to sink to mirror and out. The room could also benefit from better ventilation and waste disposal receptacles.

If all goes as planned, Santa will bring our ladies a nice new bathroom, with a colonial décor, for Christmas!

After that, we plan to go into "maintenance mode" and let our coffers expand a bit. Although Shakespeare said, "There is money. Spend it!" it is clearly evident that our treasurer doesn't share his sentiment. To this end, we are looking at ways to save on routine costs like waste management.

Finally, I am working on implementing an online work request form to make it easier to report issues. Look for that to roll out in the spring.

That's all for now. Ask me tomorrow – there will be something new to report!

**Frank D. Shutts, II**  
Governor for Building



## Council Corner

A great time was had by all at the last Council meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 6th at Tempo Restaurant in Alexandria. Vice Chair **Mary Beth Smith-Toomey** will be mailing out menu choices in early September.

The Council's finances look good. Sometime in December or January, we will be writing a check for \$15,000 as our contribution to the renovation of the ladies restroom. Council members **Mary Hutzler** and **Luana Bossolo** have been busy these past few months sending out RFPs and talking to contractors. Thank you for all your hard work.

**Tina Anderson** has been busy with our Buy a Brick campaign. The last six bricks were installed July 15th. Meanwhile, **Lloyd Bittinger**, our Financial Director and chair of the Shakespeare Garden, has been working on the idea of public art on the wall of the theatre.

Even though it's still summer, we have started planning our annual holiday decorating of the theatre! Our little group of elves will gather on November 23rd from noon until 2:00 p.m. to trim the outside of the building and to decorate the Council (Green) Room and the lobby. We will be taking down the decorations on January 4th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided both days.

Let's see ... is anyone interested in chairing the Nominating Committee? The Executive Committee would like to appoint someone before our October meeting. The offices that we will vote on during the February meeting include our Director and our Financial Officer.

Special thanks to Council members who also serve on the Board of Governors: **Ira Forstater**, **Robert Kraus**, and **Brendan Quinn**. Also, let's all thank **Margaret Evans-Joyce** for taking the Council's minutes!

Stay cool, everyone, and we will see you at *A Few Good Men*!

**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**

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

8/10 - 8/11	<i>The Haunting of Hill House</i> auditions
9/7	<i>A Few Good Men</i> opens
10/6	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 2019 – 2020 season are:

President.....	Russell Wyland
Governor for Artistic Support.....	Susan Boyd
Governor for Box Office.....	Ira Forstater
Governor for Building.....	Frank D. Shutts II
Governor for Development.....	Sarah Holt
Governor for Education.....	Michael J. Baker, Jr.
Governor for Front of House.....	Robert Kraus
Governor for Membership.....	Brendan Quinn
Governor for Production.....	Alan Wray
Governor for Public Relations.....	Rachel Alberts
Governor for Seasonal Planning.....	Ashley Amidon
Governor for Technical Support.....	Ken Crowley

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:**

**Brendan Quinn,  
Governor for Membership  
[brquinn@optonline.net](mailto:brquinn@optonline.net)**

**Thank you for your service!**