



FLOODLIGHT

FEATURED PRODUCTION

January 2018



FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 17, 2018

Written by
Peter Morgan

Produced by
Rebecca Sheehy
and Russell Wyland

Directed by
Ruben Vellekoop

Co-producers **Rebecca Sheehy** and **Russell Wyland** and director **Ruben Vellekoop** are excited to present *The Audience*. From playwright Peter Morgan (creator of the critically acclaimed Netflix drama, *The Crown*), *The Audience* takes us inside Buckingham Palace's royal apartments where, for the past 60 years, Queen Elizabeth II has met privately with her prime ministers in weekly meetings. From Winston Churchill to David Cameron, Morgan imagines what these meetings must have been like as they span the queen's reign. Join us for a witty and poignant peek at the moments that have formed the modern monarchy and recent British political history.

The production is led by stage managers **Joan Lada** and **Christine Farrell**.

Marian Holmes serves as the assistant producer. The set is designed and built by Sir **Ken Brown**, Lady **Stacy Becker** will furnish the royal apartment and design props, and **Luana Bossolo** and **Kathy Murphy** will serve as the royal paint designers. The costuming ladies-in-waiting are **Ceci Alberts** and **Lisa Brownsword**, and **Jamie Blake** and **Donna Hauprich** serve as the royal wardrobe mistresses. Lighting the drawing room at Buckingham Palace are **Ken** and **Patti Crowley** with master electrician Dame **Pam Leonwich**.

Russell Wyland will serve as royal rigger. Last, but not least, Sir **Alan Wray** will provide the sound.

Leading the cast is **Nicky McDonnell** (Queen Elizabeth). Supporting the queen are **Evie Graham Jewett** (Young Elizabeth) and **Paul Donohoe** (Equerry). Surrounding the queen are her prime ministers: **Will Cooke** (Harold Wilson), **Robert Heinly** (Sir Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden), **Richard Isaacs** (Tony Blair and David Cameron), **Kirk Lambert** (Gordon Brown), **Brian Lyons-Burke** (John Major), and **Janette Moman** (Margaret Thatcher).

If you are interested in working on *The Audience*, contact Russ at rwylend@mindspring.com, Rebecca at rsheehy997@gmail.com, or the LTA business office.

Order Your
Tickets Now!
Call the Box Office
703-683-0496

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Russell Wyland, President
Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for
Membership
Kirstin Apker, Floodlight
Coordinator
Linda Wells, Floodlight Editor
Next Floodlight March 18th

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President's Column



Russell
Wyland

Resolutions for a Bright New Year

With the beginning of 2018, I have decided to make some LTA-related resolutions. In the coming year, I resolve to:

1. **Say thank you more often.** By my count, one LTA show needs over 160 volunteers – backstage crew members, ushers, house managers, actors, designers, box office personnel, et cetera. Moreover, there are about 25 different standing and ad hoc committees working to maintain and strengthen specific departments and perform certain tasks. LTA is blessed to have so many people willing to support its mission, and their only payment is a word of thanks. Most people don't want fanfare, but they want to be appreciated. In the coming year, therefore, I resolve to acknowledge good works both large and small.
2. **Learn a new technical skill.** LTA has advanced technical capabilities in most of its backstage departments. There is always more to learn. For me, I have never worked on lights, there are areas of set construction that are foreign to me, and it has been a long time since I operated a sewing machine. In the coming year, I resolve to add a new technical skill to my repertoire.
3. **Volunteer as a house manager.** One group of unsung heroes at LTA is its house managers. While audiences enjoy the show, house managers spend their time in a darkened lobby, prepared for any eventuality. As audience members stream out at the end of the show, the house manager is there to smile and to make sure everyone exits safely. What makes them so valuable, however, is that they are the first defense in an emergency and, along with the ushers and box office personnel, house managers are some of LTA's best customer service representatives. That's a group I want to be a part of, and I resolve to be in their number in 2018.
4. **Support the Alexandria businesses that support LTA.** So many great businesses support LTA. When I open my playbill to read about the cast and crew, I am going to read the ads too. Our advertisers are friends of LTA. In the coming year, I resolve to patronize the Alexandria businesses that support LTA (and thank them for it).
5. **Bring a friend to a production.** We all know that the best advertising is word of mouth, but why not take it one step further by showing them (not just telling them) what LTA is all about? The coming year is filled with great productions, and I resolve to bring at least one friend to an LTA production. Who knows? That person might become a regular.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I want to wish all LTA members and supporters a very happy 2018, and I encourage you to come up with your own list of theater-related resolutions.

Russell Wyland, President

New Members

Lucy Breedlove

Kellie McHugh Dragity

Kathryne Gould

Sophia Meller

Upcoming Auditions

Harvey is the story of a perfect gentleman, Elwood P. Dowd, and his best friend, Harvey – a pooka, who is a six-foot-tall, invisible rabbit. When Elwood begins introducing Harvey around town, his embarrassed sister, Veta Louise, and her daughter, Myrtle Mae, determine to commit Elwood to a sanitarium. A mistake is made, however, and Veta is committed rather than Elwood! Eventually, the mistake is realized, and a frantic search begins for Elwood and the invisible pooka, which ends with Elwood appearing, voluntarily, at the sanitarium. In the end, however, Veta realizes that she loves her brother and his invisible best friend just as they are, and doesn't want either of them to change.

For the Audition

Those auditioning should prepare a one- to two-minute memorized monologue and be prepared to read from the script. Each actor must also provide a theatrical resume, a headshot (if available), and a list of personal conflicts between February 25th and May 13th.

Character Descriptions

Elwood P. Dowd: (35 - 55) The central character of the play, a charming eccentric whose best friend is Harvey, an invisible six-foot-tall rabbit. Elwood is well mannered, very friendly, and has "old school gentleman" charm. He is Veta's older brother.

Dr. William B. Chumley: (50 - 80) An esteemed psychiatrist with years of experience and the head of Chumley's Rest. He is a difficult, exacting man who will go to any length to protect the reputation of his sanitarium.

Dr. Lyman Sanderson: (20 - 35) A young and highly qualified psychiatrist, handpicked by Dr. Chumley. His talent is only surpassed by his vanity. He is as infatuated with Nurse Kelly as she is with him, though he struggles not to let on.

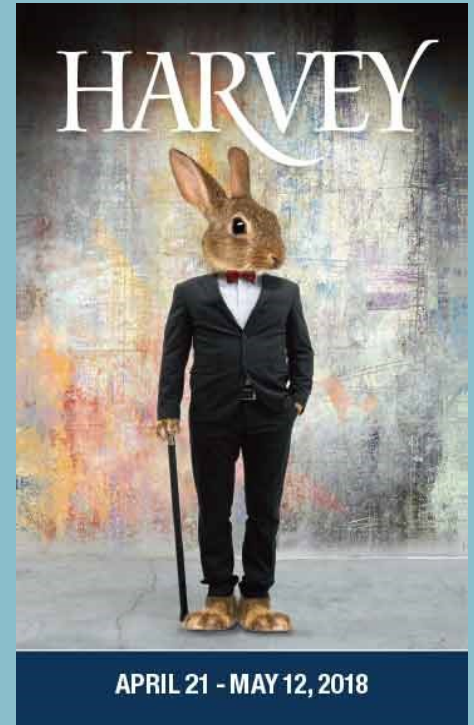
Wilson: (20 - 50) The muscle of Chumley's Rest, a devoted orderly responsible for handling the patients who will not cooperate voluntarily. He sets his sights on Myrtle Mae Simmons soon after meeting her.

Judge Omar Gaffney: (40 - 80) An old family friend of the Dowds and the family's lawyer. He is fiercely protective of the family and surprisingly understanding of Elwood's belief in Harvey.

E. J. Lofgren: (25 - 60) A cab driver whose monologue about sanitarium passengers is crucial to the climax of the play. This role has a single scene near the very end and would have a limited rehearsal schedule.

Veta Louise Simmons: (35 - 55) Elwood's younger sister, who has returned to the family home after the death of her mother and is intent on landing a suitable husband for her daughter, Myrtle Mae. Veta is very concerned about fitting into society and all the social proprieties that that involves. She also loves her older brother Elwood very much. This is the dynamic that drives the action of the play.

(continued on page 4)



Written by

Mary Chase

Produced by

Rachel Alberts
and Bobbie Herbst

Directed by

Frank Pasqualino

Audition Dates

Saturday, February 24, 2018

2:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 25, 2018

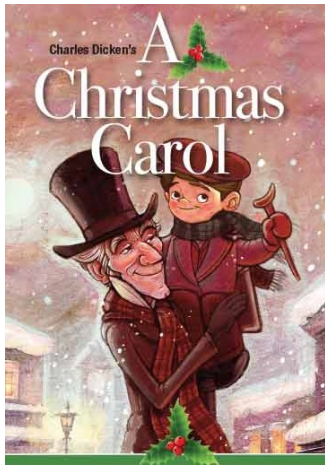
7:00 p.m.

Callbacks

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

7:00 p.m.

For additional information or to volunteer for this production, please contact Rachel Alberts at rachelaclu@gmail.com.



Thank You from *A Christmas Carol*

A big thank you to all of you who participated as audience members in the 2017 version of *A Christmas Carol* at LTA. We truly hope you enjoyed your visit to the Charles Dickens world of the 1800s. On behalf of director **Eleanore Tapscott**, we thank the wonderful, dedicated – and large – cast who were perfectly cast in their roles and the talented crew members who supported them. A tremendous thank you also to the parents of the child actors who volunteered many, many hours of their busy lives ensuring that the children were at all the rehearsals and performances – and on stage – at the right time! The spirits have danced off, to return again next December.

Maria Ciarrocchi and Jean Coyle, Co-Producers

(continued from page 3)

Ruth Kelly: (18 - 25) A sympathetic character, a pretty young nurse who has a love/hate relationship with Dr. Sanderson. She is sweet and kind and looks for the best in people.

Myrtle Mae Simmons: (18 - 25) Veta's daughter (Elwood's niece). Both Veta and Myrtle are about the business of finding Myrtle a man to marry – a mission that is made impossible with Elwood and Harvey constantly popping in. Myrtle is extremely self-centered. She is usually played by a younger actress.

Ethel Chauvenet: (50 - 80) An old friend of the family. She is an elite member of the town's social circle that Veta desperately wants Myrtle to break into.

Betty Chumley: (50 - 80) Dr. Chumley's kind and talkative wife.

Ladies Night 2017

The ladies of the LTA community had their annual holiday gathering on December 11th at Tempo Restaurant in Alexandria. They dined on fettuccini Bolognese, butternut squash lasagna, veal scaloppini, roast leg of duck, and more before indulging in various luscious desserts and exchanging gifts. As always, special thanks goes to **Margaret Evans-Joyce** and **Carolyn Winters** for hosting the festivities!



(Above) **Jennifer Lyman** and **Jean Schlichting**. (Right) **Rachel Alberts** and **Bobbie Herbst**.



(Above) **Becky Patton** and **Patricia Spencer Smith**. Photos by Tina McCrea.



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.

Elsewhere in this issue of the *Floodlight*, the Governor for Public Relations has announced LTA's 2018/2019 season. The Board is very excited about these productions, but seasons are never arrived at without pain and surprises. Here is a quick overview of how the current season came into being.

The first decision the Board makes is the method for choosing the season. Over the years, methods have varied. In some years, the Board has selected committee members to read and

recommend plays and musicals. In other years, we have asked directors to come to us with their suggestions. Many of you probably recall that we have also asked members and subscribers to vote on options. This year, Governor for Seasonal Planning **Ashley Amidon** suggested holding an "open call" for committee members as a way to bring new voices to the process. The Board agreed, and in August the committee – led by **Lynn O'Connell** – was off to the races.

After reading and discussing a daunting number of options, the committee recommended a slate of 14 shows, two possibilities for each of the seven slots. The baton was passed to the Board, and as dictated in our bylaws, the Board had to weigh its options and choose the season. This is where the process can become muddled.

In making its decision, the Board considered many factors, including cast size and composition, achievability of technical challenges, the likelihood of attracting top-flight talent (directors, producers, actors, and designers), the marketability of the shows, and, above all, the chance for financial success. This last one is the most important, but it doesn't necessarily trump all other considerations, nor does the Board have some magic way of knowing what shows might be box office successes. Put another way, these decisions are not an exact science. Some shows will attract the best talent, but might not have general name recognition. Some shows might have name recognition, but it is unclear if actors and directors are interested.

And then there are other discussions based on what the Board thinks audiences might like to see. This year, for example, we wondered if traditional farces with typical erotic innuendos and lecherous leading men might be inappropriate when the headlines are filled with examples of sexual misconduct. Sometimes life mimics theater a bit too closely. The Board was also convinced that in a time of seemingly endless upsetting news, perhaps laughter and escape should be key considerations. (Thus, even this year's dramas have a good dose of comedy in them.) In the end, the Board agreed with the choices sent to us by the committee, and we thank them for their hard work.

But wait! The process didn't end there! Once the season was chosen, the business manager and treasurer negotiated the rights to stage the shows. In most cases, this is easily done, but this year, two of the original shows were not available for unexpected reasons. So the Board wasn't finished. It returned to the start of the process, identified new shows, and began looking again. This process concluded in late December, when all the pieces eventually fell into place.

Choosing a season is arguably the most important action the Board takes, and the buck stops with the governors. That's why the Board spends a significant amount of time and energy in November and December crafting a season. The Board wants to thank **Lynn O'Connell** and her committee for their hard work, Business Manager **Tina McCrea** and Treasurer **David Hale** for negotiating fair rates, and our members, in advance, for supporting a season that is exciting and full of opportunity.

Russell Wyland, President

Your Board of Governors at Work

Governor's Message

Public Relations

ANNOUNCING LTA's 2018/2019 SEASON AND CALL FOR DIRECTORS

It is with great enthusiasm that we, the LTA Board of Governors, announce the 2018/2019 season. We extend much appreciation and thanks to **Ashley Amidon** and **Lynn O'Connell** and their wonderful hardworking Play Reading Committee: **Eleanore Tapscott, Kathleen Barth, Jim Howard, Susan Devine, Fred Lash, Sarah Holt, Franklin Coleman, and Matt Liptak.**

Jesus Christ Superstar (July 2018)

August: Osage County (September 2018)

Dracula (October 2018)

A Christmas Carol (December 2018)

The Fantasticks (January/February 2019)

You Can't Take It With You (March 2019)

The Savannah Disputation (April/May 2019)

The Fox on the Fairway (June 2019)

Call for Directors: Directors should submit a concept statement (one to three pages in length), along with their theatrical/directing résumés by January 26, 2018. Interviews will take place in February 2018. Please submit your items to Business Manager **Tina McCrea** at Tina@thelittletheatre.com. Please direct general inquiries and questions to **Kristina Friedgen** at kmfriedgen@gmail.com.

Rachel Alberts

Governor for Public Relations

WATCH Nominations

Outstanding Set Construction in a Musical: **Jim Hutzler** and **Jeff Nesmeyer** – *Anything Goes*

Outstanding Set Construction in a Play: **Tom O'Reilly** – *Driving Miss Daisy*

Outstanding Set Decoration in a Musical: **Jocelyn Steiner** – *The Fabulous Lipitones*

Outstanding Lighting Design in a Play: **Marzanne Claiborne** – *Driving Miss Daisy*

Outstanding Costume Design in a Musical: **Jean Schlichting** and **Kit Sibley** – *Anything Goes*

Outstanding Makeup Design in a Play: **Susan Boyd** – *Driving Miss Daisy*

Outstanding Hair Design in a Musical: **Kit Sibley** – *Anything Goes*

Outstanding Hair Design in a Play: **Susan Boyd** – *Driving Miss Daisy*

Outstanding Cameo in a Musical: **Sean Garcia** as "Kyle" – *Legally Blonde*

Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical: **Katherine Lipovsky** as "Paulette Bonafonte" – *Legally Blonde*

Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical: **Ken Kemp** as "Moonface Martin" – *Anything Goes*; **Kaylen Morgan** as "Emmett Forrest" – *Legally Blonde*

Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical: **Morgan Arrivillaga** as "Elle Woods" – *Legally Blonde*; **Mara Stewart** as "Reno Sweeney" – *Anything Goes*

Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play: **Patricia Kratzer** as "Daisy Werthan" – *Driving Miss Daisy*

Outstanding Lead Actor in a Play: **Kevin Sockwell** as "Hoke Coleburn" – *Driving Miss Daisy*

Outstanding Choreography: **Stefan Sittig** – *Anything Goes*; **Stefan Sittig** – *Legally Blonde*

Outstanding Direction of a Musical: **Hans Bachman** – *Legally Blonde*; **Stefan Sittig** – *Anything Goes*

Outstanding Musical: *Anything Goes*; *Legally Blonde*

Outstanding Play: *Driving Miss Daisy*



Council Corner

Carolyn Winters
LTA Council Director
The Arts Build Communities

The holiday decorations were beautiful this year! Special thanks to **Sharon Field, Tina Anderson, Luana Bossolo, and Brooke Angel** for coordinating the putting up and taking down of the decorations. The new Christmas tree looked great! The following council members also worked hard in making our theatre so special for the holiday season: **Scott Markley, Rance Willis, Lloyd Bittinger, Frank Winters, Kacie Greenwood, Jim Pearson, Jayn Rife, Sherry Singer, Emma Baskir, Genie Baskir, Geoff Baskir, Art Snow, and Margaret Snow.** Special thanks to **Mary Hutzler** for the beautiful Christmas cactus! Next year, we hope to have a few new decorations.

The Council will get together in February to elect our new vice director and financial officer. The Executive Committee has updated the Policies and Procedures Manual. We hope to have this updated version sent out to council members prior to the winter meeting so we can approve the revision.

Lloyd Bittinger, our Shakespeare Garden committee chair, has been working with committee members **Heather Sanderson, David McCallum, Tina Anderson, Robert Kraus**, and myself to make some improvements to the garden. Spring isn't that far away.

The Shakespeare Garden's "Buy a Brick" campaign starts in late April. Summer brings our council fundraiser, ***Orson the Magnificent – The Magic of Orson Welles!***

LTA Food Drive a Success!

With the blessings of the Board of Governors and the producers, LTA teacher **Roberta Masters-Cullen** held an inaugural food drive during the run of *A Christmas Carol*. Supported by **Tina McCrea** and **Crissy Wilke** in the Business Office and **De Nicholson-Lamb**, Governor for Front of House, a bin for non-perishable food donations was placed in the Green Room during December. Through the generosity of patrons attending the show and families of the students participating in Roberta's and **Heather Sanderson's** December classes, 50 pounds of much-needed food was collected and donated to United Community Ministries' food pantry for distribution to their clients.



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

Mark Your Calendars

1/26	Deadline for director proposals
2/17	LTA Council meeting and elections
2/24	<i>The Audience</i> opens
2/24 – 2/25	Auditions for <i>Harvey</i>

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!