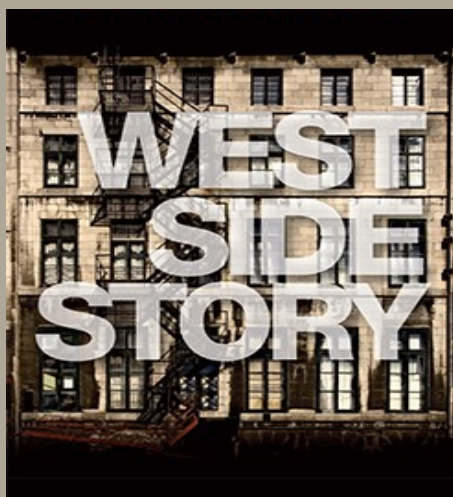




FLOODLIGHT

FEATURED PRODUCTION

June 2016



JULY 23 - AUGUST 13, 2016

Book by
Arthur Laurents

Music by
Leonard Bernstein

Lyrics by
Stephen Sondheim

Produced by Lynn O'Connell,
Kevin O'Dowd, and Eddie Page

Directed by
Susan Devine

Musical Direction by
Francine Krasowska

Choreographed by
Stefan Sittig

West Side Story comes to LTA this summer via the creative team of director **Susan Devine**, musical director **Francine Krasowska**, and choreographer **Stefan Sittig**. A timeless classic set in New York City, this show brings a 19-piece orchestra, songs most of us know, and a love story that is still powerful today.

Joining producers **Kevin O'Dowd**, **Eddie Page** and **Lynn O'Connell** and associate producer **Rob Cork** are **Joan Lada** and **Austin Fodrie**, Co-Stage Managers; **Dan Remmers**, Set Design and Construction; **Jean Schlichting**, **Kit Sibley**, and **Grant Kevin Lane**, Co-Costume Design; **David Correia**, Sound Design; **Franklin Coleman**, Lighting Design; **Leslie Reed** and **Rebecca Sheehy**, Properties Design; **Kevin O'Dowd**, Set Painting; **Russ Wyland** and **Bobbie Herbst**, Co-Set Decoration; **Marzanne Claiborne** and **Pam Leonowich**, Co-Master Electricians; **Mary Beth Smith-Toomey**, Wardrobe; **Maurissa Weiner**, Hair/Make-up; and **Russ Wyland**, Rigging.

We welcome to the *West Side Story* cast **Lexie McEntire** as Maria; **Ben Peter** as Tony; Jet gang members **Ari Holverson**, **Joe Mayes**, **Sean Cator**, **Dwayne Allen**, **Jeffrey Hollands**, **Patrick Kearney**, **Derek Marsh**, **Cassie Cope**, **Caroline Griswold**, **Miryam Mendelson**, **Elizabeth Spilsbury**, **Caitlyn Pollock Goerner**, **Patrica Guadalupe Rupinen**, and **Allison Finkelstein**; Shark gang members **Chris Galindo**, **Matt Stover**, **Brook Urquhart**, **Andrew Sese**, **Chris Chapin**, **Lawrence Hailes**, **Oscar Salvador**, **Tahara Robinson**, **Amanda Corbett**, **Jacqui Salvador**, **Morgan Arrivillaga**, **Zaria Stott**, **Patricia Targete**, and **Jasmine Jones**; **Fred Lash** as Doc; **Mike Turner** as Lieutenant Shrank; and **Page Drehor** and **Matt Liptak**, co-Glad Hand/Officer Krupke.

If you are interested in working on this production, please contact producer Kevin O'Dowd at kfodowd@hotmail.com.

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

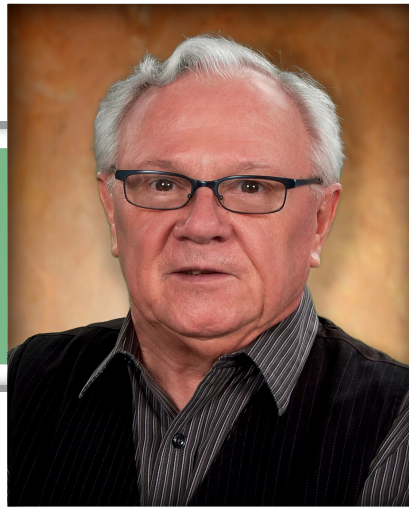
The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Lloyd Bittinger, President
Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for
Membership
Kirstin Apker, Floodlight
Coordinator
Linda Wells, Floodlight Editor
Next Floodlight August 8th

Inside This Issue

President's Column	Page 2
Upcoming Auditions	Page 3
To Alex	Page 4
Annual Meeting	Page 4
Governors at Work	Page 5
Governor's Message	Page 6
Council Corner	Page 7
New Members	Page 7

President's Column



Lloyd Bittinger

As we approach the end of our current theatre year and begin a new season with our production of *West Side Story*, it's time to take a few minutes to thank all those around the theatre who help support the Board of Governors and all of our producers and directors throughout the year. We are very fortunate to have some of the most dedicated and professional support staff around.

We are very blessed to have **Virginia Lacey** as our excellent Business Manager. She truly supports everyone at the theatre in the most professional way. Many of us depend on Virginia to hold things together and keep us on the right track throughout the year — and she does!

Tina McCrea, our excellent Box Office Manager, is truly the best and we are very grateful to have her with us. She manages the box office in the best possible way, and she interfaces with our subscribers, members, and the general public in such a manner that she promotes a fine public image. She always represents The Little Theatre with a smile and a welcome. The public loves Tina, and so do we!

Another person who supports us consistently throughout the year is our Treasurer, **David Hale**. He can be found pretty much behind the scenes and is generally in the office almost every Saturday morning performing his treasurer duties. David has done an excellent job for the past 16 years as Treasurer, and his efforts in this capacity are very much appreciated.

We are very fortunate to actually own our theatre, and it is extremely important that we keep it looking nice, clean, and in good order all the time. We also lease the building next door called the Alexandria Academy. All of these properties are kept in excellent order by **Arnoldo Duran**, who provides custodial and gardening services. Arnoldo and his staff do an amazing job keeping all of our theatre spaces clean and in good order, and we could not ask for anything more in this regard. They not only keep everything clean inside, but Arnoldo actually takes care of the gardens around the building, and they keep looking better and better.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of these people for doing an excellent job in the specific roles that they play in making The Little Theatre the best community theater in the area. We are very fortunate indeed to have their support, and we thank them for doing a tremendous job and supporting us throughout the year. Here's a very big THANK YOU to all of you!

By the way, on a personal note, you know how everyone's always asking us theater people, "What's your favorite show?" Mine is and has always been *West Side Story*. One of my greatest regrets in life is that I did not see the original production, which opened on Broadway in 1957. It would have been unbelievable to have experienced something like that for the very first time. I can only imagine! But I have been fortunate to have seen every revival of the show on Broadway since the original production.

Lloyd Bittinger, President

All for Love of Theatre!

Upcoming Auditions

Truvy Jones runs a successful beauty salon in Chinquapin, Louisiana, where all the ladies in the neighborhood have a standing Saturday appointment. Along with her anxious and eager assistant Annelle, Truvy styles the hair of many of the women about town: wealthy widow and former first lady of Chinquapin, Clairee Belcher; local curmudgeon Ouiser Boudreaux ("I'm not crazy, I've just been in a bad mood for forty years"); intelligent and compassionate career woman M'Lynn; and M'Lynn's daughter Shelby, the prettiest girl in town. Shelby's engagement is the talk of the town, but the joy and excitement of her wedding quickly turn to concern as she faces a risky pregnancy and a myriad of health complications. As the women of Chinquapin make their way over life's hurdles together, they find comfort in one another, accompanied by a fair amount of verbal ribbing. "You have no idea how wonderful you are," M'Lynn tells the ladies at the end of the play. Truvy responds, with a smile, "Of course we do."

For the Audition

Auditions will consist of readings from the script.

Please try to arrive as close as possible to the beginning of auditions and plan to stay in order to have the opportunity to read with as many ladies as possible.

If you come to auditions on Saturday, you are welcome to return and read with the new people on Sunday.

The director will be looking and listening for a number of things. The Chinquapin Parish in Louisiana has a distinct accent; it's to your advantage to bring it. She is looking for actors who are the age of, or close to, the age of the characters, friendly, and have that "spark of energy."

Please list all conflicts on your audition form, as your availability will factor into the casting process. Once conflicts are accepted by the director and the stage manager, no new conflicts will be accepted unless it's an emergency. Rehearsals will begin on Thursday, July 14th, at the theatre.

Role Summaries

Truvy Jones: (30 - 45) Owns the beauty shop. Vivacious. Dispenses advice with lots of hairspray.

Annelle Dupup-Desoto: (18 - 24) Newly hired assistant. Moves from unsure to wild to religious.

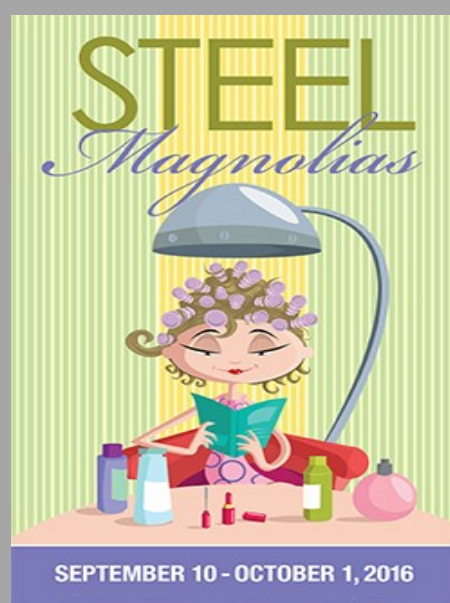
Clairee Belcher: (55 - late 60s) Widow of former mayor. Grand dame. Elegant, sophisticated, a true beauty.

Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie: (19) Prettiest girl in town. Loves pink. Strong willed, passionate.

M'Lynn Eatenton: (40 - 50s) Shelby's mother. Always knows what's best. Strong, stubborn, the heart of the piece.

Ouiser (pronounced "Weezer") **Boudreaux:** (55 - late 60s) Wealthy curmudgeon. Tough, eccentric character.

If you have any questions, you may contact the director by email at SharonVeselic@yahoo.com.



Written by
Robert Harling

Produced by
Brooke Angel and Jay Cohen

Directed by
Sharon Veselic

Audition Dates

Saturday, July 9, 2016
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
in the Green Room

Sunday, July 10, 2016
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
in the Green Room

Callbacks

Tuesday, July 12, 2016
7:00 p.m.
in the Green Room

To Alex

LTA and the surrounding community theaters have recently said farewell to **Alex Mees**, a wonderful young woman who's been volunteering in our local community for the past two years. So what make Alex Mees worthy of a shout-out in our esteemed LTA *Floodlight*?

Heart.

Not *a* heart (though she has that, too — which is useful), but she's one of those rare individuals who passes through life throwing her heart and soul *completely* into whatever adventure she's currently undertaking. While her passion for the theater has certainly guided her steps, this is a person who will commit totally and enthusiastically to whatever avenue of life that she travels.

Always willing to embrace anything new and exciting, Alex became adept in *every* part of the theatre while she was here. Sound board, light board, assistant stage management, audition table, and more — she happily did it all. Given the unpredictability of live theater, we could always breathe a sigh of relief when we found out that Alex was working that night, for she was the proverbial calm in many a stormy situation.



From patching up a broken leg on a giant skeleton (who goes by the name Alfred), to wrestling with an old tea cart that suddenly developed a life of its own and was balking at being rolled back on stage, Alex was *always* there for us — never hesitating, quietly competent, and incredibly intuitive in anticipating the next move during a show.

Alex lit up many lives during her stay here in Alexandria, and our theater community will certainly miss our shining star. However, I think we can be comforted in the fact that she'll soon be lighting the way for others as she traverses her universe. Shine on, Alex!

Sherry Clarke
Audition Coordinator

Annual Meeting Highlights

At LTA's annual meeting on June 13th, **Jim Howard**, Governor for Development, presented two talented young ladies with the inaugural LTA Scholarships. **Laney Delaney** (technical support) and **Maya Brettell** (acting) each received an award of \$1,000. The members who were present then voted to approve the allotment of up to \$50,000 to cover the construction costs of the new access ramp to the theatre's main entrance. Eight individuals were also elected to the Board of Governors, including **Lloyd Bittinger**, President; **Beverley Benda**, Artistic Support; **David Hale**, Building; **Jim Howard**, Development; **Roland Gomez**, Education; **Jean Coyle**, Front of House; **Margaret Evans-Joyce**, Production; and **Rachel Alberts**, Public Relations. Thanks to everyone who came out to support the mission of the theatre.



Jim Howard, Governor for Development, presents Maya Brettell (left) and Laney Delaney (right) with their scholarships.

Photos by Nicole Zuchetto and Sherry Delaney.



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.

It's amazing how busy our Board of Governors is. There are so many things going on in all different directions. Here are some of the items on the board's agenda:

Your Board of Governors at Work

- ◆ The Virginia Department of Taxation has requested that we provide them with a record of a financial review in order to maintain our tax-exempt status. The review is ongoing.
- ◆ The Anne Lash Estate has made a sizable donation to the theatre.
- ◆ Since the new fiscal year began on May 1st for the Council of LTA, the new Council Director, **Carolyn Winters**, is now the ex officio member of the board representing the LTA Council.
- ◆ The ADA Committee met and established some guidelines for continued compliance of required regulations as we go into the next fiscal year.
- ◆ Last February, LTA sponsored a conference called *DC Connection* at the theatre. This three-day conference, co-sponsored by Actors Connection of New York City, enabled participants to interface with casting directors from New York about opportunities in theater, films, and commercials. The board approved a second conference for *DC Connection* that will be held in October and will be coordinated by the Governor for Education, **Roland Branford Gomez**.
- ◆ The newly established Millennial Committee has had their first meeting, followed by a meeting with the president to establish direction for the committee. They are aggressively organizing and planning future events. The chairman of the committee is **Ricky Drummond**.
- ◆ The Governor for Production, **Russ Wyland**, recently announced some additional directors and producers for the 2016 - 2017 season. The roster for all productions is very nearly complete.
- ◆ The Little Theatre will be participating in the NVTAA (Northern Virginia Theatre Alliance) One-Act Play Festival on Friday, July 8th. There will be a staged reading at the theatre on Saturday, July 9th.
- ◆ The Governor for Artistic Support, **Beverley Benda**, announced that a new washer and dryer will soon be installed in the upstairs laundry room.
- ◆ The theatre recently held its Partners in Arts lottery under the supervision of the Governor for Development, **Jim Howard**. This is when community organizations buy out the house for specific productions. We commonly refer to these as "Sponsor Nights."
- ◆ Under the Governor for Production, the theatre recently provided free CPR/AED classes, and there were nine participants. Future ongoing classes are planned.
- ◆ Our Camp Director, **Michael Page**, made a presentation at a recent board meeting about the upcoming Summer Camp. So far, registration is very high and we anticipate another very successful camp.
- ◆ For the past several years, the LTA Council has sponsored pre-show receptions for each of our productions. The board is considering if we should continue with these receptions and whether they will be sponsored by the Council or the theatre.
- ◆ **Jim Hutzler**, Co-Chair of the Wood Shop Department, made a proposal to the board to offer a set construction class through the Education Department in the future. The board approved the proposal.

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!

Governor's Message

Building

It's no secret that our most valuable asset — next to our volunteers — is our BUILDING. It's the Governor for Building's job to protect this asset by doing regular maintenance, routine upkeep, and long-range planning.

Our building is now over 50 years old and, like any aging building, needs a bit of TLC. So, this past year, we installed new carpet in the auditorium, business office, and box office, and we painted the back hallway. By the time this article is printed, it will be time for the regularly scheduled refinishing of the Green Room floors, and then, after *West Side Story*, it will be time to repaint the Green Room walls. With the building, there is never a dull moment.

More and more, however, the Decorating Committee and I have focused on projects that have long-range impact. You probably have noticed some of these: the rail along the auditorium aisle, the new door handles, and new signs. If you work backstage, you have walked in and out of the new fire door leading from the wing into the paint room/lighting shop. All of these projects, and many others, respond to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ensure that our theatre is a welcoming place for years to come.

Of course, the big prize for our ADA work will be the ramp, which will go in front of the building along the wall outside the Green Room (see design below). Let's face it, many of our members (and I include myself in this group) have either arrived at or are approaching an age when a ramp is not just a luxury, it is a need. The design of our ramp will maintain the beauty of our building, and I am excited to see the result.

Once the ramp and other ADA-related projects are done, however, there won't be a chance to rest. Four years ago, the board commissioned an engineering study. It gave us a multi-year list of needed improvements, some small and some large. With the ramp installed, we will again return to that list and keep making the kinds of improvements that will protect our greatest asset for another hundred years.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't publicly thank the Building Committee: **Myke Taister** (chair), **Marian Holmes**, **Mary Hutzler**, and **Leslie Reed**. They are talented, creative, and dedicated. I also thank President Bittinger for his support as well as our Business Manager, **Virginia Lacey**. She is my day-to-day eyes and ears, spotting problems before they grow, working with our contractors, and making sure the building looks great for audiences, students, actors, and volunteers.

So, in closing, let me state the obvious: unlike a fine wine, the building does not get better with age — unless we work to make it so. I am grateful to all those before me and yet to come who have treasured and will treasure this great asset as I do.

David Hale

Governor for Building





Council Corner

This November marks the 55th anniversary of the LTA Council! Did you know that the Council was established to support the theatre by providing funds for special projects, as well as helping meet the needs of our theatre building and its maintenance? Our Council dues, as we call them, are really “donations” and are referred to as such in the LTA bylaws. Put simply, the Council is a fundraising arm of the theatre.

As the new Director, I asked **Sharon Field**, our Treasurer, to prepare a 2016 - 2017 budget for the Executive Committee. This exercise was an eye opener, as some of our expenses were not in line with our goal of supporting the theatre. It was agreed that we would no longer host the pre-show Opening Night party. Our last event will be *The History Boys*.

The Executive Committee includes Vice Chair **Tina Anderson**, Treasurer **Sharon Field**, Secretary **Grace Machanic**, and myself. We have been given the responsibility of making sure that the Council is contributing to the financial needs of LTA.

If you would like to join the Council, attend one of our meetings as a guest, or just chat about the Council, feel free to email me at cswinters@aol.com.

Meeting dates this year are Sunday, June 12th, and Sunday, September 18th. Our annual meeting will be held Sunday, February 12th.

Carolyn Winters

LTA Council Director

The Arts Build Communities

New Members

Donna Davis

Joshua Mutterperl

Noah Mutterperl

Kevin Nejad

Ben Peter

Asha Puttaiah

Bobby Ramkissoon

Matt Stevenson

Jeffery Westlake

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

asklta@thelittletheatre.com

Mark Your Calendars

7/9 - 7/10	<i>Steel Magnolias</i> auditions
7/8	NVTA One-Act Play Festival
7/23	<i>West Side Story</i> opens
9/18	LTA Council 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!