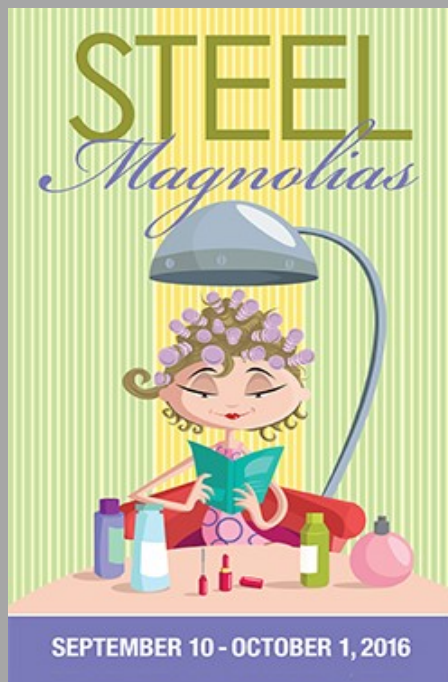




# FLOODLIGHT

## FEATURED PRODUCTION

August 2016



Written by  
Robert Harling

Produced by  
Brooke Angel,  
Jay Cohen,  
and Richard Schwab

Directed by  
Sharon Veselic

Producers **Brooke Angel**, **Jay Cohen**, and **Richard Schwab**, along with director **Sharon Veselic** are proud to present *Steel Magnolias*. In the small parish of Chinquapin in northwest Louisiana, six women come together in a hilarious and heartwarming story of life, love, and loss. At the center of the group is Shelby Eatenton (**Kelsey Yudice**), newly married and joyfully pregnant, despite the fact that her diabetes could make childbirth life-threatening. Her mother M'Lynn (**Alana Sharp**), who is terrified and angry at the possibility of losing her only daughter, battles her deepest fear of death in order to join Shelby in celebrating the miracle of new life. Along her journey M'Lynn looks to her closest friends Truvy (**Carla Crawford**), Annelle (**Susan Smythe**), Clairee (**Brenda Parker**), and Ouiser (**Patricia Spencer Smith**) for strength and laughter as they gather at Truvy's home salon.

This production is led by co-stage managers **Lynn Lacey** and **Larry Grey** with assistance from **Sherry Singer**. The set is designed by **Matt Liptak** and will be constructed by **John Downing** with input from co-master electricians **Michael J. O'Connor** and **Nick Roy**. Costumes will be designed by **Ceci Alberts**, and hair and makeup by **Rebecca Harris** and **Larissa Norris**. **Marzanne Claiborne** will provide the lighting design and **Lynn Lacey** the sound design. The homey look and feel of the salon will be created by props designer **Brendan Quinn**, set dresser **Kirstin Apker**, and set painter **De Nicholson-Lamb**. Rounding out the crew are rigging technician **Russ Wyland** and photographer **Misty Angel**.

Don't miss this winner of the LTA "People's Choice" survey!

### The Little Theatre of Alexandria

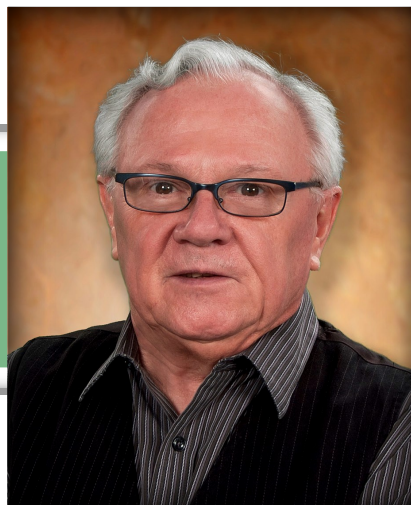
Lloyd Bittinger, President  
Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for  
Membership  
Kirstin Apker, Floodlight  
Coordinator  
Linda Wells, Floodlight Editor  
*Next Floodlight September 19th*

### Inside This Issue

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

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

## President's Column



## Lloyd Bittinger

With our highly successful production of *West Side Story*, we at the Little Theatre of Alexandria begin our new year for 2016 – 2017. We are calling this LTA's Audience Choice Season. As you can well imagine, it's quite a task to put an entire theatre season together. We know coming into it that we're probably going to do two rather large musicals, a couple of comedies, and a couple of dramas. What we have to consider is the "mix" of all these – how one relates to the other, how our audiences will see the collective season, and what the technical components of the shows are as they relate to our ability to pull them off. Many months ago, our Governor for Seasonal Planning, **Frank Shutts**, initiated a survey to members and subscribers asking them what shows they would like to see us do in the new season. We sent out hundreds of questionnaires and had a very good response. We ended up with over a hundred recommended shows, and seven slots in which to put them.

After this process takes place, the Board of Governors is left with all of these recommendations, plus the concept of having to include whatever we can that was recommended by members and subscribers, to create a whole package called "the season" that we hope our audience will like. We are quite aware that in most cases our audience does not like shows they have never heard of before – no name recognition and often not much interest. But sometimes we can select a show that maybe the audience hasn't heard of, but might work because it's a genre piece. For example, we selected *A Party to Murder* because it read really well (very funny and clever), it has a theme we can use around Halloween, and it's a murder mystery. Also, we know that many of our audience members like murder mysteries. So we selected it not on name recognition, but on genre.

Ultimately we were left with trying to select shows recommended to us by the survey process (*Anything Goes* came in from the survey), mixing them with other shows you recommended to us, and adding "fill-ins" that we hope you will like. We did have another problem we had to sort through, and that is that some shows we really wanted to do (like *The Sound of Music* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*) were not available to us as other professional and/or regional theaters in the area are planning to do them, and the pecking order is that we come in after them when those who own the rights lease them out. In this case, the Kennedy Center and Signature Theatre, respectively, superseded us. We even tried to do *Driving Miss Daisy* (highly recommended from our survey) but were turned down because a theatre in Fredericksburg had already obtained the rights. We never thought we'd get turned down for that show, but we have to admit it's an excellent show and very popular.

So the point of all this is that we are calling this LTA's Audience Choice Season, and we really believe that it is because our members and subscribers responded so well to the survey we sent out many months ago. But we also have a responsibility to you and the audience to ultimately put a season together so that you like the whole package, or certainly as much of it as possible. I believe we have accomplished our goal of inclusion by listening to your ideas and suggestions. We on the Board of Governors feel that we have put together an excellent season, and we are encouraged because our subscriptions are so far significantly higher than last year. We thank Frank for guiding us through the selection process, and we thank our members and subscribers for responding to us and telling us what they want to see.

**Lloyd Bittinger**, President  
*All for Love of Theatre!*

# Upcoming Auditions

Six people have come in secret on Halloween to play a murder mystery game at an isolated island house. Everything turns sinister when people start to die. Secret passageways, incriminating letters, hidden compartments, bodies in the window seat and a 25-year-old unsolved mystery twist and turn toward the unexpected and terrifying conclusion. This is a mystery in the style of Dame Agatha Christie but set in the United States.

## For the Audition

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script.

All actors must be willing and able to perform stage combat (safe, choreographed violence on stage). They must also be willing to modify their length of hair and facial hair if necessary.

The ages listed are the ages of the characters. Actors must have the appropriate look and manner to play these ages. They do not necessarily have to be those ages.

No conflicts will be accepted for tech week and for the run of the show.

## Character Descriptions

Charles – a successful mystery novelist; English, 40s to 50s; urbane, intelligent, well bred; the ultimate host (also plays Konrad – a suave surgeon)\*

Willy – a former football player; around 30 to 40; big, friendly, gregarious, good sense of humor (also plays Ernie – a bald-headed man in his 70s) \*

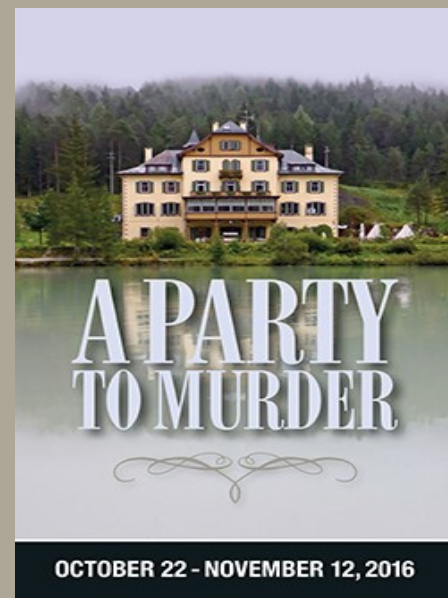
Mckenzie – a fashion model; late 20s; witty, extroverted, with a tough exterior; Elwood's girlfriend (also plays Mrs. McKnight – the maid)\*

Valerie – Henri's older sister; mid-40s; smart, savvy, used to getting her own way; very well turned out (also plays Evelyn – a conservative-looking woman)\*

Henri (pronounced "Henry") – Valerie's younger sister; late 20s; shy, easily intimidated, dresses conservatively (also plays Madam O'Karma – an exotic seer)\*

Elwood – a corporate magnate; mid-50s; confident, friendly, powerful, and he knows it (Also plays Reverend Gerry Merryweather – a priest)\*

\*characters in the opening scene playing the Halloween game



Written by  
Marcia Kash  
and Douglas E. Hughes

Produced by  
Robert Kraus  
and Alan Wray

Directed by  
Roland Branford Gomez

## Audition Dates

Saturday, August 27, 2016

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

Sunday, August 28, 2016

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

## Callbacks

Tuesday, August 30, 2016

7:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Class: Theater Set Construction Techniques

LTA is offering a great opportunity for those who want to learn theater set building skills. Do you like to build things? Do you enjoy tinkering? LTA has a well-equipped scenery shop awaiting your talents!

The class will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on October 17th, 24th, 31st, and November 7th. Participants will learn basic construction techniques under the guidance of **Jim Hutzler**, head of LTA's wood shop. The class' major project is to build the set for LTA's 2016 production of *A Christmas Carol*. Actual set construction for the show will begin on Monday, November 14th, and will last approximately two weeks. Class members are encouraged to work as much or as little as they are able. Set construction will take place most weekday evenings and during the day on the weekend of November 18th and 19th.

The class is free to LTA members and \$50 for non-members. Please register by emailing [virginia@thelittletheatre.com](mailto:virginia@thelittletheatre.com).



## New Members

Morgan Arrivillaga

Jay Bartol

Stacy Becker

Sean Cator

Chris Chapin

Maria Luisa Clark

David Clement

Katie Clement

Leah Beth Devendorf

Jim Dewees

Marti Dewees

Iris Ellis

Allison Finkelstein

Chris Galindo

Marcia Gillespie

Caitlyn Goerner

Ari Halvorson

Terry Hardt

Kevin Allen Harney

Jeffrey Holland

Gerges Jacques

Elizabeth Jamison

Anthony Johnson

Phyllis Johnson

Jasmine Jones

Patrick Kearney

Denise Landers

Karen Gail Lewis

Cyndi Matthes

Greg Matthes

Joe Mayes

Lexie McEntire

John Paul Odle

Stephen Percy

Susan Robertson (Smythe)

Patricia Rupinen

Page (Dreher) Scheiner

Andrew Sese

Alana Sharp

Caroline Short (Griswold)

Elizabeth Spilsbury

Lloyd Thompson-Taylor

Richard Turner

Mike Turner

Marsha Ward

Kelsey Yudice

# DC Connection

*NY's most prominent casting directors are coming to DC!*

October 7-9, 2016



Three-day theater, film, TV and commercial event

- Launch the weekend with an orientation session
- Learn marketing tactics in our business seminar
- Attend six casting director master classes
- Work with NY's leading casting directors

Two Sessions -  
Adults and  
Kids (ages 8-13)

Location -  
The Little Theatre  
of Alexandria

## actorsconnection

actorsconnection.com    @actorsconn    /actorsconnection

## 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](mailto:virginia@thelittletheatre.com).

Since our last issue of the *Floodlight*, we had our annual meeting on June 13th followed very quickly by our monthly Board of Governors meeting on June 15th. Here are two significant things that occurred at the annual meeting:

- ◆ Our membership approved the expense – not to exceed \$50,000 – for the construction of the access ramp by the theatre’s main entrance. The project itself had been approved at the previous annual meeting.
- ◆ Several members of the Board of Governors were elected by uncontested ballot for the upcoming year. We say thank you and goodbye to **Eddie Page** and **Russ Wyland**, Governors for Front-of-House and Production, respectively. In their places we welcome **Jean Coyle** and **Margaret Evans-Joyce** to the board.

Here are some significant issues currently being dealt with from the agenda for the Board of Governors:

- ◆ Our financial review is ongoing and is being conducted by an independent CPA as a requirement for our tax-exempt status by the Virginia Department of Taxation.
- ◆ Our Department of Education, managed by our Governor for Education, **Roland Branford Gomez**, continues to grow and provide numerous educational opportunities. We are currently in the middle of our summer camp, which has been highly successful.
- ◆ Our new Millennial Committee continues to meet and will soon initiate their first activity to promote the theatre and provide outreach to other potential millennial members.
- ◆ All of our upcoming productions are now fully staffed with directors and producers thanks to our immediate past Governor for Production, **Russ Wyland**.
- ◆ We are looking forward to scheduling additional CPR/AED training classes, which will be free to theatre members. These are being coordinated by our new Governor for Production, **Margaret Evans-Joyce**.
- ◆ One of our valued members, **Will Monahan**, came to a recent board meeting to propose some kind of memorial designation to our recently departed member **Ernie Sult**. The board is looking at a way to provide this designation, most likely something on the patio section of the theatre.
- ◆ The Board of Governors has approved a recommendation from the Board of Financial Trustees to appoint **Ira Forstater** as a member of the committee. We look forward to having Ira work with the trustees in the future.
- ◆ Many of our governors oversee several committee and/or department chairs. All of these appointments, which include about 30 supporting members, are in the process of being approved for the forthcoming year by the entire board.
- ◆ New and expanded first aid kits have been placed backstage and in the box office. Stage Managers, directors, and producers in particular are encouraged to make themselves aware of the location and contents of these kits.
- ◆ The Governor for Technical Support, **Robert Kraus**, continues to look for ways to optimize the video monitoring equipment at the stage manager’s station and has promised to have an excellent update very soon.

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!*

## Your Board of Governors at Work

# Governor's Message

## Box Office

Did you ever notice how inconvenient some aspects of life are today? Look at air travel for instance. As I started to write this article, I was sitting in BWI Airport in the middle of a thunderstorm, hoping that my family would actually be able to board the plane and make it to our vacation destination in a reasonable amount of time.

I'm not a huge fan of flying. It's truly become kind of a pain in the neck. Security lines are long and a lot of the passengers are typically grumpy. It's no wonder, though, with the unsanitary conditions. Once you board the plane, you get to breathe in that wonderful recycled air and hope that you aren't infected by some sort of strange airborne virus that has been lingering in there since 2006. Meanwhile, back in security, everyone is taking their shoes off so the area now smells like feet, and it looks like a plumber's convention because everyone has taken off their belts.

We continued to wait in the lobby at our gate as the flight was delayed for a second time, and I realized one of the many things I'd rather be doing at that moment: going to see a show at LTA. Purchasing and acquiring a ticket is easy and there are options – ordering online or speaking to one of our very capable and courteous box office volunteers. If you call and are really lucky, you might even get to speak to our very own box office manager extraordinaire, Tina McCrea, whose knowledge and experience are second to none.

At LTA, the lines are short, the ushers and box office staff are nice, and you get to keep your belt and shoes on. LTA has done *Hair*, *The Full Monty* and *Gypsy* in years past, but I'm pretty sure the audience and even most of the performers kept their clothes on. What people do outside of the theater is their own business, but inside there are no full body scans or anonymous groping. In the lobby, you won't smell feet but you may catch a whiff of hand sanitizer.

Have you seen airline prices recently? Do you know that it can be cheaper to buy some international flights than domestic ones? Forget about flying first-class. LTA's "first class" tickets (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) are just a few dollars more than our "coach" tickets (Wednesday and Thursday) and are pretty inexpensive in today's theater market.

For the cost of one round-trip short-distance flight, you could buy an LTA subscription. That's six or seven shows to see throughout the year while staying in the neighborhood. (Look for a new option in the near future where you will be able to buy a "flex pass" of multiple tickets and choose how you want to use them.) Spend \$17 more and you can add the holiday show in December. Do you think you're going to see Ebenezer and Tiny Tim Cratchit on that flight to San Francisco? It's highly doubtful.

Let's talk about snacks. You'll be hard-pressed to find any food other than a tiny bag of peanuts or pretzels on even a cross-country flight unless you are shelling out a monthly mortgage payment for a business or first-class ticket. There is no way to get a nice sugar buzz on an airplane anymore unless you bring it with you from home and have it x-rayed by one of the blue shirts, or you can pay the ridiculously overpriced amounts inside the terminal. During intermission at LTA, you are getting the good stuff: full-size candy bars (if you so choose) for a buck. They even cost less than the same bars at the CVS down on Washington Street.

Sometimes a fun-loving pilot makes a few witty announcements during the flight, but realistically, he or she won't even come close to the laugh riot you can get from an LTA comedy. Most flight attendants are kind and courteous, but do you know how many hours they have to train to get a good flight on a decent airline? One of the teachers at my kids' school is a part-time flight attendant, and she has put in many years to be able to choose flights around her teaching schedule. If you are interested in dabbling in a service industry, consider volunteering as an usher or in the box office. After a couple of hours of instruction and hands-on experience, you could be helping a wide variety of interesting people and contributing to their entertainment for the evening, all without the need to demonstrate how to pull the string on the little yellow life preserver. I should warn you, though, your seat at LTA should not be used as a floatation device.

This is probably obvious but deserves to be said: at LTA, if the show wasn't all you were hoping it would be, or you just can't handle the second act for some reason, you can exit of your own free will. Comparatively, once your flight takes off, if there is anything about the service, the air pressure, the bathroom size, the turbulence, or the sweaty guy asleep next to you that you don't appreciate, you are out of luck.

This summer, each of my daughters attended a different summer camp session, and in the past, I have taken a few classes offered at LTA – all wonderful experiences. I have enjoyed performing on the LTA stage and participating in the administration of other shows. Being on the Board of Governors at LTA is a dream come true for me, and I look forward to serving in a variety of ways in the years to come.

(continued on page 7)



## Council Corner

Our last Council meeting was held on June 12th at Tempo Restaurant, and it was quite a lively group! Many thanks to Vice Chair **Tina Anderson**, Treasurer **Sharon Field**, and Secretary **Grace Machanic** for helping to make this meeting run so smoothly.

**Jim Howard**, our Governor for Development, announced that **Maya Brettell** and **Laney Delaney** would be the recipients of the LTA Scholarship. Each of the individuals was honored at the LTA Annual Meeting and received a check for \$1,000 from the Council. Maya will be going to Catholic University and Laney will be attending Lehigh University.

To be consistent with the LTA bylaws, the Council did vote to retain the membership title of "Life Member." However, in the future Life Members are *required* to make a donation (i.e. pay dues) to the Council each year. You might be asking yourself, "What is a Life Member?" These are individuals in the Council who have been extraordinary volunteers at LTA over the years and have been recognized by their peers. Beginning with this year's Awards Night, the Board of Governors will begin honoring our new Life Members at this event.

We also established two new committees. **Rance Willis** will chair the Membership Committee to review criteria for membership and donations. The Membership Committee consists of **Ashley Amidon** and **Dwayne Goddard**. **Mary Beth Smith-Toomey** will chair the LTA Annual Meeting Committee.

Council meeting dates to put on your calendar are Sunday, September 18th, and Sunday, February 12th. Also, as a side note, this year's **LTA Ladies Night** will be on Monday, December 12th.

**Carolyn Winters**  
LTA Council Director  
*The Arts Build Communities*

(continued from page 6)

Incidentally, our flight was supposed to arrive at our destination at 8:05 p.m. It actually arrived a little after 11:00 p.m. We still had to pick up our rental car, feed three hungry, exhausted kids and drive 50 miles to sleep in a bed. I kind of wished I had stayed in Alexandria to see *West Side Story* on its opening weekend.

Enjoy your flight – maybe. Enjoy the LTA experience – definitely. (Thanks to the late Andy Rooney for his inspiration.)

**Rae Edmonson**  
Governor for Box Office

## 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)

[asklta@thelittletheatre.com](mailto:asklta@thelittletheatre.com)

## Mark Your Calendars

8/27– 8/28      *A Party to Murder*  
auditions

9/10              *Steel Magnolias*  
opens

9/18              LTA Council  
meeting

10/7-10/9      *DC Connection*

## 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.....	Roland Gomez
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
Governor for Technical Support.....	Robert Kraus

Additional officers are:

President Pro-Tem.....	Rachel Alberts
Treasurer.....	David Hale
Board Secretary.....	Carolyn Winters
Executive Secretary.....	Ashley Amidon
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!**