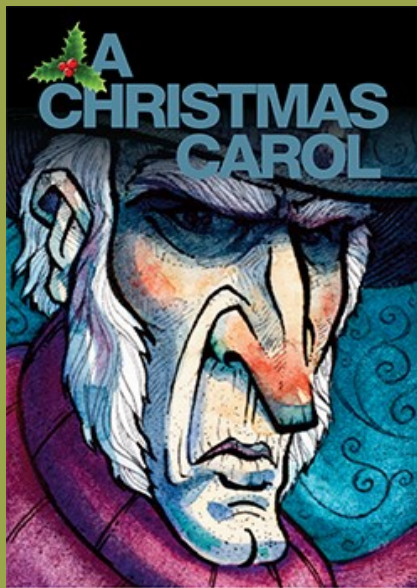




# FLOODLIGHT

FEATURED PRODUCTION

November 2016



DECEMBER 2 - 17, 2016

Produced by  
Lloyd Bittinger  
and Russell Wyland

Directed by  
Michael J. Baker, Jr.

Musical Direction by  
Linda Wells

Choreographed by  
Grace Manly Machanic

Producers **Lloyd Bittinger** and **Russell Wyland**, Director **Michael J. Baker, Jr.**, Music Director **Linda Wells**, and Choreographer **Grace Manly Machanic** are proud to present the timeless holiday classic *A Christmas Carol*. Adapted by Baker and Rachael Hubbard, from the classic story written by Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol* brings to life the memorable and miserly Ebenezer Scrooge; Bob Marley; ghosts of Christmases Past, Present, and Future; the Cratchit family; the jolly Fezziwig; and other well-drawn characters. This production is sure to put you in the Christmas spirit.

LTA's production is led by stage managers **Rob Cork** and **Micheal J. O'Connor**, assistant producers **Rachel Alberts** and **Bobbie Herbst**, and junior actor coordinators **Leah** and **Olivia Hays**. The set is designed by **Mary Hutzler** and will be built by **Jimmy Hutzler** and **Jeff Nesmeyer**, painted by **Kathy Murphy**, and decorated by **Charles Dragonette**. **Eileen Doherty** will design props, **Austin Fodrie** will serve as the rigger, and **Art Snow** will reprise his role as the master of special effects. We welcome to LTA **Juliana Confrancesco** and **Megan Murphy**, who will design costumes. Also working to transform the actors into Victorian men, women, and ghosts will be hair designers **Kadira Coley** and **Paul Morton**, make-up designer **Lori Bonnette**, and wardrobe mistress **Brooke Angel**. **Jeffrey Auerbach** and **Kimberly Pitcher-Crago** will set the mood as lighting designer and master electrician, and **Lynn Lacey** will add haunting noises and holiday cheer as the sound designer. Other "spirits" working to make this a great production include **Clare Baker** as dance captain, **Becky Patton** as double-tech dinner hostess, **Margie Remmers** as opening night party hostess, and **Doug Olmsted** as photographer.

The cast includes 18 adult actors and 14 junior actors. The adult actors include **Tony Gilbert** (Scrooge), **Lawrence O. Grey, Jr.** (Marley/Fezziwig), **Janette Moman** (Ghost of Christmas Present/Mrs. Dilber),  
(continued on page 4)

## The Little Theatre of Alexandria

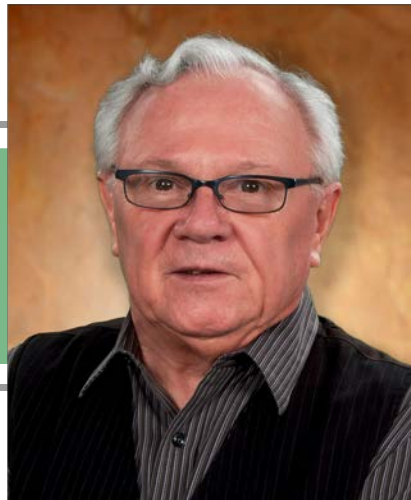
Lloyd Bittinger, President  
Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for  
Membership  
Kirstin Apker, Floodlight  
Coordinator  
Linda Wells, Floodlight Editor  
Next Floodlight December 12th

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# President's Column



# Lloyd Bittinger

On a recent Sunday evening in October, The Little Theatre of Alexandria held our annual Awards Night ceremony where awards were presented in 24 categories for acting, directing, technical achievement, and outstanding members. It was a fun evening remembering all the great productions of the 2015–2016 season. Congratulations to all the winners in these various categories. Now I want to use this opportunity to shine a light on a group of individuals who make tremendous contributions to the success of each of our productions, but who are not eligible for an award.

For dedicated theater people, it's easy to answer the question, "What is the difference between a director and a producer?" But many people ask me this question. For all the shows we do every season at The Little Theatre, we have to have a producer—usually more than one for each show. During the last 12 months, the following people have stepped up to the plate and volunteered to be a producer: **Rachel Alberts, Brooke Angel, Jay Cohen, Bobbie Herbst, Jim Howard, Robert Kraus, John Monnett, Lynn O'Connell, Kevin O'Dowd, Eddie Page, Rebecca Sheehy, Mary Beth Smith-Toomey, Alan Wray, and Russell Wyland.** We all pretty much know that the director directs the actors and action of the show. Here are just some of the many things that the producer is responsible for:

- ◇ assembling the production staff, including all the designers (sound, lights, costumes, props, etc.)
- ◇ writing audition notices, show articles, and a follow-up thank you article
- ◇ arranging for the auditions
- ◇ coordinating the read-throughs and rehearsals
- ◇ dealing with the various issues related to the actors (i.e., conflict schedules, rehearsal schedules, etc.)
- ◇ ensuring that the double-tech dinner and opening night party are arranged
- ◇ disciplining and/or replacing actors and/or production staff as needed
- ◇ setting up the cue-to-cue rehearsals and tech week rehearsals
- ◇ organizing the dressing rooms to accommodate all the actors
- ◇ coordinating the dress rehearsals and all the performances during the run
- ◇ paying most of the bills related to the show budget (along with the theatre's treasurer)
- ◇ being on-duty at the theatre for every performance
- ◇ coordinating thank you gifts for everyone involved in the production
- ◇ wrapping up all loose ends related to the production

The producer is the number one person who is responsible for everything related to the show from start to finish. He/she usually starts putting things together several months before the show opens, and then continues to finalize things after the show is over and the set has been struck. It seems that the producer is somewhat taken for granted and asked to work day and night (and weekends too!), and there is never an award for a producer. This acknowledgment serves as a great big "thank you" to all the producers over the years who have done a tremendously good job and to whom no award was ever given. Thank you to our producers!

**Lloyd Bittinger, President**

*All for Love of Theatre!*

# Upcoming Auditions

Meet Harriet, a divorcee with financial woes until she takes control of her finances by entertaining—and collecting rent—from two gentlemen callers. To keep things straight, she orchestrates their comings and goings very strategically. Her carefully calculated scheme falls to pieces when Harriet's men arrive at her flat on the same day followed by their irate wives. Throw in a last-minute visit from a best friend with a faltering marriage and an inebriated husband in mad pursuit, and the laughs just keep on coming amidst the mistaken identities and classic farcical situations.

## For the Audition

Please prepare a one-minute comic monologue and be prepared to move.

All ethnicities are encouraged to audition. Resumes and headshots are optional.

Please bring a complete list of all conflicts between January 3rd and March 18th, 2017.

Cold readings from the script will be done at callbacks only.

## Character Descriptions

All roles require very fast, witty and accurate comic timing. English accents will be used.

**Harriet:** glamorous, intensely feminine and fun (ideal age, 40s)

**Gordon:** handsome, athletic, runs a successful advertising agency (ideal age, 40s)

**Alec:** North Country man, big, bluff, owns a fleet of fishing boats (ideal age, 50s - 60s)

**Anne** (Harriet's friend): fashionista, upbeat and energetic, required to undress (ideal age, 40s)

**Richard** (Anne's husband): former military, drunk most of the time (ideal age, 40s)

**Magda** (Gordon's wife): imperious, but a little naïve at times (ideal age, 40s)

**Mildred** (Alec's wife): Yorkshire lady, demanding and angry (ideal age, 40s - 60s)

If you would like to work on this production or have questions, please contact producers **Becky Patton** ([mbopatton@gmail.com](mailto:mbopatton@gmail.com)) or **Jean Coyle** ([jeancoyle@verizon.net](mailto:jeancoyle@verizon.net)).



Written by  
John Chapman  
and Dave Freeman

Produced by  
Jean Coyle  
and Rebecca Patton

Directed by  
Eleanore Tapscott

## Audition Dates

Saturday, December 3, 2016

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

Sunday, December 4, 2016

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## Callbacks

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

## Rehearsals

Begin Wednesday, January 4, 2017





## Thank You From *Steel Magnolias*

Truvy's beauty shop is closed, and LTA's production of *Steel Magnolias* has taken its final bow. While we are sad to see this show end, we had an amazing run and we thank everyone for coming to Louisiana with us for a night of laughter, tears, and a reminder of what true friendship is. We would like to thank all those crew members who were new to their positions: **Brendan Quinn** (Props Design), **Kirstin Apker** (Set Dressing), **Jimmy Hotsko** (Co-Set Construction), **Brooke Angel** (Producer) and **Larry Grey** (Stage Manager). We also thank our returning designers and crew members and our small but talented team of actresses—**Alana Sharp**, **Kelsey Yudice**, **Brenda Parker**, **Patricia Smith**, **Susan Smythe**, and **Carla Crawford**. Finally, we would like to thank our fearless director, **Sharon Veselic**, who brought this show to life. Thank you to all the volunteers and to the LTA board for giving us this opportunity.

**Brooke Angel** and **Jay Cohen**, Co-Producers

## New Members

Eva Coll

Emma Lacy

Julie Fischer

Rachel Seguin

Mona Wargo

Carrie King

Kris Simms

(continued from page 1)

**Clare Baker** (Ghost of Christmas Past/Spirit), **Matthew Fager** (Bob Cratchit), **Hilary Adams** (Mrs. Cratchit), **Michelle Ballard** (Mrs. Fezziwig/Narrator), **Joel Durgavich** (Gentleman #2/Haberdasher/Parishioner #1), **Daria Hoobchaak** (Lillian), **Pat Jannell** (Ghost of Christmas Future/Narrator), **Ashley King** (Fred's Wife), **Sherry Lord** (Narrator), **Nic Barta** (Dick Wilkins/Poulterer), **James Pearson** (Gentleman #1/Old Joe/Headmaster/Baker), **Ryan Phillips** (Young Scrooge/Topper), **Brendan Quinn** (Fred), **Tameka Taylor** (Narrator/Parishioner #2), and **Eva Gary** (Belle).

Junior actors include **Maeve Bradley** (Caroler/Beggar/Belle's Child #2/Want), **Meredith Endres** (Martha/Spirit), **Avery Evans** (Boy Dick Wilkins/Belle's Child #3), **Penelope Gallagher** (Soloist/Belle's Eldest Daughter/Spirit/Maid), **Josh Gordon** (Tiny Tim), **Kathryne Gould** (Narrator/Spirit), **Eva Jaber** (Belle's Child #1/Soloist), **Morgan Jay** (Turkey Boy/Schoolboy/Ignorance/Chimney Sweep), **James Kennedy** (Boy Scrooge), **Emma Lacy** (Belinda), **Calla McGill** (Girl Cratchit), **Benjamin Napolitano** (Peter/Chimney Sweep), **Lucas Trueblood** (Boy Cratchit/Schoolboy), and **Viktoria Truitt** (Fan).

*A Christmas Carol* is an annual fund-raising effort for LTA, and proceeds help support improvements to our building and productions. So get into the Christmas spirit and help your community theatre the entire year!

## 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).

# LTA Award Winners 2015-2016

## Excellence in Sound Design

David Correia for *In the Heights*

## Excellence in Props Design

Joanne Tompkins for *The History Boys*

## Excellence in Costume Design

Jean Schlichting and Kit Sibley for *To Kill A Mockingbird*

## Excellence in Lighting Design

Marzanne Claiborne for *To Kill A Mockingbird*

## Excellence in Set Design

Dan Remmers for *To Kill A Mockingbird*

## Excellence in Set Painting

Leslie Reed for *In the Heights*

## Excellence in Set Construction

Dan Deisz for *In the Heights*

## Excellence in Set Decoration

Jocelyn Steiner for *The History Boys*

## Excellence in Makeup Design

Lori Bonnette for *A Christmas Carol*

## Excellence in Hair Design

Heather Norcross and Kit Sibley for *A Christmas Carol*

## Best Bit Role

Jacqueline Salvador as Carla in *In the Heights*

## Best Performance in a Minor Role

Tahara Robinson as Daniela in *In the Heights*

## Best Junior Performance

Joey Ledonio as Sonny in *In the Heights*

## Best Supporting Role in a Musical

Chelsea Crane as Vanessa in *In the Heights*

## Best Supporting Role in a Play

Brenda Parker as Calpurnia in *To Kill A Mockingbird*

## Best Lead Role in a Musical

Andres Alejandro Ponce as Usnavi De La Vega in *In the Heights*

## Best Lead Role in a Play

Jeffery Westlake as Hector in *The History Boys*

## Best Musical Director

Christopher A. Tomasino for *In the Heights*

## Best Choreography

Stefan Sittig for *In the Heights*

## Best Director

Frank D. Shutts II for *In the Heights*

## Overall Production

*In the Heights*

Mary Beth Smith-Toomey, Producer

Frank D. Shutts II, Director

## Junior Technical Excellence

Casey Wilson

## Outstanding New Member

Ashley Amidon and Matt Liptak

## Long and Exceptional Service in a Single Department

Margie Remmers

## Outstanding Service to LTA

Mary Beth Smith-Toomey

## The LTA Council Life Member Award

Libby and John Guinn

## MVP Awards

*In the Heights* - Julio Diaz

*Laughing Stock* - Russ Wyland and Brian Selcik

*The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* - Leslie Reed and

Rebecca Sheehy

*A Christmas Carol* - The Hays Family (John, Leah, Olivia, & Johnnie)

*Grey Gardens* - Leah Kocsis and Austin Fodrie

*The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*

(Abridged) - Jamie Blake and Donna Hauprich

*To Kill A Mockingbird* - Luana Bossolo

*The History Boys* - Joanna Henry



(Left) The winners who were present to receive their awards gather for a group shot onstage after the show. (Right) LTA mainstays John and Libby Guinn accept the inaugural LTA Council Life Member Award. Photos by Keith Waters.



The Board of Governors continues to meet on the third Wednesday of each month. Below are some of the issues that have been on the agenda for recent meetings.

- ♦ **Michael Page**, Camp Director, made a presentation to the board following completion of the summer camp. The camp had a 72% increase in attendance from the previous year.
- ♦ **Rae Edmonson** and **Mary Beth Smith-Toomey** were approved as the co-producers for our upcoming production of *Legally Blonde*.
- ♦ **Robert Kraus** presented the producers' report for *To Kill a Mockingbird* for himself and co-producers **Rachel Alberts** and **Bobbie Herbst**.
- ♦ Updated job descriptions were approved by the board for the business manager and box office manager positions.
- ♦ The organization chart for the theatre was updated.
- ♦ Plans for a Celebration of Life in memory of **Roland Branford Gomez**, who was a board member at the time of his passing, were reviewed, and co-producers were assigned.
- ♦ A letter of concern was read that had been submitted by a person previously associated with our production of *Steel Magnolias*.
- ♦ The Director of the LTA Council, **Carolyn Winters**, discussed plans for the Council to plant a Shakespearian garden and perform other improvements on the patio area of the theatre.
- ♦ **Michael Baker** was welcomed to the board as the Governor for Education, replacing recently deceased **Roland Branford Gomez**. He discussed recent activities related to education as well as plans for the *DC Connection* seminar.
- ♦ Upcoming CPR classes are being planned as reported by **Margaret Evans-Joyce**, Governor for Production.
- ♦ The process for the board to select plays and musicals for the 2017–2018 theatre season was reviewed by **Frank Shutts**, Governor for Seasonal Planning.
- ♦ **Robert Kraus**, Governor for Technical Support, reported that a new and improved camera monitoring system has been installed at the stage manager's desk and that it is a significant improvement over the old system.
- ♦ The Governor for Artistic Support, **Beverley Benda**, reported that **Charles Dragonette** and **Judy Kee** would serve as the off-site garage chairs for the remainder of this year. She is still trying to locate chairs for the costume department.
- ♦ **David Hale**, Governor for Building, reported that the Building Committee is working with some of the off-site storage garage owners regarding making physical improvements of the garages.

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 or if you would like to attend any of these meetings.

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

## Your Board of Governors at Work

Mark your calendars for  
**LTA's Annual Holiday Party**

**December 18th at 5:00 p.m. in the Green Room**



# Governor's Message

## Public Relations

I recently attended a workshop dedicated to community arts marketing. The sessions were interesting, the attendees engaged, and the content was surprising. During the last decade, the way we market, promote, engage and even experience art has changed drastically. When I started as the Governor for Public Relations for LTA several years ago, the marketing focus was mostly on print ads. We worked hard to develop a solid press list, we courted and counted on our reviewers to come to our shows and write (hopefully) positively about what they saw, and we hired skilled photographers to capture our performances to help visually publicize each show. But now, that strategy has gone out the proverbial window.

How people get their information has changed so radically and so quickly, and LTA, like many other arts organizations, has had to sprint to keep up. We (and by “we” I mean mostly Tina and a few hardworking members of the marketing committee) must get our information out to patrons via Facebook, Twitter, and the LTA website. We still advertise on paper, but that is quickly being replaced by Yelp ads, Instagram, electronic personal reviews, and the constant lightning speed of “sharing.” We now rely more on electronic word of mouth (“If you liked the show, tell your friends!”) than patrons perusing the newspaper to decide what performance at which theater to attend. Clearly, the importance of an internet presence cannot be underestimated. Even this very publication you are reading right now – LTA’s *Floodlight* newsletter – has had to change to keep up. How many of you still receive this valuable publication in paper form? Not many anymore. And the number decreases every year.

So next time you’re home leisurely flipping through your local newspaper, or a publication you picked up at your neighborhood coffee shop, think about how you find your information. How do you know what’s coming up? What entices you to buy a ticket or to see a show? Did you hear about it from your friends? Virtual or actual?

And please, let us know. We here at LTA are more than willing to keep up the sprint to keep you informed on all the wonderful goings-on at LTA.

Have a terrific fall! And don’t forget to LIKE us on Facebook!

**Rachel Alberts**

Governor for Public Relations

### Flat Stanley visits LTA

Recently the Little Theatre of Alexandria had a special visit from a beloved character in children’s education, **Flat Stanley**! Stanley came to us via **Rachel Alberts’** niece, **Eve**, from Burbank Elementary School in Belmont, Massachusetts. As you can see, he received a full tour of our wonderful facility. For more information on the Flat Stanley project, visit [www.flatstanley.com](http://www.flatstanley.com). Photos by Tina McCrea.





## Council Corner

Many thanks to **Rance Willis** (Chair, Membership Committee) and his committee members **Ashley Amidon** and **Duane Goddard** for their work in updating our Policies and Procedures Manual. The Council will no longer have designations of Life Member. We will now have a Distinguished Member category. This honor will now go to individuals who have been active LTA members for 25 years and Council members for 20 years.

The Council is excited about LTA having a Shakespeare Garden! We are holding a buy-a-brick fundraiser which will begin in February and end on Shakespeare's birthday, April 23, 2017. Your personalized brick(s) will be placed permanently in the LTA courtyard. Funds received will be used to plant a Shakespeare Garden (i.e., plants noted in his plays) as well as to purchase benches.

Meanwhile, if you see these ladies in the theatre, tell them "Thanks!" **Ashley Amidon** and **Brooke Angel** were elected to co-chair the Council's Holiday Decoration Committee, and **Libby Guinn** is our Nominating Chair. At the Council's annual meeting in February, we will elect a Vice Chair and Secretary.

**Carolyn Winters**

LTA Council Director

*The Arts Build Communities*

## 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



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## Annual LTA Ladies Holiday Dinner & Gift Exchange

**Monday, December 12, 6:00 p.m.**

**La Casa Restaurant (Foxchase Shopping Center)  
4551 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA**



Cost: \$35.00 (Includes appetizers, dessert, non-alcoholic drink, taxes and tip)  
Bring a \$15-\$20 gift to be exchanged! (Optional)

Please select your entrée:

- Chicken Kabob (marinated chicken breast/rice/grilled vegetables)
- Vegetable Lasagna (mushroom vegetable ragu)
- Roasted fillet of Salmon (with green beans)
- New York Steak (with roasted lemon potatoes)

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**RSVP by December 7th. Limited Space! Mail the form below with payment to  
Margaret Evans Joyce, 5707 Indian Court # 2D, Alexandria, VA 22303**

-----  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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](http://www.thelittletheatre.com)

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

## Mark Your Calendars

11/6	Tribute to Roland Branford Gomez
12/2	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> opens
12/3–12/4	<i>Key for Two</i> auditions
12/12	LTA Ladies Holiday Dinner and Gift Exchange
12/18	LTA Holiday Party

## 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
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!**