



FLOODLIGHT

FEATURED PRODUCTION

August 2017

Driving Miss Daisy



SEPTEMBER 9 - 30, 2017

Written by
Alfred Uhry

Produced by
Carol Strachan

Directed by
Jim Howard

Driving Miss Daisy was inspired by playwright Alfred Uhry's grandmother, who had to give up driving because of a car accident and hired a chauffeur who remained in that role for 25 years. Daisy is a crotchety, elderly white Southern Jewish woman, whose son Boolie interviews Hoke, an unemployed African-American, for the position of Daisy's chauffeur. Though they are initially wary of each other, Hoke puts up with Miss Daisy with dignity. Having been a teacher, Miss Daisy teaches Hoke to read, and over the next 25 years they form a friendly bond,

Director **Jim Howard** and producer **Carol Strachan** are delighted to announce the cast and crew for *Driving Miss Daisy*. Our cast includes **Patricia Kratzer** as the titular Daisy Wertham; **Kevin Sockwell** as her chauffeur, Hoke Coleburn; and **Joel Durgavich** as her son, Boolie Wertham.

Our co-stage managers are **Margaret Evans-Joyce** and **Melissa Dunlap**, assisted by **Eileen Doherty** and **Mary Ferrara**. Designers and crew chiefs include **John Downing**, set design; **Mike Baker**, video design; **Marzanne Claiborne**, lighting design; **Lynn Lacey**, sound design; **Jennifer Crier Johnston**, costume design and set dressing; **Susan Boyd**, hair and makeup design; **Michelle Hall**, props design; **Tom O'Reilly**, master carpenter; and **Pam Leonowich**, master electrician. Heading up the set painting crew is

Mona Wargo, ably assisted by **Shelby Baker**, **Jill Crispino**, **Janet Kennelly**, **Liz Beth Perez**, **Leslie Reed**, and **Bruce Teris**. Bruce is also assisting with set building and running lights. Running props are **Phyllis Johnson**, **Janet Kennelly**, and **Carol Starke**. **Matt Liptak** is the show's photographer, and **Russ Wyland** is handling rigging. **Susan Boyd**, **Sherry Clarke**, and **Bruce Schmid** manned the auditions table. **Genie Baskir** will offer her southern-style double tech dinner, and new LTA caterer **Soul Creations** will handle our opening night party.

Running crew are still needed in several areas. Please contact producer Carol Strachan (cazeveandwe@hotmail.com) if you would like to help.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Russell Wyland, President
Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for
Membership
Kirstin Apker, Floodlight
Coordinator
Linda Wells, Floodlight Editor
Next Floodlight September 18th

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President's Column



Russell
Wyland

It is a pleasure and an honor to again serve as the president of The Little Theatre of Alexandria. Those who have been around LTA for a while might recall that I served as president a decade (or more) ago. While the job is pretty much the same, I am struck by how much we've grown. When I left, the summer camp was just at a fledgling stage; now, our camps are bringing joy to kids (and parents) from Memorial Day to Labor Day. When I was last president, we had a few rooms for rehearsals and meetings; now, the Academy has almost doubled our space and our opportunities. When I left, we worried about not having enough volunteers ... well, some things never change.

If you are already volunteering at LTA, I want you to know that your contributions are important, and I thank you for the work you're doing. If you are ready to take on a little more or to try something new, I want to encourage you to take the next step. If you work on props crews, maybe you might want to try props design? If you usher occasionally, maybe you'd consider adding one additional performance as a house manager? Every bit helps, and LTA succeeds because of the work of its volunteers. So, I urge you to keep volunteering and, if you can, take that one next step. Not sure how to take the next step? Send me an email, and I would love to help you: RussellWyland@gmail.com.

In the coming months, I want to use this column to let you know what's happening with your theatre. LTA is a complex organization that faces many challenges, and it is important that you know what those challenges are and how your board proposes to meet them. I will be talking about fire safety, outreach to the community, and ways to better use the resources that we have at our disposal. I also want to use this column to sing the praises of those who make LTA a vibrant and fun place to work – not “the usual suspects,” but those hidden gems who give our theater texture and interest. There are many remarkable people involved in LTA, and they deserve to be known. Finally, I want to use this article in the coming months to occasionally reminisce about our history and try to better understand how we arrived at where we are today. Our history is part of what makes us unique, and I want to celebrate it with the help of our archival holdings and our old timers. So, watch this space in future issues of the *Floodlight*.

Until the next issue, enjoy the summer.

Russell Wyland, President

New Members

Benita Adams

Jeanne Gardner

Janet Kennelly

Ken Brown

Heather Gifford

Katherine Lipovsky

Rachel Cahoon

Elizabeth Gillespie

Carlie Smith

Shawn Cox

Dwayne Harney

Rebecca Weiss

Karen Kelleher

Upcoming Auditions

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike is a comedy, with some darker elements referenced from the plays of Anton Chekhov. The story involves the relationships of three middle-aged single siblings, Vanya and Sonia, who live together in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and takes place during a visit by a third, Masha, who supports them. Masha, after five marriages, is now in a May - December relationship with Spike, whom she brings home for the weekend. Nina, who arrives unannounced while visiting her aunt and uncle next door, resembles the character of the same name from Chekhov's *The Seagull*. Cassandra, a cleaning woman and soothsayer, has much in common with the tragic heroine from Greek mythology.

For the Audition

One prepared monologue (no more than two minutes) and cold readings from the script, available at time of auditions.

If you have a black and white headshot and acting résumé, you may bring them with you. However, auditionees may be asked to have their picture taken by the LTA photographer.

Please bring an accurate list of conflicts from August 24th to November 12th with you to the audition.

Role Summaries

Vanya – [Male lead] late 50s, resigned to his life more or less, at least compared to Sonia

Sonia – [Female lead] Vanya's adopted sister, early 50s, discontent, upset, regretful, and a good mimic of Maggie Smith

Masha – [Female lead] Vanya's sister, mid-50s, a glamorous, successful Hollywood actress who goes gallivanting around the world

Spike – [Male supporting] an aspiring actor, 29 or younger, sexy, self-absorbed, spends most of his time posing in his underwear

Nina – [Female supporting] lovely, sincere, would-be actress, early 20s, starstruck and energetic

Cassandra – [Female supporting] cleaning lady and soothsayer, any age, any race

If you would like to help with this production or you have questions, contact producers Genie Baskir (geniebaskir@gmail.com) or Elissa Hudson (un4gtabl@aol.com).



Written by
Christopher Durang

Produced by
Genie Baskir
and Elissa Hudson

Directed by
Howard Vincent Kurtz

Audition Dates

Saturday, August 19, 2017

2:00 p.m.

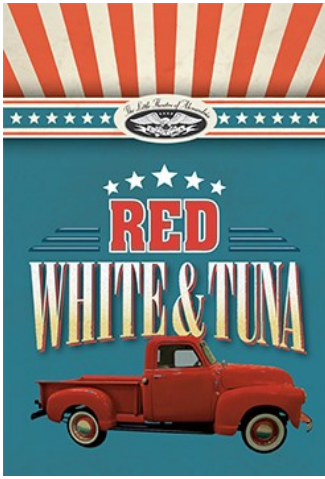
Sunday, August 20, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Callbacks

Monday, August 21, 2017

7:00 p.m.



Thank You from *Red, White and Tuna*

With the passing of the July 4th holiday, the third-smallest town in the Lone Star State has returned to “normal.” Didi Snaveley’s mother is playing imaginary bingo; Arles and Bertha Struvie (and their attack cat Pinky) are listening to Tammy Wynette on the back porch; Star Birdfeather and Amber Windchime have returned to California; Joe Bob Lipsey is directing *Legally Blonde* for the Little Theatre of Tuna; and, having posted bail, Vera Carp will join Reverend Spikes at the next meeting of the Smut Snatchers of the New Order. Yes, everything is back to “normal.”

We thank the cast and crew for their hard work and cheerful dispositions during the rehearsals and run of *Red, White and Tuna*. It was a pleasure working with one and all.

We owe special debts of gratitude to 1) stage managers **Margaret Evans-Joyce** and **Lynn Lacey**, the two most awesome señoritas since Helen Bedd and Inita Goodwin, 2) wardrobe mistresses **Jamie Blake** and **Margaret Snow**, masters of the quick change, and 3) actors **Dave Wright** and **Steve McDonnell**, who played Tuna’s entire population. Thank you, everyone, from deep in the heart of Texas.

Marian Holmes and **Russell Wyland**, Co-Producers

Mike Baker, Director

NVTA One Act Competition

On Saturday, July 15th, LTA presented three shows at the NVTA One Act Competition: *A Fine Death* directed by **Kathleen Barth**, *Herb* directed by **Paul Donahoe**, and *Primordial Soup* directed by **Robert Kraus**. These plays were chosen as the cream of the crop out of 75 original scripts submitted to the NVTA One Act Play Reading Committee.

On July 23rd, LTA was presented with five out of 12 awards and received a total of 12 nominations! LTA’s Production of *A Fine Death* took home four awards for Best Actress (**Gayle Grimes**), Best Ensemble, Best Original Script, and Best Overall Production. The play was also nominated for best supporting actresses, best actor, and best director. *Herb* took home the award for Best Supporting Actress (**Gale Nemec**), and was nominated for best leading actress, best supporting actresses, and best ensemble. *Primordial Soup* rounded out the trio with a nomination for best costumes.

Producers **Brooke Angel** and **Robert Kraus** are tremendously proud of LTA’s success at the competition and give thanks to everyone involved.

Brooke Angel, Co-Producer

Planning Your Gift

Have you considered including The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) as a beneficiary of your estate? LTA can suggest tools that will assist you in making plans that will support the artistic and education programs of the theatre in the future, as well as provide your estate with tax benefits. Supporters of LTA who make planned gifts are invited to be members of *The LTA Legacy Society*. *The LTA Legacy Society* recognizes those who have demonstrated their concern for the long-term well-being of LTA by notifying us of their bequest or other planned gift. For additional information, please call Tina McCrea at 703-683-5778 ext. 2 or email Tina@thelittletheatre.com.

Your Board of Governors at Work

Since taking office on July 1st, I have been busy re-immersing myself in the complexity that is LTA, reviewing materials left to me by my predecessor, **Lloyd Bittinger**, and talking to members of the existing Board of Governors. At every turn, I am reminded how very fortunate we are. While many volunteer organizations come and go as their volunteers' interests surge and ebb, LTA's truly remarkable longevity is the result of heartfelt commitment and stewardship by many former presidents, governors, and members. Everyone owes Lloyd a debt of gratitude for the work he has done over the last two years. Among other things, he has made LTA a safer and more welcoming place. Thank you, Lloyd.

Likewise, **Frank Shutts** stepped down from the board on July 1st after serving so ably for many years as our president, as well as Governor for Seasonal Planning and Governor for Education. It is hard to imagine a board without him. On behalf of the current board, I want to publicly thank Frank for his wise counsel and sense of humor over the years. He will be missed on the board, but we look forward to working with him this spring when he directs the area community theater debut of *The Nance*.

When one governor steps down, however, another one steps up, and Frank's departure has given us a new, energetic Governor for Seasonal Planning, **Ashley Amidon**, who is already at work doing great things. Ashley has served as the board's executive secretary but is better known around LTA for her work as a costume designer and her work on the Millennial Committee. Welcome to the board, Ashley, and thank you for agreeing to take the next step in this great organization.

Finally, kudos to Governor for Public Relations **Rachel Alberts**, who has rolled out the new LTA website. The site is the work of many hands (too many to name here), and it is slick, slick, slick. And did I mention that it is slick? Please visit it at www.thelittletheatre.com. In addition to having a new look and creating space for several theatre initiatives (like our improv group), it is also compatible with smart phones, which will result in greater sales and a greater connection with our patrons.

Russell Wyland, President

(continued from page 6) immersed as she is.

Leslie considers it a sheer joy to be a part of the hard-working creative community at LTA that reveals itself at deeper levels on each production. For her, the LTA experience is a continuing course in stage production, but without the tuition and exams! When not at LTA, she can be found at her other venue, the National Zoo, informing the public about the conservation of our friends, the wild critters.

Chairs of the Audio/Visual Department: **Austin Fodrie** and **Jim Hartz**

Austin works at Burgundy Farm Country Day School as a technology support and integration specialist. He has volunteered at LTA, PCP, and ACCT. His most recent assignments at LTA include stage managing *Grey Gardens* and assistant stage managing *The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)*. Austin is also in charge of the stage manager's desk backstage.

Jim has been a backstage volunteer for four and a half years, mostly on lighting but recently as co-chair of the newly developed audio/visual department. This department is responsible for all sound and video effects used to enhance the live action on the stage.

Chair of the Special Effects Department: **Arthur Snow**

By day, Art Snow is a chemist who is fascinated by materials undergoing transformation. By night, he enjoys seeing materials perform for a live audience. As the one-person Special Effects Department, he maintains equipment to generate fog, snow, and soap bubbles and can help with unique challenges that may involve blood, vomit, foam, breaking glass and dishes, and various other items. He finds that both the equipment and special challenge items work best with as much advance notification as possible, as early testing and design work promote smooth integration of these effects into a show.

Governor's Message

Technical Support

First, I want to thank the LTA members for the honor of allowing me to serve one last time as your Governor for Technical Support for the next two years. My areas of responsibilities include all technical aspects in the areas of lights, sound/intercom, rigging, shop, stage managers' equipment, paint, audiovisual/projectors, and special effects. Essentially, my departments are responsible for everything in and around the stage and oversee the care and maintenance of equipment in the following work spaces: stage area, shop, lighting and paint rooms, and sound and light booths. I cannot do this by myself. Thus, I have assembled a first rate team of very dedicated and experienced department chairs. Please join me in thanking them for taking on their responsibilities for the next two years and for keeping LTA #1 in technical support.

~**Robert S. Kraus**, Governor for Technical Support

Chairs of the Lights Department: **Jeffrey Scott Auerbach** and **Kimberly Pitcher-Crago**

Jeff and Kimberly are pleased to continue as chairs of the lights department at LTA. Jeff has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Technical Theater with an emphasis in lighting design. He has designed lights and has served as a master electrician for numerous local community theatre groups since 1999, including SMP, TAP, MCP, ACCT, VTC, and LTA. In 2016 he won the WATCH award for *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* with LTA.

Kimberly has a Master of Arts in Theatre from Northwestern University. She has been active in local community theatre since 2012 as an electrician, master electrician, and lighting designer. She has worked at LTA, VTC, MCP, ACCT, TAP, and RCP.

We have many plans for the Lights Department at LTA. One of our major goals is to continue to expand the department's equipment, especially smart lights that move on their own and change color. This technology will increase our ability to support LTA's high-quality productions.

Chair of the Sound Department: **David Correia**

David has been the chair of the Sound Department at LTA for seven years. He also does sound design for LTA and other community theaters. At LTA, David has recently worked on the productions of *West Side Story* and *A Party to Murder*.

The Sound Department is responsible for all sound equipment used in LTA productions, including body microphones, orchestra speakers and lights, and the equipment in the sound booth. The department is also responsible for intercom equipment, and it provides support for the Youth and Adult Education Showcases.

Chair of the Rigging Department: **Russell Wyland**

Russ has been the theatre's rigging chair (a one-person department) for about twenty years. For every show, he hangs the large black curtains to mask the backstage areas visible around sets, makes signs drop from the ceiling, and travels scrims and other drops along a track controlled by the stage manager. People often don't believe Russ when he says, quite sincerely, that of all his different roles at LTA, rigging is his favorite. While being on the Board of Governors or serving as LTA's president is difficult and rewarding, for him nothing beats the high of figuring out a creative way to use black fabric and rope to solve fundamental stage problems. When not rigging or serving in LTA's administrative structure, Russ produces shows, decorates sets, hosts parties, and works backstage.

Chairs of the Wood Shop Department: **Jim Hutzler** and **Dan Remmers**

Jim & Dan have both enjoyed carpentry, set painting and stage operations, having worked on many shows at LTA and other theaters in Northern Virginia. This past year, Jim received a WATCH nomination for set construction in a play for *To Kill a Mockingbird*, while Dan earned WATCH nominations for both set design and construction in a musical for *West Side Story* (he previously won for set construction in a play for *Noises Off*). LTA is very fortunate to have many hard working volunteers like Jim and Dan who make our quality community theatre possible.

Chairs of the Paint Department: **Mary Hutzler** and **Leslie Reed**

Mary has painted numerous sets at ACCT, PCP, and LTA. Her work on *Run For Your Wife* and on *Heaven Can Wait* won the Pearl Award for Excellence in Set Painting. She was nominated for a WATCH award for *It Runs in the Family*; *Heaven Can Wait*; *Move Over, Mrs. Markham*; and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Mary is intrepid as a mentor, and many of the people she has introduced (shanghaied?) into the backstage adventure are now as deeply (continued on page 5)



Council Corner

David Hale, Governor for Building and Treasurer, and I were in the Shakespeare Garden admiring the fence and gate. We were talking about how the fence and gate came from The White House. David mentioned that **Kay Burn** was president of LTA at the time, and she worked with or knew someone who worked at The White House and brought the fence to LTA. Thanks to some sleuthing, we found out that during President Lyndon Johnson's administration, parts of the 19th-century fence were taken down between June and October of 1965. They were replaced by a new fence that was at least eight inches higher. This fits into the time that Ms. Burn was president. We believe that the fence and gate are circa 1873. Parts of the fence on the Pennsylvania Avenue side of The White House were again replaced in 1976 by steel-reinforced gates that could withstand automobile crashes. On a sad note, when fences were replaced at The White House, they were taken to a junk yard and scrapped and the resulting proceeds helped to fund the Civil War and World War I.

Mark these dates on your calendars:

The next council meeting is Sunday, September 17th, at Tempo Restaurant from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Holiday decorating will be on Saturday, November 18th, from noon to 3:00 p.m.

LTA Ladies Night is on Monday, December 11th, at Tempo Restaurant from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The holiday decorations will be taken down on Saturday, January 6th, from noon to 3:00 p.m.

Carolyn Winters

LTA Council Director

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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

Mark Your Calendars

8/19 - 8/20	Auditions for <i>Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike</i>
9/9	<i>Driving Miss Daisy</i> opens
9/17	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 2017 – 2018 season are:

President.....	Russell Wyland
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Governor for Production.....	Margaret Evans-Joyce
Governor for Public Relations.....	Rachel Alberts
Governor for Seasonal Planning.....	Ashley Amidon
Governor for Technical Support.....	Robert Kraus

Additional officers are:

President Pro-Tem.....	Rachel Alberts
Treasurer.....	David Hale
Board Secretary.....	Carolyn Winters
Executive Secretary.....	Vacant
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

Thank you for your service!