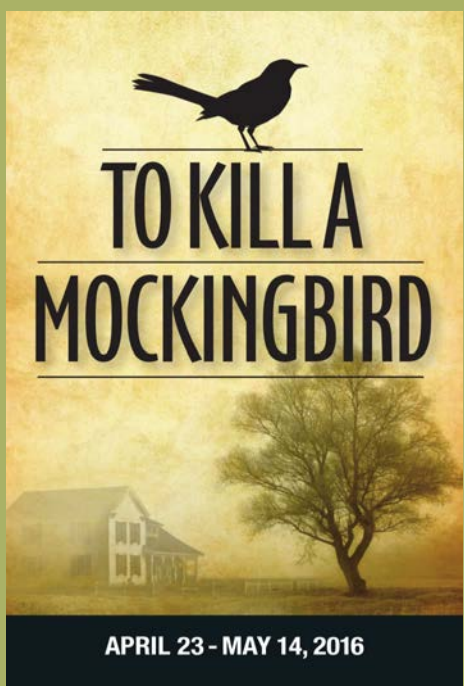




FLOODLIGHT

FEATURED PRODUCTION

March 2016



TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

APRIL 23 - MAY 14, 2016

Adapted by
Christopher Sergel

From the novel by
Harper Lee

Produced by
Rachel Alberts,
Bobbie Herbst,
and Robert Kraus

Directed by
Frank Pasqualino

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

Based on Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel set in Alabama during the Great Depression, *To Kill a Mockingbird* follows the journey of Jem and Scout Finch, whose father has been appointed to defend Tom Robinson, a black man framed for a crime he didn't commit. As the trial progresses, Jem and Scout witness their community in a tense tug of war between justice and racism. This timeless classic compels us to take an honest look at our nation's past and our moral responsibility to each other. Please be sure to mark your calendar to reserve a seat for this compelling and timely production that is sure to sell out.

Producers **Rachel Alberts**, **Bobbie Herbst**, and **Robert Kraus** and Director **Frank Pasqualino** are excited to introduce their outstanding production team: **Lynn Lacey**, **Christine Farrell**, and **Micheal J. O'Connor** (Stage Managers); **Luana Bossolo** (Assistant Producer); **Dan Remmers** (Set Design); **Jim Hutzler** and **Jeff Nesmeyer** (Master Carpenters); **Marzanne Claiborne** (Lighting Design); **Jean Schlichting** and **Kit Sibley** (Costume Design); **Donna Reynolds** and **Rebecca Sheehy** (Props Design); **Alan Wray** (Sound Design); **Mary Hutzler** and **Luana Bossolo** (Set Painters); **Debbie Remmers** (Set Dressing); **Pam Leonowich** and **Micheal J. O'Connor** (Master Electricians); **Michael Page** (Stage Combat Choreography); **Austin Fodrie**, **Margaret Evans-Joyce**, **Rebecca Balough**, **Casey Wilson**, and **Alex Mees** (Assistant Stage Managers); **Lori Bonnette** (Makeup Design); **Paul Morton** (Hair Design); **Monique Casimiro** (Assistant Costumer); **Donna Hauprich** (Wardrobe Design); **Virginia Lacey** (Opening Night Party); and **Becky Patton** (Double-Tech Dinner).

Our cast includes the amazing talents of **Richard Fiske** (Atticus Finch), **Olivia McMahon** (Jean Louise "Scout" Finch), **Melissa Dunlap** (Jean Louise Finch), **Jack Kearney** (Jeremy "Jem" Finch), **Nathaniel Burkhead** (Dill Harris), **Brenda Parker** (Calpurnia), **Frank Riley III** (Reverend Sykes),

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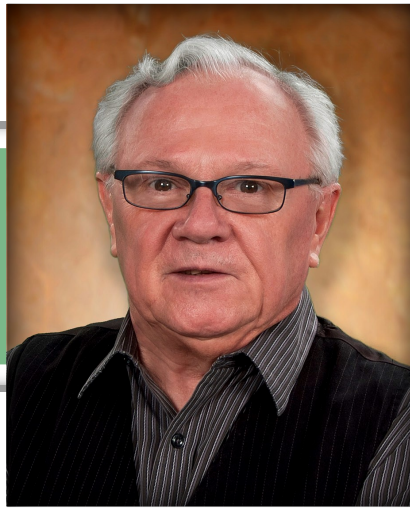
The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Lloyd Bittinger, President
Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for
Membership
Kirstin Apker, Floodlight
Coordinator
Linda Wells, Floodlight Editor
Next Floodlight May 2nd

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President's Column



Lloyd
Bittinger

Besides all of the usual goings on around the theatre and on the Board of Governors, of which there are many, there are two special events that have occurred in the new year that I find very exciting for the theatre.

The first is that Governors **Eddie Page** and **Jim Howard** and I attended a conference in Richmond in January called *ArtWorks 2016: Flourish! How the Arts Will Thrive and Grow in the Next Decade*, which was sponsored by the Virginia Commission for the Arts. The focus of the conference was how arts organizations in Virginia should prepare for changes that are currently taking place, as well as what to expect in the future and how to prepare for these changes. The big topic in almost all of the sessions was the inclusion of those who are being called “millennials” and how they differ from the types of audiences that we usually attract. In a nutshell, it is safe to say that millennials function differently in terms of their overall expectations, higher levels of involvement and participation, and tendency toward last-minute decision-making.

The keynote speaker, **Russell Willis Taylor**, gave an excellent opening lecture about the current state of arts organizations in Virginia and where to expect them to go in the future. There were also topics on building sustainable organizations, strategic planning, fundraising, and reinvigorating your brand. On this last topic, the speaker, **Kelly O’Keefe**, Professor of Creative Brand Management and Managing Director of the Brandcenter at Virginia Commonwealth University, gave a presentation that all three of us found to be interesting and exciting. We concluded that LTA does indeed have a very good “brand,” one that will help us move into the future and is well represented by what has become a recognizable graphic design that identifies our organization.

Governor Howard reported his impressions of the conference by saying that he found all of the sessions well organized and planned, and that the selection of speakers was excellent and well rounded. We all also had many networking opportunities and met people from all over Virginia involved in many different forms of the arts. We met a group from the Winchester Little Theatre and shared with each other some of our different challenges and problems. Surprisingly, we are all dealing with many of the same issues. We also met many representatives of arts organizations located in the Northern Virginia area, many of whom have worked with or supported the Little Theatre of Alexandria. Overall, the conference provided an excellent opportunity for networking with local and more widespread arts organizations in Virginia.

I think the one thing that I took away from the conference was the importance of including and involving as many of our members and audiences as possible in productions and activities in and around the theatre, and as part of this process addressing the changes that are happening with the inclusion of millennials. I’m thinking along the lines of having more talkbacks for every show, doing some backstage tours, and developing other initiatives to attract younger people in order to involve them more throughout the theatre. I’m still thinking on this one, but I do want to use some of the ideas from the conference.

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Larry Boggs (Tom Robinson), **Derek Bradley** (Arthur "Boo" Radley), **Paul Donahoe** (Bob Ewell), **Robert Heinly** (Sheriff Heck Tate), **Skye Lindberg** (Mayella Ewell), **Zachary Todd** (Walter Cunningham), **Cal Whitehurst** (District Attorney Gilmer), **Tony Gilbert** (Judge Taylor), **Erin Gallalee** (Maudie Atkinson), **Patricia Spencer Smith** (Mrs. Dubose), **Kirstin Apker** (Stephanie Crawford), **Matt Neufeld** (Nathan Radley), **Nycole Bell** (Helen Robinson), and **Leila Abarca, Elisa Jade Beadley, Bill Brekke, Kadir Coley, Joel Durgavich, Mark Gomperts, Brian McCusker, Jennifer McIntosh, Marian Morton, Paul Morton, Jelen Moxley, Richard Pecantte, and Tameka Taylor** (Ensemble).

Our cast is a wonderful mix of familiar and new faces.
You won't want to miss *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Please note that this production contains hurtful language and mature themes.

(continued from page 2)

The second exciting event was *DC Connection*, which was held in February and was cosponsored by the theatre and Actors Connection of New York City. Held at the theatre, this three-day seminar introduced our registrants to many casting directors from New York who spoke on topics about development of audition presentations, how to sell yourself as an actor looking for specific types of roles, and acting in movies, commercials, and various types of theatres. Our planning committee, consisting of **Mike Baker, Roland Branford Gomez**, and myself, felt that the entire seminar was a great success and that those who attended truly benefitted from the intense schedule of topics and their involvement with the speakers. We are looking into the possibility of sponsoring this event again in the future.

Lloyd Bittinger, President
All for Love of Theatre!

LTA's WATCH Award Winners



Cast and crew members of *In the Heights* celebrate their success at the 16th annual WATCH Awards. Photo by Alexander Skouras



- * Outstanding Musical - *In the Heights*
- * Outstanding Direction of a Musical - **Frank D. Shutts II**, *In the Heights*
- * Outstanding Music Direction - **Christopher A. Tomasino**, *In the Heights*
- * Outstanding Choreography - **Stefan Sittig**, *In the Heights*

Upcoming Auditions

Director Frank D. Shutts II and Producer Mary Beth Smith-Toomey are proud to announce auditions for LTA's production of *The History Boys*, the 2006 Tony Award winner for Best Play! *The History Boys* focuses on an unruly class of gifted and charming senior boys in a rather unimpressive boarding school. As these young men prepare for their college entrance exams, they are taught by two very different teachers with very different methods: one eccentric and innovative, the other deductive and Socratic. With their headmaster pushing for them all to get accepted into Oxford or Cambridge, standards are raised and expectations are high. This play contains mild adult situations.

For the Audition

Please bring a list of all conflicts from April 2 through June 26, 2016. Headshots are welcome; however, LTA's photographer will take a photo at the audition.

Monologues are not required, but will be heard if the auditionee has a contemporary serio-comic one. Readings will be from the script.

Role Summaries

Faculty and Staff

Douglas Hector: (Male, 50+ to play 60+) Eccentric English/General Studies teacher, a lover of words who wants his students to learn about poetry, music, movies, and literature, which he believes to be more important than facts and figures. His classes pursue the beauty of knowledge, which is not all that helpful when exam time comes, though the boys love and indulge him. Sadly, he has a wandering hand.

Irwin: (Male, 25-30) Young new teacher recruited to help the boys with their exams. He teaches polish and flair and is not as concerned with the truth as with what sounds good. A pessimist and a realist, he questions his own sexuality.

Mrs. Dorothy Lintott: (Female, 50+ to play 60+) Possessed of a wry wit; a traditional, by-the-book teacher whose methods have gotten the boys this far, but is told she is not enough to ensure their success. Close to Hector and fond of the boys.

Felix Armstrong: (Male, 40+) The headmaster, a business-minded leader. He has only one concern: making himself and his school look good. He doesn't really seem to care much about the boys, just their test scores.

Students

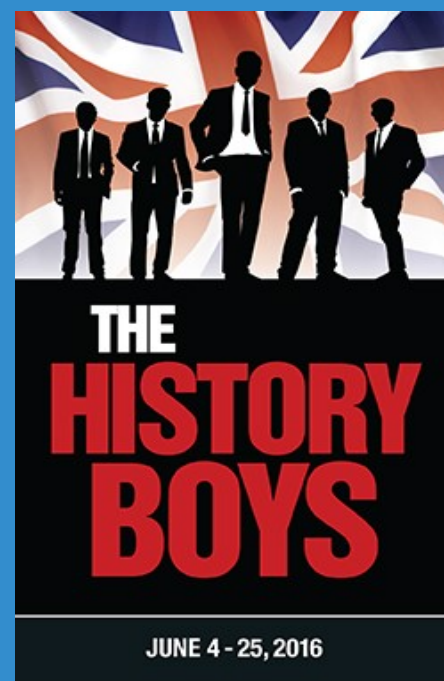
All eight of the boys require a strong comedic timing and an ability for ensemble work. Some singing may be required for a few roles. We are seeking bright, charismatic young men with a strong stage presence and general likeability and appeal. Received Pronunciation (RP) accent a plus.

Dakin: (16-25 to play 17/18) Leader of the pack, good-looking, bright, confident verging on cocky, and aware of his sexual appeal. He is having an affair with the headmaster's secretary and is the object of Posner's affection and Irwin's interest.

Posner: (16-25 to play 17/18) A sensitive Jewish boy who enjoys singing and poetry, an outsider to the group who wishes he fit in more. He is the most receptive to and appreciative of Hector's lessons. This role requires an ability to sing.

Scripps: (16-25 to play 17/18) A devout Christian and aspiring writer/journalist. He is an observer who is often the voice of reason for the boys and a "narrator" of sorts for the audience. Ideally, the actor in this role plays the piano.

(continued on page 5)



Written by
Alan Bennett

Produced by
Mary Beth Smith-Toomey

Directed by
Frank D. Shutts II

Audition Dates

Saturday, April 2, 2016
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
in the Academy Building
Sunday, April 3, 2016
7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
in the Green Room

Callbacks

Tuesday, April 5, 2016
7:00 p.m. in the Green Room

Upcoming Classes and Camps at LTA

How to Get into Voiceovers

with Michael J. Baker, Jr.

Monday Evenings
7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
April 4—May 23

[Click HERE to register now!](#)

LTA Summer Camps

June 6—September 2

We offer the largest variety of
summer drama camps in the
area for preschool to 8th
grade-level children.

[Please click HERE to view the
full schedule and to register.](#)

(continued from page 4)

Ridge: (16-25 to play 17/18) Seems like an empty-headed jock, but knows how to work the school system and get results as successfully as the rest of the group. The 'wildcard' of the group, his teachers doubt his ability to gain entry to a prestigious university. He is a little frustrated when struggling with coursework but is quite studious.

Timms: (16-25 to play 17/18) Class clown of the group, perhaps a little overweight. He is high-spirited, cheerful, and revels in games and scene play.

Akthar: (16/25 to play 17/18) Prefer an actor of Middle-Eastern/Indian/South Asian/Indonesian/mixed ethnicity to play a Muslim student. Cheerful, cheeky, rowdy, and bright, he is keen on jokes, computers, and pop culture.

Crowther: (16-25 to play 17/18) Acts as a hobby and is interested in theatre. A little blokey, blunt with straight-to-the-point humor, and down to earth. He is perhaps not as invested in the 'Oxbridge' entry exams as the others and has a tendency to become a little disillusioned and frustrated.

Lockwood: (16-25 to play 17/18) Strong and opinionated. Enjoys scene play in Hector's classes. He is inquisitive, willing to challenge the teachers, bright, and a little blokey.

Additional Information

If you are interested in working on this production as a crew member, please contact the Producer, Mary Beth Smith-Toomey, at mbstoomey@yahoo.com, or the LTA Office at 703-683-5778, ext 2.

New Members

Nycole Bell	Larry Boggs
Derek Bradley	Ella Burkhead
Nathaniel Burkhead	Susan Burkhead
Mary Busse	Paul Donahoe
Joel Durgavich	Tony Gilbert
Diane Janik	Jack Kearney
John Larmett	Skye Lindberg
Jennifer McIntosh	Olivia McMahon
Jelen Moxley	Richard Pecantte
Frank Riley	Heather Stevens
Tameka Taylor	Zachary Todd
William Young	

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 Virginia Lacey at 703-683-5778 ext. 2 or virginia@thelittletheatre.com.

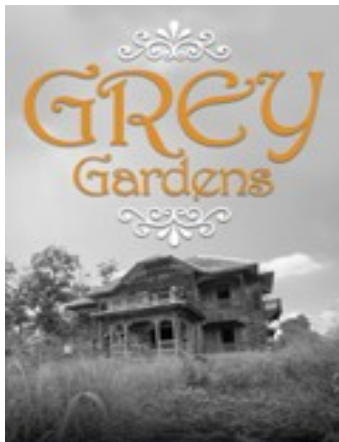
The Board of Governors has had three meetings since we last reported on issues being discussed in the Floodlight. Here are the current issues:

Your Board of Governors at Work

- ♦ Following up on the membership's direction to install a special access ramp on the Wolfe Street side of the theatre, I have attended two meetings at City Hall this year to address the application. On both occasions our request to install the ramp has been approved. I am now scheduled to attend a meeting of the Board of Architectural Review in early March. Assuming this board also approves our request, we anticipate that we will then obtain contractor bids and make a presentation at the next annual meeting scheduled for Monday, June 13th, requesting approval of funds in order to complete the installation.
- ♦ **Frank Shutts II**, Governor for Seasonal Planning, has been working with the City of Alexandria for some time now to have signs put on nearby street corners directing people to the Little Theatre of Alexandria.
- ♦ In preparation for the annual meeting in June, our Nominating Chair, **Jamie Blake**, is seeking nominations for several governorships. These are noted elsewhere in this newsletter.
- ♦ New plantation-style shutters have been installed in many of the upstairs windows, replacing torn and worn pull-down shades. **David Hale**, Governor for Building, is coordinating these upgrades.
- ♦ The *DC Connection* seminar was held on February 12th to 14th and was a great success. This was a joint effort sponsored by the theatre and Actors Connection of New York City.
- ♦ The 2016 - 2017 season of plays and musicals has been finalized and a committee was established for director selection. The committee made its report recently and most of the shows now have an assigned director. **Russ Wyland**, Governor for Production, is now in the process of finding producers for each of the shows.
- ♦ Treasurer **David Hale** is currently coordinating several meetings in preparation for submitting the 2016 - 2017 budget to the Board of Governors.
- ♦ Graphic designs for the 2016 - 2017 season brochure, as well as posters and window cards used to promote each show, are currently being prepared by our Governor for Public Relations, **Rachel Alberts**, in coordination with our graphic designer.
- ♦ **Beverley Benda**, Governor for Artistic Support, has asked the board to approve the purchase of a new washer and dryer to be placed upstairs near the dressing rooms. These machines are used to launder many different types of fabrics, as well as for dyeing costumes, and she feels that higher quality machines will better serve the theatre.

These are just a few of the many ongoing projects and initiatives that your Board of Governors continues to work on at our monthly meetings. Please feel free to contact any member if you would like additional information.

Lloyd Bittinger, President
All for Love of Theatre!



Thank You from Grey Gardens

Another winter in a summer town has come and gone. Thank you to everyone who braved the (literal) storm to come and see us. It was a wonderful run filled with beautiful music, an exquisite set, and many, many memories.

Rachel Alberts and John Monnett, Producers
Christopher Dykton, Director
Steve Przybylski and Lea Kocsis, Musical Directors
Austin Fodrie, Stage Manager

Governor's Message

Development

It has been a great honor to serve as the Governor of Development for these past three years. As do all of my colleagues, I take my responsibilities very seriously. Thanks to the Board of Governors, we now have a scholarship program. After a few meetings to iron out the details, we will award two scholarships at our annual membership meeting.

One of my duties is to nominate committee members to the budget committee and the nominating committee and also to nominate the preview audience coordinator. The current coordinator, **Jamie Blake**, works tirelessly in this capacity and is a great asset to the theatre and to me. I also serve on the budget committee, which is chaired by **David Hale**. I was at first intimidated by the number crunching and decisions that this group handles, but the exceptional expertise of my fellow committee members soon alleviated my fears. If you want to learn the inner workings of how to run an eight-show season with a full schedule of classes, this is an eye-opening experience. In addition to Chairman Hale, I would like to thank the other members: **Pat Bradford**, **Marzanne Claiborne**, **Marian Holmes**, **Rance Willis**, and **Lloyd Bittinger**.

Besides the annual parades, community events, and special programs, another of my duties is to host the annual sponsor lottery. This has been a real hoot for me. The participants assemble and hear my spiel on the upcoming season. Little did I know that they have already picked their show and night that they would like to book before walking in the door. **Virginia Lacey** explained this to me after my first go-round. It makes for a very exciting morning, all made possible by Virginia's experience and expert coordination.

I'm looking forward to this year. We have put together what I believe is going to be a great theatre season, and we have experienced and new volunteers to keep LTA running. As we continue to grow, let's work on building a bigger community and not just another audience.

Jim Howard

Governor for Development

DC Connection

From February 12th to the 14th, LTA hosted the first-ever *DC Connection* event in collaboration with Actors Connection of New York and Los Angeles. Following a brief orientation on Friday evening, the participants attended seven master classes that covered topics including business, feature films, television, commercials and improvisation, Broadway and theater, on-camera work, and scene study. Thanks to **Christopher Dietrich**, Actors Connection's executive director, and to casting directors **Meghan Rafferty**, **Kimberly Graham**, **Brette Goldstein**, **Cesar Rocha**, **Judy Bowman**, and **Lisa Donadio** for sharing their expertise and insights. We hope to welcome them in the near future for another informative *DC Connection* weekend.



Photos courtesy of Actors Connection via Twitter



Council Corner

The Council held its annual meeting on February 20th at LTA. **Carolyn Winters** was elected Director, succeeding **John Johnson** who has completed a second two-year term. **Sharon Field** was re-elected Financial Officer, with **Tina Anderson** continuing as Vice Director and **Grace Machanic** as Secretary. **Libby and John Guinn** and **Roland Branford Gomez** were unanimously voted in as new Life Members and LTA's two staff members, **Virginia Lacey** and **Tina McCrea**, were unanimously selected as Honorary Members.

Membership and financial reports were presented and LTA President **Lloyd Bittinger** reviewed highlights of theatre activities. A special thank you goes to council members who helped make the event successful, including **Tina Anderson, Sharon Field, Eddie Page, Lloyd Bittinger, Leslie Buckles, Rebecca and John Johnson**, and **Margaret and Art Snow**. Following a delicious dinner by Ben's Catering, council members joined in on a rousing rendition of "Brush Up Your Shakespeare" with "The Incomplete Works of William Shakespeare" featuring **Ben Robles, Ronnie Hardcastle**, and **John Johnson**.

Special guest **Terry Gish** gave a heartwarming thank you to the Council for making available the AED machines in the theatre. Terry said that if an AED was not available when he had a heart attack while rehearsing for *A Christmas Carol*, he would not be here today.

Another successful opening night reception was held on February 27th just prior to the curtain going up for the hilarious play *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*. Members enjoyed food prepared by Vivian's Kitchen and a sing-along session with the piano accompaniment of **Joyce Lindahl**. Producers **Russ Wyland** and **Rebecca Sheehy**, along with director **Joanna Henry**, commented on the play. **Geoff, Genie**, and **Emma Baskir** were welcomed as the newest members of the Council. The next opening night reception for council members will be held on April 23rd, when the classic *To Kill a Mockingbird* opens.

Plans for the Council's spring meeting are now being made and details will be available soon. Meanwhile, mark your calendars for the afternoon of Sunday, June 12th.

The Council's year ends on April 30th, and members are urged to renew their membership for the coming year. The dues remain at \$75.00 for each person. Please contact one of the Council's officers if you would like to become a part of this great organization.

I'm sure everyone agrees that we have had enough winter, so best wishes for a happy spring, and I will...

See you on the aisle at LTA!

John Johnson

LTA Council Director

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

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Business Office: 703-683-5778 x2

Fax: 703-683-1378

www.thelittletheatre.com

asklta@thelittletheatre.com

Mark Your Calendars

4/2—4/3	<i>The History Boys</i> auditions
4/23	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> opens
6/12	LTA Council spring meeting
6/13	LTA annual 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 2015 - 2016 season are:

President.....	Lloyd Bittinger
Governor for Artistic Support.....	Beverley Benda
Governor for Box Office.....	Rae Edmonson
Governor for Building.....	David Hale
Governor for Development.....	Jim Howard
Governor for Education.....	Roland Gomez
Governor for Front of House.....	Eddie Page
Governor for Membership.....	Maria Ciarrocchi
Governor for Production.....	Russ Wyland
Governor for Public Relations.....	Rachel Alberts
Governor for Seasonal Planning.....	Frank Shutts
Governor for Technical Support.....	Robert Kraus

Additional officers are:

President Pro-Tem.....	Rachel Alberts
Treasurer.....	David Hale
Board Secretaries.....	Margaret Evans-Joyce and 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!