



FLOODLIGHT

FEATURED PRODUCTION

May 2017



Producers **Marian Holmes** and **Russell Wyland** and director **Michael J. Baker, Jr.** are excited to take LTA audiences on a road trip to the third-smallest town in the great state of Texas. *Red, White, and Tuna* by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard is a fast-paced romp through the lives of 20 of the most upstanding citizens of Tuna, Texas, where the Lion's Club is too liberal, Patsy Cline never dies, and the residents never stop listening to OKKK, the local radio station. In the hilarious continuation of LTA's 2009 prize-winning production of *Greater Tuna*, two actors again create the entire population of Tuna, including a few hippies who have returned from the "left coast" to their roots for their high school reunion. Is Tuna ready for them?

Join the wild ride of quick changes and comedic characters.

A first-rate cast and crew are led by co-stage managers **Margaret Evans-Joyce** and **Lynn Lacey**. Set designer **Chris Feldmann** will create the entire town of Tuna, and **Ken Brown** will construct it. **Peggy Sue Holmes** and **Joe Bob Russell** will dress the set, and **Stacy Becker** will paint it. **Bobbie Herbst** and **Helen Bard-Sobola** will delight us all with Texas-appropriate props. Keeping the cast looking good are costume designers **Ceci Alberts** and **Lisa Brownword**. **Jamie Blake** will serve as wardrobe mistress. Rounding out the technical crew are lighting designer **Jeffrey Auerbach**, master electrician **Kimberly Crago**, and sound designer **David Hale**.

The cast consists of **Dave Wright** (Actor 1) and **Steve McDonnell** (Actor 2).

Y'all come spend a couple hours with us in Tuna! (Please note, weapons are not allowed in the theatre.) (Disclaimer: no armadillos were harmed in the making of this show.)

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Lloyd Bittinger, President
Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for
Membership
Kirstin Apker, Floodlight
Coordinator
Linda Wells, Floodlight Editor
Next Floodlight June 19th

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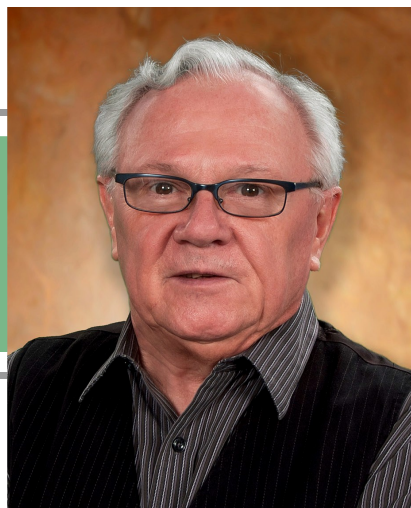
Written by Jaston Williams,
Joe Sears,
and Ed Howard

Produced by
Marian Holmes
and Russell Wyland

Directed by
Michael J. Baker, Jr.

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

President's Column



Lloyd
Bittinger

We have recently gone through a period in which we have lost several members of our LTA family. Such deaths within this close-knit family remind me of the generous contributions of those members, both in their past service to LTA as well as monetary contributions made in their memory. Many past members have either remembered LTA as a benefactor in their wills and/or have suggested LTA donations in obituaries. In this sense, LTA is truly a legacy that has been left by those who have gone before us, as well as a treasure for current members to nurture.

The wonderful organization that we have at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, from which we all benefit as contributing members in whatever way we choose to contribute, continues to thrive within the Alexandria arts community as a leader among many. We also continue to grow in our excellence and our ability to present programs and shows of outstanding quality so that we often hear people comment on this being the best community theater in the area, and many saying that our theatre's productions are on a professional level. How proud we are of our good reputation! It is the ongoing generous support and contributions that we, as LTA members, continue to make in various ways as we move forward and attempt to bring in new faces to whom we can turn over the reins, from which we all benefit and grow.

Over the past several years, we have received donations as listed below. Many of these have been small donations of \$5.00, \$10.00, up to \$100.00. Some have been in the hundreds of dollars, and in some cases even \$1,000.00 or more.

2011 - \$600.00

2012 - \$800.00

2013 - \$400.00

2014 - \$5,500.00

2015 - \$900.00

2016 - \$2,650.00

These do not include donations made through wills or with LTA being named as the beneficiary of an estate. These types of contributions also occur fairly regularly.

In each issue of the *Floodlight*, there is a small boxed-in statement entitled "Planning Your Gift" which reminds members about *The LTA Legacy Society* and encourages them to notify us of their bequest or other planned gift. I want to use this article to recognize the many donations continuously made by our members in memory of recently departed members of our LTA family. Also, I want to encourage you to continue honoring the memory of members with whom we have enjoyed volunteering over the years by making similar donations in memory of those beloved LTA family members. It's a lovely way to remember those we miss so much and to support the theatre.

Upcoming Auditions

This musical is so much fun, it should be illegal! Meet Elle Woods, a fun, fabulous fashionista who has it all – that is, until her boyfriend dumps her to attend Harvard Law School. Based on the much-loved movie, this modern musical will take you on a journey of self-discovery with Elle, all while enjoying the ridiculously playful and entertaining song-and-dance numbers.

For the Audition

Please bring a resume and a calendar with your conflicts from May 22nd through August 13th, 2017.

Dance Audition: Looking for strong jazz/musical theatre style dancers/movers for ensemble and leads. Please come dressed to dance in comfortable clothing – NO jeans, NO high heels, NO mini skirts. Jazz/dance sneakers preferred – NO bare feet or socks, please.

Vocal Audition: Please prepare 24 - 32 bars of an uptempo/Broadway rock song. Please show us your range. An accompanist will be provided. Please do not prepare something *a capella* as you need to sing with the piano. Please note, you may be asked to stop if you go over 32 bars.

Role Summaries and Vocal Ranges

Elle Woods: (age 18 – 25, G5 to Gb2) The quintessential Valley Girl who follows her ex-boyfriend to Harvard Law School and realizes that she has more to offer than just a pretty face and a bubbly personality.

Emmett Forrest: (age 20 – 25, A4 to B2) A smart and sensitive law student who takes Elle under his wing. He is charming, quirky, loveable, and friendly.

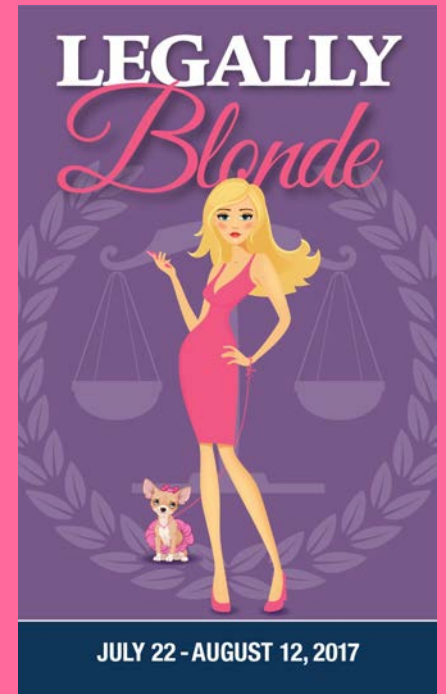
Paulette Bonafonté: (age 35 – 45, A5 to A3) A brash, caring, optimistic hair stylist who is friends with Elle and longs to find a man for herself.

Professor Callahan: (age 45 – 55, F#4 to A2) A pompous, sleazy and manipulative law professor at Harvard who is highly successful but completely immoral.

Warner Huntington III: (age 20 – 25, Ab4 to Eb3) A good-looking but shallow and pompous guy who breaks Elle's heart and heads off to Harvard Law School.

Vivienne Kensington: (age 20 – 25, F5 to A3) A smart, savvy, and uptight law student and Warner's fiancée who initially dismisses Elle, but grows to be her friend.

Brooke Wyndham: (age 25 – 35, G5 to A3) An exercise video mogul who is also a former sorority girl. She is energetic and charismatic, and currently



Book by
Heather Hach

Music and Lyrics by
Laurence O'Keefe
and Nell Benjamin

Produced by
Rae Edmonson and
Mary Beth Smith-Toomey

Directed by
Hans Bachmann

Musical Direction by
Christopher Tomasino

Choreographed by
Stefan Sittig

Audition Dates

Saturday, May 20, 2017

1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 21 2017

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

Callbacks

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Thank You from *Key For Two*



On behalf of Director **Eleanore Tapscott** and Assistant to the Producers **Rance Willis**, we would like to thank all the actors, designers, and crew for their work and dedication on this show. It was a true labor of love – not to mention the creaking platform and bed that kept us wondering each night if it would hold up to the piggy back rides and other antics. (It did!) By this time, we hope that Richard has dried out and gotten back with Anne and that Harriet has her two gentlemen back on a manageable schedule. Now that she is running a nursing home, their wives will, no doubt, want to accompany them to their “appointments” – NOT! And everyone can rest assured that the minks have returned to their box in the dressing room, none the worse for Richard’s resuscitation efforts.

The producers would like to give a special thank you to our stage managers, **Sherry Clarke** and **Margaret Evans-Joyce**, for their untiring devotion, and to our super ASM, **Shannon Starcher**. Thanks also to **John Downing**, **Jim Hutzler**, and their amazing crew for set construction; **Marzanne Clairborne** for her superb lighting design; **Alan Wray** for mentoring first-time sound man **Jon Roberts**; **Adrienne Kammer** and **Mona Wargo** (yes, it can be spelled correctly) for set painting; **Kirstin Apker** for props; **Pamela Leonowich** and **Micheal J. O’Connor** as master electricians; **Charles Dragonette** for the incredibly colorful set decoration; **Ian Claar** for making pratfalls look easy while keeping everyone safe; **Cheryl Sinsabaugh** for making the accents believable and so veddy, veddy British; **Russ Wyland** for rigging; **Keith Waters** for photography; **Juliana Confrancesco** for beautiful costumes that accommodated many shenanigans and still held together; and **Margaret Snow** for keeping those costumes clean and available in the right place at the right time. We were very well fed by **Larry Grey** and **Jen Lyman** for double-tech lunch (that became an early dinner) and at the lovely opening night party by LTA veteran **Kadira Coley** and her husband **Chin Duru** of Big Man Catering.

Celebration of Life

Sunday, July 23rd, at 6:30 p.m.

LTA Greenroom, Shakespeare Garden, and Theatre

The Board of Governors announce a Celebration of Life for the too many members who have taken their final bow. They include:

Mario DiPaolo	Julie Kiley	Carla Scopeletis
Jane Godfrey	Anne Lash	Joe Schubert
Libby Guinn	Kim Scott Miller	Jean Stuhl
Michael Hamburg	Samuel Millman	Michael Toomey
	Jack Schaeffer	

Members of LTA, family members, and friends are invited to share formal and informal recollections of these members and their contributions to LTA. A wine and cheese reception will be provided, and guests are asked to bring an appetizer to share.

Please RSVP with Tina at tina@thelittletheatre.com.

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

Here is an update on the many things your Board of Governors continues to work on and discuss at our monthly board meetings.

Your Board of Governors at Work

- ♦ The producers for our recent production of *Anything Goes*, **Maria Ciarrocchi** and **Mary Beth Smith-Toomey**, presented their report to the board. The show was an overwhelming success, with large ticket sales and everyone leaving humming those fabulous Cole Porter songs.
- ♦ **Carolyn Winters**, the Director of the LTA Council, reported on the “Buy a Brick Campaign” for improving the Shakespeare Garden and on the plans for the planting of vegetation associated with Shakespeare’s plays. Greenstreet Gardens has been contracted to provide the planting. In addition, they have been contracted to replant all of the other LTA gardens.
- ♦ The Budget Committee has continued to meet regularly, and the 2017 - 2018 budget will be submitted to the board at the April meeting for approval, as reported by Treasurer **David Hale**.
- ♦ The slate of directors for the 2017 - 2018 season was presented by **Mary Beth Smith-Toomey** for the chairpersons of the Selection Committee, **Ken** and **Patti Crowley**. The recommendations of the committee were approved by the board and have been posted on the LTA website.
- ♦ **Ashley Amidon** reported that a recently held staged reading by the Millennial Committee was so well attended that a second performance was added. Also, **Maria Ciarrocchi**, our Governor for Membership, reported that the committee is planning a second cabaret in the near future.
- ♦ The board reviewed the progress of the Nominating Committee as we prepare for the annual meeting in June. **Jamie Blake** is the chairperson for the committee, and the other members are **Brooke Angel**, **Ira Forstater**, **Donna Hauprich**, and **Carolyn Winters**.
- ♦ **Robert Kraus**, Governor for Technical Support, requested approval of an expenditure of \$1,400.00 to purchase new lighting equipment. The request was approved by the board.
- ♦ The board is entertaining a proposal from Applied Fire Protection Engineering to enhance and upgrade the fire protection systems and sprinklers throughout the theatre. This will ultimately be a very expensive upgrade, but one that is necessary for the ongoing security of the building. The Governor for Building, **David Hale**, is coordinating the project with the Building Committee and the board.
- ♦ Governor Hale also reported on plans and proposals to completely remodel and refurbish the business and box office areas of the theatre. This is an ongoing project.
- ♦ **Jim Howard**, Governor for Development, reported that LTA did not participate in the George Washington Birthday Parade in February as had been planned, for various reasons. We hope to foster new and better interest in our participation next year and in the future.
- ♦ The Governor for Education, **Michael Baker**, provided updates on the upcoming children’s and adult showcases, as well as the next *DC Connection* conference planned for April.
- ♦ New orientation videos are being developed by **Jean Coyle**, Governor for Front of House, and will be available online for future house manager and usher orientation. Governor Coyle also reported on an ongoing project for implementation of an emergency action plan (EAP) for the theatre.
- ♦ Governor Baker discussed development of a policy for leasing out space in the Alexandria Academy (the building next door which is leased by LTA) to other organizations. At present there is no policy in this regard.

These are the highlights of our recent Board of Governors meeting. All of our governors and committee chairs remain very active in pursuing a myriad of ongoing projects. Please feel free to discuss any of these projects or ask

Governor's Message

Front of House

A warm smile and a positive attitude are the major requirements to be a house manager, usher, or bartender or server at our opening night parties. These are the major roles that are part of the Front of House (FOH) at LTA. In the front of the house, we are the first faces patrons see when they enter the theatre. We strive to be the welcoming faces and voices for all those who come to watch the performances. We value our patrons and we want to serve them with hospitality and efficiency. We are also the last faces – still smiling! – that they see as they leave after a performance.

The Governor for Front of House is responsible for recruiting all volunteer house managers and ushers, as well as recruiting a volunteer caterer and servers and bartenders for each opening night party. All of these roles provide great opportunities to meet other LTA people and to be of significant service to our LTA community.

When you consider that we have about 150 performances each theatre season (not including special events, such as LTA Awards Night, the annual meeting, student showcases, etc.), that means we are seeking at least 450 ushers and house managers. Add to that the opening night party volunteers, who typically number 11 for each production, and that's another 88 wonderful volunteers who help prepare and serve food – and clean-up afterwards, sometimes at 1:00 a.m.!

FOH has always offered face-to-face training of ushers and house managers, as well as encouraging “shadowing” of experienced ushers/house managers. Soon, we will also be offering five limited access training videos on YouTube: how to be an usher, how to be a house manager, how to use the hearing devices (for hearing-impaired patrons), how to use the usher scanners, and the proper way to lock and unlock the building. These videos, filmed by LTA staff member **Crissy Wilke**, will allow new volunteers to learn what they need to know in the comfort of their homes.

The Governor for Front of House also chairs the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Committee. This committee strives to ensure accessibility to and within our building. For those interested in these issues, you would be welcome to join the twice-per-year meetings of the ADA Committee. Contact the Governor for Front of House about becoming a member.

The FOH organizes CPR training several times each year, at no cost, for interested FOH and production volunteers. The Governor for Front of House is working with the City of Alexandria Fire Department to create an emergency action plan (EAP) for LTA. This plan will include new training for FOH and production personnel.

Finally, FOH maintains a computer database of those who have volunteered for all these activities, as well as those who are interested in volunteering. Many thanks to LTA President **Lloyd Bittinger** for his scrupulous maintenance of this database.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the Governor for Front of House for 2016 – 2017.

We sincerely welcome your input as a volunteer and your feedback on how we might continue to improve our hospitality to all LTA patrons.

New Members

Charlie Maline

Karen Maline



Council Corner

Perhaps by the time you read this, Greenstreet Gardens will have planted the Shakespeare Garden or will be in the process of doing so. Also, our initial order of 42 bricks was placed, and the bricks were installed on April 10th. The remainder of the bricks should be installed in early May. You may have noticed that we have two benches in the Courtyard so that you can sit and enjoy the weather as well as two nice-looking trash cans that have been purchased by an anonymous member of the Council. The lighting department has purchased two bricks, and past shows such as *Avenue Q*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Intimate Apparel* have also purchased bricks. I have a feeling we will never tire of reading the inscriptions on the bricks. The last day to purchase a brick is April 23rd.

On March 9th the weather was glorious, and **Heather Sanderson** took her Drama Tots class into the courtyard. She introduced the students to Mr. Shakespeare, and they all knew who he was from their previous classes. They lined up in front of the Bard and recited the “All the World’s a Stage” speech from his comedy *As You Like It*.

Just a reminder, council dues are due April 15th. **Tina Anderson**, Vice Director, will be working with the box office to identify members who have not paid and have used a council ticket for *The Fabulous Lipitones* or *Red, White, and Tuna*. If you have not paid your council dues, you will be asked to pay for your ticket on the day of the show. Wednesday and Thursday prices are \$19.00 and Friday, Saturday and Sunday prices are \$22.00.

Our next council meeting is Sunday, June 11th, at Tempo. I look forward to seeing you there.

Carolyn Winters

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

5/20– 5/21	Auditions for <i>Legally Blonde</i>
6/3	<i>Red, White, and Tuna</i> opens
6/11	LTA Council meeting
6/12	LTA annual meeting and elections
7/23	Celebration of Life

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 2016 – 2017 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.....	Michael J. Baker, Jr.
Governor for Front of House.....	Jean Coyle
Governor for Membership.....	Maria Ciarrocchi
Governor for Production.....	Margaret Evans-Joyce
Governor for Public Relations.....	Rachel Alberts
Governor for Seasonal Planning.....	Frank Shutts II
Governor for Technical Support.....	Robert Kraus

Additional officers are:

President Pro-Tem.....	Rachel Alberts
Treasurer.....	David Hale
Board Secretary.....	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!