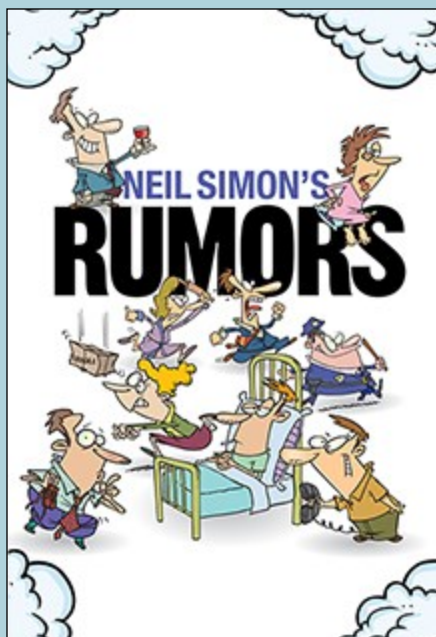




# FLOODLIGHT

## FEATURED PRODUCTION

July 2021



July 24 – August 14, 2021

Written by  
Neil Simon

Produced by  
Nick Friedlander  
and Jennifer Lyman

Directed by  
Matthew Randall

At the large, tastefully appointed home of the Deputy Mayor of New York in May 1989, the first guests arrive for an anniversary dinner party only to find that the host has just shot himself. Though it is only a flesh wound, this scandalous incident needs to be kept quiet. To make matters worse, the hostess and servants are missing, dinner preparations are abandoned in the kitchen, and more guests are expected at any minute. They must get their story straight before the other guests arrive and also somehow pull off this dinner party. As the confusions and miscommunications mount, the evening spins into classic farcical hilarity wrapped in *Dynasty*-era formal wear and big hair. An evening of secrets, lies, accusations, cover-ups, hypotheses, and yes, rumors, ensues until the police arrive to try to sort things out.

The first on the scene are **Stephanie Chu Rudden** as Chris Gorman and her real-life husband **Mike Rudden** as her on-stage husband Ken Gorman. Next to arrive are husband and wife **Jayne L. Victor** and **Mike Donahue** playing Claire and Lenny Ganz. LTA star couple **Janice Rivera** and **Peter Halverson** then make their appearance as Cookie and Ernie Cusack. Rounding out the couples are friends **Kirk Lambert** and **Roxanne Waite**, who play Glenn and Cassie Cooper. Trying to make sense of it all are **Joe Dzikiewicz** as Officer Welch and **Eileen Copas** as Officer Pudney.

Director **Matthew Randall**, Producers **Nicholas Friedlander** and **Jennifer Lyman**, Assistant Producer **Sarah Holt**, and Stage Managers **Lauren Markovich** and **Meggie Webster** work hard to hold this farce together. Bringing the production to life are Set Designer/Set Dresser **Charles Dragonette**, Co-Set Builders **Julie Fischer** and **Dan Remmers**, Costume Designer **Judy Whelihan**, Co-Lighting Designers **Ken** and **Patti Crowley**, Master Electrician **Sam Jensen**, Sound Designer **Alan Wray**, Set Painter **Mona Wargo**, Property Designer **Kirstin Apker**, Hair/Wig Designer **Rebecca Harris**, Makeup Designer **Larissa Norris**, and Rigger **Russ Wyland**.

### The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Frank D. Shutts II, President

Stacey Becker, Governor for  
Membership

Kirstin Apker, *Floodlight* Coordinator

Linda Wells, *Floodlight* Editor

*Next Issue August 2021*

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**703-683-0496**

# President's Column



Russell  
Wyland

## A Heartfelt Thanks

On July 1st, I awoke to the reality that my tenure as LTA President had passed. I would be lying if I said that I experienced only relief, or only joy, or only sadness. Indeed, it was a little of many different emotions. The overwhelming emotion, however, was gratitude. I put a lot of work into being LTA President, but I got so much more from the experience, and I thank everyone for being so supportive, especially since the start of the pandemic.

If I did any good as president, it was because I had four great Boards to work with over the past four years. I want to thank, in particular, **Maria Ciarrocchi**, **Ashley Amidon**, **Rachel Alberts**, and **Frank Shutts**, each of whom served as my president pro-tem at one time or another; **Lynn O'Connell** and **Jamie Blake**, respectively our incomparable board secretary and executive secretary; **David Hale**, our long-serving treasurer; **Nick Burakow** and the members of the LTA financial trustees; **Lloyd Bittinger**, **Zell Murphy**, and all the members of the LTA Council; **Ken Brown** and **Stacey Becker**, LTA's first safety officers; and, of course, **Crissy Wilke** and **Tina McCrea**, our two extraordinary employees. There are so many more, and I will be spending the next month or two making sure that I thank all of those people who deserve a "shout out."

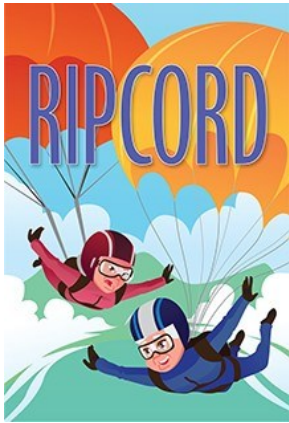
This litany of thank-yous might make it seem as if I am picking up and leaving LTA forever, but the truth is that I will still be around doing rigging, producing, and taking on odd tasks as needed. While I look forward to being away from the Board – at least for now – I am eager to do whatever I can to support **Frank Shutts** and the new Board.

And then there is COVID. I have tried to think of something insightful to say about the pandemic and its impact on LTA. I never could have imagined that a virus could dominate my last two years in office. Looking back, there is not a lot that I would change about how the Board responded to a terrible situation. We did the best we could do given the lousy hand we were dealt. I am very proud that LTA kept in-person theater alive – even if only on life support – through Small Theater for Unusual Times. I am proud that we were able to articulate our vision, principles, and procedures before most other organizations had done so, and I am even prouder that when those organizations were finally ready to re-open, many came to us for advice.

There is, of course, a long way left to go in our pandemic rebuilding. At some point, for example, LTA will need to adjust its mask mandate for vaccinated people. That time has not yet arrived, but one can see public expectations as well as national, state, and city regulations moving in that direction. My hope for the new Board is that they will continue to 1) put safety first, and 2) never feel afraid to adjust when the time comes.

Finally, I want to end my report with a statement on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). In the middle of the pandemic, our country experienced the trauma of George Floyd's murder. If I have one wish for the theatre, it is to stay committed to creating a diverse theater family, to provide opportunities to anyone who wants them, and to treat everyone in a way that celebrates both their uniqueness as well as what we all share. LTA's DEI committee is making LTA a better place, and I hope everyone commits to becoming even more welcoming to anyone who crosses our threshold.

**Russell M. Wyland**  
LTA President Emeritus



## Thank You from *Ripcord*

Thank you to the many people who helped bring mainstage live theater back to LTA during these crazy times, including our front of house volunteers and LTA members. We succeeded in offering a show that got people back to the theatre, laughing and realizing how much they missed live performances!

Thank you to our dedicated production team and our talented cast for their incredible commitment, hard work, and willingness to comply with changing COVID guidelines as we began to come out of the pandemic. We excelled in all aspects and delighted audiences every night.

**Lynn O'Connell** and **Alan Wray**, Co-Producers

**Robert Kraus**, Assistant Producer

**Jessie Roberts**, Director

### Education Update

At this time last year, our teachers were hunkered down conducting Zoom classes from home. Now, a year on, we are happy to announce that some of our fully vaccinated adult teachers will be returning to the theatre for in-person classes and workshops, starting in July. Most of the adult classes will require those enrolled to be fully vaccinated also, with proof of vaccination to be shown at the first class. Masks and social distancing will **NOT** be required at these classes.

There will also be classes for the unvaccinated, or for those who prefer to wear masks and practice social distancing. Zoom classes and workshops will still be available as well. If you don't see anything posted right now, please check back later as we're continually adding new offerings. For full class and workshop details, see [www.thelittletheatre.com/education](http://www.thelittletheatre.com/education). That's also where you'll find our youth classes and camps.

Finally, I am thrilled to report that thanks once again to the generosity of the LTA Council, we are able to continue to offer a limited number of need-based partial scholarships. For more information, please email me at [bardsplay@gmail.com](mailto:bardsplay@gmail.com).

Wishing you a safe and memorable summer,

**Heather Sanderson**

Governor for Education



One of our littlest thespians enjoying Stories in the Garden.  
Photo by Heather Sanderson.

### Annual Meeting Highlights

On June 14th, for the second year in a row, LTA's annual meeting was held virtually, with members "attending" either via Zoom or by phoning in.

Once again, the major topic of discussion was the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on LTA's finances and programming. President **Russell Wyland** reported that as expected, the theatre's finances took a significant hit due to reduced audience sizes and in-person class offerings. However, Board members also adjusted their respective budgets accordingly and kept operating costs down as much as possible. Combined with LTA's significant rainy day fund, these measures ensured that the theatre remains on solid financial ground as we return to presenting a full-scale mainstage season, albeit with one less production, and a more complete slate of classes.

Six individuals were elected via mail-in ballot to serve on the Board of Governors, including **Frank Shutts**, President; **Ira Forstater**, Box Office; **Monty Montgomery**, Front of House; **Stacey Becker**, Membership; **Eleanore Tapscott**, Seasonal Planning; and **Ken Crowley**, Technical Support.



## Governor's Message Production

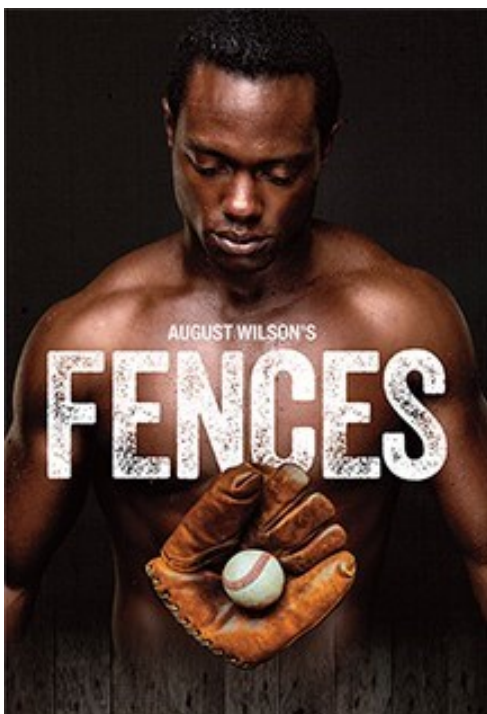
As Governor for Production, I look for those individuals who want to serve as a producer for LTA shows. If this is something that you want to try for the first time or if you are a longtime producer, I'm looking to make you happy. If you are trying it for the first time, you could ask to be an assistant producer or a co-producer. We will train you.

Also, our directors and producers are always looking for designers for their productions. If you are interested in opportunities for production design, or if you would like to work on a design or technical crew, I can help you to contact the appropriate producer(s).

In addition, I am currently looking for an individual to be our Audition Coordinator. If you have a talent for coordinating audition materials and individuals to keep auditions orderly and moving, or if you like meeting people and organizing people and materials, this would be an ideal opportunity for you. It is a great way to get to know more about the theatre and about the people involved with a show.

Lastly, I would like to thank some people who worked extremely hard to ensure that shows were produced and able to be staged for the past year in order to maintain LTA's community presence. First, thank you to **Russ Wyland** and **Lynn O'Connell** for producing most of the shows and for helping to maintain quality on a smaller scale so that audiences could enjoy live theater when they felt comfortable returning for that adventure. Thanks also to everyone involved in *A Christmas Carol* – especially **Mike Baker**, **Ira Forstater**, and **Charlotte Corneliusen** – for their many hours of working out the details to produce a full-scale show that still maintained the safety of the performers, and for the huge effort involved in producing a show for streaming. The thank-yous would not be complete without recognizing our safety officers, **Ken Brown** and **Stacey Becker**, for their tireless work with the City of Alexandria and the theatre to ensure a safe environment and their diligence in planning how to implement those requirements so that we could keep our doors open.

**Alan Wray**  
Governor for Production



### Fences Auditions

The story of *Fences* centers on Troy Maxson, a former star of the Negro baseball leagues who now works as a garbage man in 1957 Pittsburgh. Excluded as a black man from the major leagues during his prime, Troy's bitterness takes its toll on his relationships with his wife and with his son, who now wants his own chance to play ball.

**Auditions for this production were held before this issue of the *Floodlight* went to press. The *Floodlight* Coordinator regrets any inconvenience to our readers.**

September 11 – 25, 2021

Written by  
August Wilson

Produced by  
Russell M. Wyland

Directed by  
Eleanore Tapscott

### Audition Dates

July 9 and 10, 2021

# Upcoming Auditions

This classic late '60s thriller follows the heroine, Susy Hendrix, through a suspenseful game of cat and mouse. Susy, who recently became blind, unwittingly possesses a doll filled with illicit drugs, which is being sought by a sinister group of con men who have traced it to the Greenwich Village apartment Susy shares with her husband. When Susy discovers the true nature of her situation, she and the young girl upstairs launch a daring counterplot against the thieves.

## Audition Notes

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script.

While you are waiting to audition, you will be asked to wear a face mask. You will be permitted to remove your face mask during the audition.

If you have a headshot and acting résumé, you may bring them with you; if not, you may be asked to have your picture taken by the audition coordinator.

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

## Character Descriptions

**Susy Hendrix** (female, 20s – 30s): The heroine. She lost her vision a year ago in a car accident and is still adapting. Married to Sam. She is resourceful and intelligent. Possessing a very strong will, she is highly intuitive even when the stakes are high and her own life is on the line.

**Sam Hendrix** (male, 20s – 30s): Susy's husband, a photographer and former Marine. Sam is supportive of Susy, but he also challenges her to become as independent as possible. They have been married for six months.

**Mike Talman** (male, 20s – 40s): A con man with a smooth demeanor of sincerity and self-assurance. He has recently been released from prison. Talman's job is to get close to Susy Hendrix; gradually he becomes sympathetic to her.

**Harry Roat, Jr.** (male, 40s – 50s) A sinister and cool-headed villain, Roat is the mastermind of the doll scheme. Roat is intelligent, calculating, and sadistic. He has a great deal of presence and projects a subtle threat.

**Sgt. Carlino** (male, 20s – 40s): Talman's partner, another con man who has just been released from prison. Carlino is a bit coarse and uneducated, with a flexible code of ethics. His pride is often challenged, which frequently leads to a souring of his attitude.

**Gloria** (female, 12 – 14): The Hendrixes' upstairs neighbor. She helps Susy with chores and various tasks. Coming from a troubled home life, Gloria adores Sam but is initially petulant when dealing with Susy. Over the course of the play, their relationship evolves, and she and Susy team up to defeat the con men. (The script refers to Gloria as nine years old, but we have permission to increase the age reference up to 12 years old, to accommodate casting a vaccinated actor.)

**Policemen** (male, any age): Two policemen arrive at the very end and discover the chaotic scene.

FLOODLIGHT



October 16 – November 6,  
2021

Written by  
Frederick Knott

Produced by  
Alicia Goodman  
and Susan Boyd

## Audition Dates

Saturday, July 31, 2021

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 1, 2021

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

## Callbacks

Tuesday, August 3, 2021

7:00 p.m.





It's summertime, and we all deserve and need a break – including me! So, for this Council Corner, (almost) no words – just a feast for the eyes in pictures.

I encourage all of you to take a break and treat yourself one morning, afternoon, or evening to a slow meander through LTA's Shakespeare Garden. Filled with plants and flowers that are mentioned in the Bard's plays and sonnets, the garden is sponsored by The Council of the Little Theatre of Alexandria, with the support of Greenstreet Gardens.

Take a break and enjoy your summer, and I'll see you at the theatre!

**Zell Murphy**  
LTA Council Director

## Council Corner





**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

7/24	<i>Rumors</i> opens
7/31 – 8/1	<i>Wait Until Dark</i> auditions
8/18 – 8/19	LTA One Acts performances

## 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 2021 – 2022 season are:

President.....	Frank D. Shutts II
Governor for Artistic Support.....	Susan Boyd
Governor for Box Office.....	Ira Forstater
Governor for Building.....	Kenneth Brown
Governor for Development.....	Christopher A. Tomasino
Governor for Education.....	Heather Sanderson
Governor for Front of House.....	Monty Montgomery
Governor for Membership.....	Stacey Becker
Governor for Production.....	Alan Wray
Governor for Public Relations.....	Rachel Alberts
Governor for Seasonal Planning.....	Eleanore Tapscott
Governor for Technical Support.....	Ken Crowley

Additional officers are:

President Pro-Tem.....	Vacant
Treasurer.....	David Hale
Board Secretary.....	Lynn O'Connell
Executive Secretary.....	Jamie Blake
LTA Council Director.....	Zell Murphy

## 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).

## 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:**

**Stacey Becker,**  
**Governor for Membership**  
[membershipgovlta@gmail.com](mailto:membershipgovlta@gmail.com)

**Thank you for your service!**