



# FLOODLIGHT

## FEATURED PRODUCTION

March 2018



Written by  
Mary Chase

Produced by  
Rachel Alberts  
and Bobbie Herbst

Directed by  
Frank Pasqualino

*Harvey*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy by Mary Chase, is the story of a perfect gentleman, Elwood P. Dowd. Imaginary friends can be whoever – or whatever – you want them to be. When Elwood starts introducing his imaginary friend, Harvey, to guests at a party, his sister can no longer tolerate his inebriated antics. However, after years of living with Elwood (and Harvey), she begins to start “seeing” the invisible rabbit herself. *Harvey* is a sweet, charming and whimsical story, with many surprises (as well as comic doses of wisdom) along the way, as everyone questions just what exactly is real. This lovely winsome comedy will cast a satisfying spell.

Producers **Rachel Alberts** and **Bobbie Herbst** and Director **Frank Pasqualino** are excited to introduce their outstanding production team: **Christine Farrell** and **Sherry Clarke** (Stage Managers), **Stacey Becker** (Assistant Producer), **Hollyann Bucci** (Assistant Director), **Matt Liptak** (Set Design), **Jim Hutzler** and **Jeff Nesmeyer** (Master Carpenters), **Ken and Patti Crowley** (Lighting Design), **Jean Schlichting** and **Kit Sibley** (Costume Design), **Margaret Snow** (Wardrobe), **Margaret Chapman** (Properties Design), **Alan Wray** (Sound Design), **Mary Hutzler** and **Luana Bossolo** (Paint Design), **Jocelyn Steiner** (Set Dressing), **Pam Leonowich** (Master Electrician), **Susan Boyd** (Makeup and Hair Design), **Art Snow** (Special Effects), **Eddie Page** (Opening Night Party), **Becky Patton** (Double-Tech Dinner), and **Russell Wyland** (Rigging).

Our cast includes the amazing talents of **Andy Izquierdo** (Elwood P. Dowd), **Rachael Hubbard** (Veta Louise Simmons), **Chuck Leonard** (Dr. William B. Chumley), **Catherine Gilbert** (Myrtle Mae Simmons), **Chris Andersen** (Dr. Lyman Sanderson), **Lindsey Doane** (Ruth Kelly, R.N.), **Tony Gilbert** (Judge Omar Gaffney), **Patricia Spencer Smith** (Mrs. Betty Chumley), **Mary Jo Morgan** (Mrs. Ethel Chauvenet), **Brendan Quinn** (Duane Wilson), and **David Featherston** (E. J. Lofgren). It’s a wonderful mix of familiar and new faces.

You won’t want to miss *Harvey*!

### The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Russell Wyland, President  
Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for  
Membership  
Kirstin Apker, Floodlight  
Coordinator  
Linda Wells, Floodlight Editor  
*Next Floodlight April 30th*

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Tickets Now!  
Call the Box Office  
703-683-0496**

# President's Column



# Russell Wyland

## The Whole is Greater than the Sum of Its Parts

As I write this, a Thursday night audience has settled in for a performance of *The Audience*. The action on stage might have just started, but action behind the scenes began several hours earlier.

I arrived at LTA at 6:15 p.m. to find Donna, the wardrobe mistress, finishing the day's laundry and ironing costumes. The actors are going to look great for tonight's performance. Ken, the set builder, is also here; he is checking the set to make certain that everything operates as it should. Much to my surprise and delight, I find Sue hidden away in the dressing room, comb in hand, giving a quick refresh to the wig styles that she designed. Right on time, the other crew members begin to arrive: one stage manager (Christine), two assistant stage managers (Eli and Joel), sound and lights (Gene and Donna, respectively), and props and wardrobe (Sherry and Margaret, likewise).

As I walk out to the lobby, I see Ira, tonight's house manager, talking with Caterina and Michelle, tonight's box office personnel. Soon, I see Leslie and Ann as they fill pitchers and test scanners. They are tonight's ushers and, too often, the only LTA workers to interact with our audience members.

While most audience members see eight actors on the stage plus a few volunteers working at the front of the house, I see eight actors and twice that many other people making tonight's performance happen. It's a beautiful sight, and no single person – actor or techie or designer or other volunteer – could make this happen on his/her own. And when the audience applauds at the end of this evening's performance, it will be clear that what happens onstage is greater than the sum of all the people who worked on the show. That's stage magic.

I think it is important to be reminded of the magic and what it takes to make it happen. If you already volunteer at LTA, thank you for being part of the magic. If you don't currently volunteer, I invite you to become part of the magic – a part of a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.

**Russell Wyland**, President



## Baby News

Our Box Office Manager, **Crissy Wilke**, and her husband **Tom** are delighted to share that they are expecting their second child. Baby Boy Wilke is due in early April and will join his older brother, **Scotty**, who just turned three years old. We wish Crissy and Tom all the best as they anticipate the next phase of the adventure that is parenthood, and we look forward to welcoming the newest member of our theatre family very soon!

# Upcoming Auditions

Come be part of the D.C. premiere of this riveting play! Here is your opportunity to perform vaudeville and burlesque! Playwright Douglas Carter Beane has created a fictional examination of what life was like for a semi-closeted gay actor in 1930s New York. Using the backdrop of vaudeville and burlesque and the volatile politics of the day, Beane uses comic sketches, striptease, and riveting drama to remind us that personal and artistic freedom wasn't easily won and that repression is always lurking.

## For the Audition

Actors will read from the script.

## Character Descriptions

**Chauncey Miles:** (Male, 45 - 55) The Nance, an actor who plays high-camp gay men in vaudeville/burlesque comedy routines. (The nance is to vaudeville and the "pansy craze" what blackface was to minstrel shows.) With his self-loathing and self-destructive politics, Chauncey is a comic genius onstage but a troubled soul offstage. While his timing is spot-on and his wordplay easy, Chauncey just can't seem to get out of his own way. This role requires an experienced actor who can sing.

**Ned:** (Male, 25 - 30) Attractive and not terribly sophisticated, Ned is a country boy in the city. He is earnest and has a great work ethic, and is emotionally open and vulnerable. Despite his physical strength, he often appears dense but is very smart. As a performer in sketches, he must have natural flair for burlesque comedy as both comic and straight man. Note: Nudity is required.

**Efram:** (Male, 50 - 60) Jewish, a performer and a business man who runs the "artistic side" of the Irving Place Theater. Efram is a natural worrier and fretter and has a Damon Runyon quality to his speech. Onstage, he must be able to handle "top banana" style burlesque comedy. He has a tough exterior but a good heart.

**Sylvie:** (Female 35 - 59) A burlesque stripper, Sylvie is a Catholic Communist from the outer boroughs of New York who has not had an easy life. She possesses a real no-nonsense vocal quality with a New York accent. The actress playing Sylvie must be comfortable with movement and with wearing very little clothing for the striptease sequences. Sylvie is a strong presence who can hold her own in an argument. Some singing required.

**Carmen:** (Female, 20 - 46) A burlesque stripper, born in New Jersey but of Latin descent, she can put on and take off the Latina accent as the situation (in life or in a sketch) permits. She has a big heart but has not had an easy life. The actress playing Carmen must be comfortable with movement and with wearing very little clothing for striptease sequences. Some singing involved.

**Joanie:** (Female, 20 - 39) A burlesque stripper, she has a wonderful Gracie Allen/Jean Arthur quality that makes her a natural for sketches. She is borderline blasé and sort of takes things as they come. The actress who plays Joanie must be comfortable with movement and with wearing very little clothing for striptease sequences. Some singing involved.



Written by  
Douglas Carter Beane

Produced by  
Mary Beth Smith-Toomey

Directed by  
Frank D. Shutts II

Musical Direction by  
Christopher A. Tomasino

Choreographed by  
Stefan Sittig

## Audition Dates

Saturday, April 7, 2018

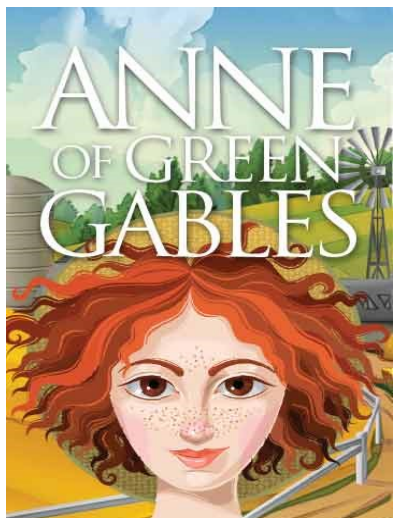
2:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 8, 2018

7:00 p.m.

If you want to work on this production, please contact our producer, Mary Beth, at [mbstoomey@yahoo.com](mailto:mbstoomey@yahoo.com), using "The Nance Production Help" in the subject line.





## Thank You from *Anne of Green Gables*

As we say good-bye to Avonlea and to Anne (with an “e”), we hope you enjoyed this whimsical and magical time and place. Thank you to everyone who had the opportunity to come and see the production and to have their own magical experiences. On behalf of ourselves and the director, **Michael J. Baker, Jr.**, we’d like to thank our dedicated choreographer, musical director, designers, orchestra, and backstage crew for their hard work in bringing that wonderful world to life. We also owe a tremendous debt to our young actors’ parents, who provided a lot of support to the theatre and to their children. Finally, we extend a huge thank you to our cast, who put so many hours into making the people of Avonlea real.

**Robert Kraus and Alan Wray**, Co-Producers

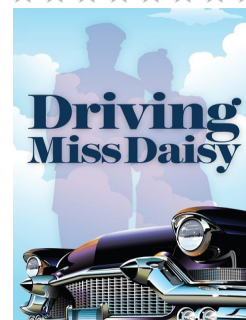
## LTA WATCH Award Winners

Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical

**Mara Stewart** as “Reno Sweeney” – *Anything Goes*

Outstanding Lead Actor in a Play

**Kevin Sockwell** as “Hoke Coleburn” – *Driving Miss Daisy*



## George Washington Birthday Parade 2018



We had a great turnout for the George Washington Birthday Parade in Old Town thanks to my angel, **Heather Sanderson**. **Annie Vroom** provided costumes galore with help from **Lloyd Thompson-Taylor**. Heather and Annie have been my rocks for the past five years of parades, and I can’t thank these volunteers enough!

**Jim Howard**, Governor for Development



Photos by  
Heather  
Sanderson



## 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).

## Solving Long-Standing Problems

Anyone involved with an established volunteer organization will attest that sometimes things are done simply because ... that's the way things are done. Occasionally, even problems become institutionalized instead of being solved. One such problem at LTA has been the timing according to which our season is chosen. By custom, the Board has always waited until July to form a play selection committee. This gives the new board members and president – both of whom have terms beginning July 1st – the opportunity to choose members of the committee. The timing, however, puts the Board in a bind. To come to a well-considered decision, the committee can't have a season ready for the Board until November or December. This arrangement means that directors can't be selected until January or February, and producers must then be chosen in haste in March. This is how it has been for years, and Board members have always complained about how this arrangement puts LTA at a disadvantage for finding directors and producers.

This year, however, the Board decided to stop complaining about the problem and, instead, to solve it. **Ashley Amidon**, Governor for Seasonal Planning, formed a play selection committee in February, with a plan to have a slate of shows ready for the Board this summer. This action pulled the process several months ahead of schedule and gives the Board new options moving forward. Stay tuned for where this new procedure takes us.

Even as Governor Amidon and her selection committee are thinking about plays for LTA's 2019 - 2020 season, Governor for Production **Margaret Evans-Joyce** is recruiting producers and production staff members for 2018 - 2019. If you are interested in learning how to produce or working in some other capacity during the coming season, please let MEJ know.

Other Board members are also looking to the future. Governor for Building **David Hale** is finalizing the timing for the installation of the fire protection system. It is a complicated project, and the goal is to not disrupt audiences or students. Governor for Membership **Maria Ciarrocchi** has begun planning the next annual meeting, which is only three short months away, and Governor for Development **Jim Howard** has started to plan for the annual sponsor lottery, promoting our new season to a group of organizations eager to partner with LTA.

Governor for Education **Mike Baker** is working with camp director **Michael Page** to finalize this year's exciting slate of summer camps. If you know parents who want to enroll their child in a rich theatrical experience, tell them about our summer camps, which are among the best in Maryland, D.C., and northern Virginia.

Finally, Governor for Box Office **Bobbie Herbst** is leading a dedicated and talented team, including **Lloyd Bittinger** and **Ira Forstater**, to cover the vacancy left while **Crissy Wilke**, LTA's Box Office Manager, is out on maternity leave. Many thanks to Bobbie, Lloyd, and Ira for ensuring that LTA's vital functions continue even as we eagerly await the newest member of the theatre family.

**Russell Wyland**, President

# Your Board of Governors at Work

## New Members

Will Cooke

Evie Graham Jewett

Ayesha Johnson

Ephraim Johnson

Angela Klosek

Bryan Lyons-Burke

Elizabeth Mitchell

Dolores Mulkerin

Tom Mulkerin

Barbara Ortiz

## Governor's Message Membership

We'd like to proudly introduce you to NextGenLTA (formerly the Millennial Committee), whose main objective is to find creative ways to introduce our fantastic LTA community to the next generation of volunteers and subscribers.

How are we going to do this, you ask? NextGenLTA aims to provide events and programs geared towards actors, techies, audience members, and lovers of theater ages 18 - 40.

Here's what we have planned for 2018:

### Pre-Show Happy Hours

For each show in the LTA season, we will pick a night to host a pre-show happy hour at a local bar and then head to the theatre for the 8:00 p.m. performance. Want to join? Contact our social chair **Brendan Quinn** at [brquinn@optonline.net](mailto:brquinn@optonline.net).

### Late Night the Week of March 9 - 11th

At 10:00 p.m. on Friday, March 9th, immediately following the performance of *The Audience*, we held our "British Invasion" Cabaret, which featured musical theater songs from across the pond.

At 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 10th, and 8:00 p.m. on Monday, March 12th, we hosted a night of one acts. Featuring two shows written by women and directed by directors under 40, NextGenLTA was proud to present the premiere of *Webster's Bitch* and *The Burnouts*. For advance notice of tickets for future shows, please email [newtheatervoices@gmail.com](mailto:newtheatervoices@gmail.com).

### Lessons and Cocktails

On Sunday evenings throughout April and May, we will host cocktail hours with introductions to different LTA departments. This includes costumes, directing, producing, improvisation, and many more. If you are interested in volunteering but don't know where to start, this will be a great way to jump in! For more information please contact [nextgenlta@gmail.com](mailto:nextgenlta@gmail.com).

This is just a little snapshot of what we've been working on. We're looking forward to rolling out new programs and events to support and grown the LTA community. If you are under 40 and want to get involved, please contact **Ashley Amidon** at [nextgenlta@gmail.com](mailto:nextgenlta@gmail.com).

**Maria Ciarrocchi**, Governor for Membership

**Ashley Amidon**, NextGenLTA Chair

## Got Grandkids Visiting This Summer?

Or perhaps nieces, nephews, or faraway family friends with children? Our LTA summer camps offer amazing weeks of creative fun that takes the stress out of keeping the kids busy AND gives you a chance to see them onstage at the end of the week! Talk about a win-win! So go ahead and suggest that the parents have a staycation while our enthusiastic and experienced instructors keep the kids acting, singing, and dancing to their heart's content. DramaTots are the youngest in our troupe (aged 3 - 5), and children up to 8th grade have a cornucopia of camps to choose from, depending on which week they'll be in town. Some camps are full-day, while some are half-day and can be combined with a second camp for a full day of fun. Before- and after-care are also available for busy families. For complete camp descriptions and pricing, please visit the website, [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com), or call Tina during office hours at 703-683-5778 x 2. Registration is now open!





## Council Corner

The Council met in February and elected **Lloyd Bittinger** as financial officer and myself as director. Our terms of office are for two years. Many thanks to **Sharon Field** for being our financial officer for the last four years!

The Council approved spending an additional \$2,000 on our Shakespeare Garden. **Lloyd Bittinger** is the chair of the committee, and his fellow members include **Tina Anderson**, **David McCallum**, and **Heather Sanderson**. On the brick wall they plan to put three trellises, with New Dawn Roses climbing up the trellises. Dwarf boxwoods will be planted between the trellises, and a sundial will be placed in the garden near the auditorium door.

The Council will be hosting a matinee performance of *Orson the Magnificent – The Magic of Orson Welles* as a fundraiser here at LTA on Saturday, June 16th, at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$18.00 and can be purchased at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/Orson-the-Magnificent-the-magic-of-Orson-Welles-tickets-39941672618>. Order your tickets early as this will be a sold-out show!

On April 13th (Shakespeare's birthday) we will be kicking off our second "Buy a Brick" campaign. Last year we raised money to plant the Shakespeare Garden, and this year we are raising money to continue maintenance and enhancements to this special garden that is open to our community. Buying a brick is a great way

to honor a special occasion or special people in your life, display your favorite Shakespearean quote, remind yourself of favorite shows at LTA, or place your own name in the garden for remembrance. **Myke Taister** has designed a beautiful new brochure about the garden which will be available soon. **Tina Anderson** and **Kacie Greenwood** will be working on publicity, and **Lloyd Bittinger** will handle the finances and the installation of the bricks.

You can order your brick online and pay by credit card at: [www.bricksrus.com/order/thelittletheatre](http://www.bricksrus.com/order/thelittletheatre).

**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

4/7 – 4/8	Auditions for <i>The Nance</i>
4/13	Council of LTA's "Buy a Brick" campaign begins
4/21	<i>Harvey</i> opens
6/16	<i>Orson the Magnificent</i> – <i>The Magic of Orson</i> Welles fundraiser

## 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](mailto:mariabelle22@gmail.com)

**Thank you for your service!**