

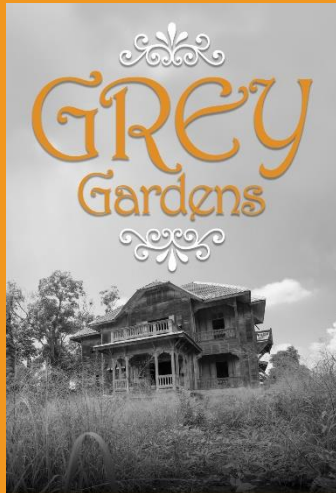


Floodlight

Tickets for *Grey Gardens* on sale now

FEATURED PRODUCTION

DECEMBER 2015



JANUARY 16 - FEBRUARY 6, 2016

Book by
Doug Wright

Music by
Scott Frankel

Lyrics by
Michael Korie

Produced by
Rachel Alberts and John Monnett

Directed by
Christopher Dykton

Musical Direction by
Steve Przybylski

Order your
tickets now!

Call the
Box Office
703-683-0496

Get ready to experience *Grey Gardens*, the latest offering from LTA. This musical, with book by **Doug Wright**, music by **Scott Frankel**, and lyrics by **Michael Korie**, is based on Albert and David Maysles' 1975 documentary of the same title about the lives of Edith Ewing Bouvier Beale ("Big Edie") and her daughter Edith Bouvier Beale ("Little Edie"). The Beales were Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' aunt and cousin, respectively.

Set at Grey Gardens, the Bouviers' mansion in East Hampton, New York, the musical tracks the progression of the two women's lives from their original status as rich and socially polished aristocrats to their eventual existence in a ramshackle home overrun by stray animals and cited for health code violations. However, its more central purpose is to untangle the complicated dynamics of the dysfunctional, but oddly loving, mother/daughter relationship.

Along with Director **Christopher Dykton**, Producers **Rachel Alberts** and **John Monnett**, and Musical Director **Steve Przybylski** and his nine-piece orchestra, the production staff includes **Terri Carnahan** and **Austin Fodrie**, Stage Managers; **Bobbie Herbst**, Assistant Producer; **John Downing**, Set Design; **Kevin Lane**, Costume Design; **Eileen Doherty**, Set Dressing; **Tommy Scott**, Lighting Design; **Keith Bell**, Sound Design; **Scott Stark**, Props Design; **Marzanne Claiborne** and **Pam Leonowich**, Master Electricians; **Susan Boyd**, Hair and Makeup Design; **Natalie Fox**, Costume Assistance; **Mary Beth Smith-Toomey**, Wardrobe; and **Leah Kocsis**, Conductor.

Also bringing this show to life is the remarkable and talented cast: **Blake Brophy**, George "Gould" Strong; **Kate Brown**, Young "Little" Edie Beale; **Marshall Cesena**, Joe Kennedy, Jr./Jerry; **Cassie Cope**, Jacqueline Bouvier; **Penelope Gallagher**, Lee Bouvier; **Nicky McDonnell**, "Little" Edie Beale/Edith Bouvier Beale; **Dick Reed**, Major Bouvier/Norman Vincent Peale; **Joel Respress**, Brooks Jr./Brooks Sr.; and **Jennifer Strand**, Edith Bouvier Beale.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Lloyd Bittinger, President
Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for
Membership
Kirstin Apker, Floodlight
Coordinator
Linda Wells, Floodlight Editor
Next Floodlight Jan 22nd

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Lloyd Bittinger

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.

As many of you may have already heard, we had the occasion at the theatre in early November to initiate the use of our AED (automated external defibrillator). One of our actors in *A Christmas Carol* had a cardiac event during rehearsal, and we used the AED while at the same time calling 911 for emergency assistance. By the time the emergency response team arrived (only a matter of about five minutes or so), we had brought the AED into the rehearsal room and delivered the first shock from the device. Upon their arrival, the 911 team took over and eventually delivered additional shocks before transporting the patient to the Alexandria Hospital Emergency Department. They told us before they left that our quick response did indeed save the life of the patient, and this was again stated by the emergency room physicians at the hospital.

About two years ago, the LTA Council generously offered to purchase what was at that time our first AED and also to sponsor several CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and AED training sessions. During the course of the following year, the theatre provided several CPR/AED training sessions to members, including stage managers and producers. Many of these sessions were paid for by the Council. We are very thankful for the support the Council has given us for this project.

Very recently the Council agreed to donate two additional AED devices to the theatre. It was felt that there should be a device more accessible to the front of the house, and that since we now lease the Alexandria Academy and the facility is used quite often for meetings and classes, an AED device should be there as well. Oddly enough, on the very date of the incident described above, an order was placed for the two additional AED devices. The new devices have since arrived and have been installed. Please be aware of the locations of all three AED devices, which are as follows: 1) in the lobby next to the Council (Green) Room door, 2) in the cast entrance hallway to the right of the backstage door, and 3) in the Alexandria Academy on the first floor.

Over the years the Council has made numerous and varied types of donations to the theatre. We are very appreciative of these donations and thank the Council for their ongoing support. Regarding the expenditures for AED devices and associated CPR/AED training, it is safe to say that no matter how much money and time and effort have been spent on this program, it was well worth it as it resulted in a life having been saved, and there is no value that can be put on that.

We now have three AED devices, and the Board of Governors has approved a budget to support CPR/AED classes on an ongoing basis. We are planning to sponsor three CPR/AED sessions per year for our members, casts, and crews, with seven to eight people in each session. Our intent is to have ongoing classes so everyone involved will remain CPR certified and also know where the AED devices are located and how to use them. We hope we never have to use any of the AED devices in the future, but if we do, we want to be prepared.

There's a happy ending to the story: the actor who had the cardiac event in early November had surgery at Alexandria Hospital and has been released by his physician. He has now returned to the cast and will be appearing in *A Christmas Carol*. During this period of thanksgiving and the upcoming holidays we are very thankful for many things; having been able to save someone's life is very high up on the list. Best wishes to all for a wonderful holiday season and all the best for a Happy New Year!

Lloyd Bittinger, President
All for Love of Theatre!

GOVERNOR FOR SEASONAL PLANNING

Frank Shutts

The Governor for Seasonal Planning oversees three important aspects of our theatre: play selection, director selection, and our award programs.

Play Selection: One of the more important decisions our Board of Governors makes each year is the selection of the plays and musicals for the upcoming season. In fact, this is the most important decision any theater in the world has to make! The majority of our income is ticket revenue, making the financial success of each show very important to LTA. But how do you select the perfect show? How do you please an established audience while appealing to a newer one? This remains the biggest mystery of theater.

What professional theaters are finding is that the majority of playgoers (e.g. nonsubscribers) see shows one at a time. While they want to see Show A, they may not want to see Show B. They will come to a show based on their interest and the show's word of mouth. While no method is guaranteed, theaters that offer a combination of chestnuts peppered with a few pieces that reach out to tomorrow's audience seem to have a more consistent revenue.

Audiences are constantly changing. Unless a theater caters to a specific crowd (e.g., children) whose tastes rarely change, it is important to be alert to the varied taste of an ever evolving audience. I read recently that if you try to get everyone, you'll get no one. That is, you can't please everyone...but try!

How the plays are selected varies from time to time, and that is a good thing. Sometimes we ask directors to tell us what plays they'd like to do; sometimes we take suggestions from a committee; and sometimes, like this year, we poll members and subscribers on their thoughts. The important thing to know is that no matter how the final slate of shows is selected, our board reads and votes on the proposed season. Sometimes they accept it as presented and sometimes they make adjustments.

Director selection: Once you have found the perfect show, you need to find the perfect director. At LTA, prospective directors are typically interviewed by a director selection committee which then presents a slate of directors for the board's approval. Directors are asked to present their concept to the selection committee and then to answer questions about their ideas, how they envision the technical aspect, how they prepare for a show, and how they work with actors.

Awards: Finally, once we've produced the perfect show, we want to acknowledge those whose work has gone above and beyond our already high standards. At LTA, we participate in three different award programs: the LTA awards, the Washington Area Theater Community Honors (WATCH) awards, and the Ruby Griffith Awards.

In my opinion, the most prestigious of the three is our own in-house awards. Competing against ourselves, the LTA Awards are adjudicated by outside, independent professional judges who either work in or teach theater. These judges see all seven shows and are truly in the position to compare them against the entire season's offerings. To compare our program to a "Best Pie" competition, our judges taste all of the pies and then make a decision.

WATCH and the Ruby Griffith Award are regional competitions wherein our shows are compared to productions offered by other companies. For these, it is physically impossible for all the judges to see all the shows the participating companies offer each season. The winner is selected by a panel who sees our show/s and compares it/them to shows offered by other theaters and rated by a different panel of judges. Numbers are crunched and a winner is selected. In the "Best Pie" comparison, some judges taste some of the pies while another set of judges tastes other pies. I ask, how can you have a "best" if not all the judges taste all the same pies? Still, LTA traditionally does well with these awards, and they provide a measuring stick to our competition.

While these duties take up most of my time, the **one-act playwriting competition** also falls under my purview. Each year we receive hundreds of original one-acts and select the top three. In addition to a prize, we have in the past mounted a production of the piece or at least given it a stage-reading. This practice has fallen by the wayside, but I hope, with the help of Bonnie Jourdan and her committee, to have it reinstituted this spring.

I would be remiss not to mention **Kira Hogan (née Simon)**, my Chairperson and committee member of one of the Awards committees, and **Mary Beth Smith-Toomey**, who oversees the engraving of the plaques displayed in the Green Room and also produces our annual Awards Night. Thank you.

Your Board of Governors at Work

Since our last Board of Governors meeting, here are some of the topics that have been or are on the table:

- The LTA annual donation campaign has begun, with a letter being sent to all members and subscribers asking them to support the theatre during this time with a special donation.
- Our season selection process for the 2016-2017 season is on track, with a special Board of Governors meeting scheduled for Sunday, December 5th, at 5:00 p.m. to finalize the season.
- Also held on Sunday, December 5th, was the LTA Annual Holiday Party at 7:30 p.m. We hope that you attended and shared the season with your friends and neighbors!
- As a part of our education program, we have scheduled a very special program on the weekend of February 12th through the 14th. Sponsored by the Actors Connection in New York City, the program is called DC Connection. Registration information is available on the LTA website and/or by contacting the business manager or box office manager of the theatre.
- Two new AED (automated external defibrillator) devices have been installed at the theatre, and the board approved a new budget item to support ongoing CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and AED training.
- **Kirstin Apker** has been approved as the *Floodlight* coordinator, and we look forward to working with her in the future.
- **Beverley Benda**, Governor for Artistic Support, announced that a friend of the theatre has offered to donate a piano to LTA. The board has accepted the donation contingent upon Beverley's approval after she has had the chance to assess the quality of the piano for future use. We plan to locate this piano in the first floor Academy classroom.
- The Summer Camp schedule was presented by **Roland Branford Gomez**, Governor for Education, and was approved by the board.
- Our Executive Secretary, **Margaret Evans-Joyce**, discussed the established policy for the room request process. She has been considering making a room request that is somewhat out of the ordinary and was seeking comments from the board about expanding the use of some of the theatre facilities. There was a general discussion of this topic, with most board members agreeing that additional opportunities for room usage might expand the ability of the theatre to work within the Alexandria arts community.

There are many other important ongoing and recurring reports and issues addressed by the board. These are just the highlights as your board continues to work for you.

Lloyd Bittinger, President
All for Love of Theatre!

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**



THANK YOU FROM

The Tale of the Allergist's Wife

On behalf of Director **Michael Kharfen**, Co-Producer **Jay Cohen**, and myself, we would like to thank all the actors, designers and crew for their work and dedication on this show. It was a true labor of love, not to mention the Kharfen cookies that kept us on our toes and guessing what he would do next.

The Producers would like to give a special thank you to our stage managers, **Brooke Angel** and **Margaret Evans-Joyce**, for their untiring devotion. Thanks also to **Dan Remmers** for his off-the-charts set design; **Jim Hutzler** and his amazing crew for construction; **Marzanne Clairborne** for her superb lighting design; **Alan Wray**, the sound man extraordinaire; **De Nicholson-Lamb** for set painting; **Leslie Reed** and **Rebecca Sheehy** for props and dumplings; **Susan Boyd**, always tangled in hair and makeup; **Donna Reynolds** for a “nine hundred thousand” set decoration; and **Ashley Amidon** for upscale New York costuming.

If I have forgotten anyone in this thanks, please don't be too Farbisseneh!

Jim Howard, Co-Producer

ANNUAL DONATION CAMPAIGN

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is just beginning the Annual Donation Campaign.

Donations received will support numerous projects within the theatre and are tax deductible. Please watch for your donation letter in the mail.

Donations may be made by cash, check, or credit card.

If you wish to participate in our Annual Donation Campaign, please call **Virginia Lacey**, Business Manager, at (703) 683-5778, extension 2.

New Members

Michael Shook

Kate Brown

Dick Reed

Devlin Bennett

Classes at LTA!

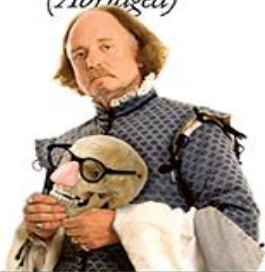


The Little Theatre of Alexandria's Youth Education Classes Celebrating Halloween

Come join the fun in one of our Winter/Spring 2016 classes – for all ages!
**Join us for our Open House Registration at LTA on Saturday, January 9, 2016,
from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.**

To learn more about our classes and to register, visit our website at
www.thelittletheatre.com

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)



FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 19, 2016

Written by Adam Long, Daniel Singer,
and Jess Winfield

Originally performed by the
Reduced Shakespeare Company

Produced by
Rebecca Sheehy and Russell Wyland

Directed by
Joanna Henry

Audition Dates
Monday, January 4, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 5, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Callbacks
Thursday, January 7, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Auditions

The Little Theatre announces auditions for the outrageously funny *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*. Have you ever wanted to act in all 37 Shakespeare plays, but you just don't have the time or energy? Have you ever wanted to play Desdemona, Falstaff, and Henry IV? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to cross-dress as a man, playing a woman, playing a man, playing football? Have you always wanted to break—nay, destroy—the Fourth Wall? If so, come audition! *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* performs all 37 plays in 97 minutes. It's an irreverent, fast-paced romp through the Bard's plays.

Auditions might include any of the following: cold readings from the script, improvisation, funny walks, and/or a short, comedic Shakespeare monologue. You are encouraged, but not required, to prepare your favorite comedic Shakespeare monologue, or you may choose one supplied by the director and available at the audition sign-in table. Quick comedic timing is a must; improvisation skills a plus. Come to auditions ready to show whatever unique physical skills you might have (e.g., juggling chainsaws, walking on your hands, walking on someone else's hands, etc.). All auditionees should dress to move.

Role Summaries

- 3 men or women
- Actors use real names and play themselves.
- The show was developed through improvisation.
- Actors must be able to respond honestly to the audience's performance as well as their own.
- One actor is the "troupe leader," one is the scholar/serious actor, and one is the comic relief.

On Saturday, December 5th, members of Heather Sanderson's class participated in the annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. This much anticipated event is co-hosted by LTA's neighbor in Old Town, the Campagna Center. A big thank you to these young folks for representing The Little Theatre of Alexandria so enthusiastically! Photo courtesy of Jim Howard.



COUNCIL CORNER



The holiday season is here once again, and once again the theatre is colorfully decorated. Each year, the LTA Council gives the theatre that special holiday look featuring gorgeous fresh greens and bright red bows, plus a beautiful Christmas tree in the Green Room. A special thanks goes to the LTA Council members who took part in the decorating process so that LTA members, theatre patrons, and those strolling by can enjoy the festive look of the theatre. Volunteers are welcome to help on Saturday, January 9, 2016, when the decorations will be removed and put away for another year.

When the holiday parties are over and a new year begins, LTA will present the musical *Grey Gardens*. LTA Council members are invited to an opening night reception on Saturday, January 16th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Green Room. Members can enjoy a glass of wine and some light snacks from Vivian's Kitchen and join in on the singing around the grand piano played by Joyce Lindahl. In addition, you will have the opportunity to meet the director and the producers of the show. What a great way to start the new year! We hope to see you there.

Following the opening night reception on January 16th, the next event for the Council will be the Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 20th. The meeting and dinner will be held at LTA in the Green Room. Reservation details will be available soon to Council members.

Since its inception, the LTA Council has made many contributions to LTA ranging from technical equipment to furniture to scholarships. Last year the Council provided the funds for an AED device that was placed in the backstage area. This year we purchased two additional AEDs, one for the front of the house and one for the Academy building where many classes are held. While we had hoped that the AEDs would never be used, this was not the case, and recently one of the units was used, quite successfully, to save the life of an actor during rehearsal. If you would like to support the Council by becoming a part of this dynamic organization, please contact me or one of the Council officers.

I hope everyone enjoys this holiday season, and I look forward to...

Seeing you on the aisle at LTA!
John Johnson
LTA Council Director

The Little Theatre of Alexandria
600 Wolfe Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Box Office: 703-683-0496
Business Office: 703-683-5778x2
Fax: 703-683-1378
www.thelittletheatre.com
asklta@thelittletheatre.com

Mark Your Calendars

12/14	Ladies Night
1/9	Class Registration
1/16	<i>Grey Gardens</i> opens
2/12-2/14	DC Connection
2/20	LTA Council Annual 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!