



# FLOODLIGHT

## FEATURED PRODUCTION

December 2016



Music and Lyrics by  
Cole Porter

Book by  
Guy Bolton  
and P.G. Wodehouse

Produced by  
Maria Ciarrocchi and  
Mary Beth Smith-Toomey

Directed and Choreographed by  
Stefan Sittig

Musical Direction by  
Francine Krasowska

Producers **Mary Beth Smith-Toomey** and **Maria Ciarrocchi**, director and choreographer **Stefan Sittig**, and music director **Francine Krasowska** invite you to come aboard the S.S. American for the classic American musical *Anything Goes*. The show takes sail between New York and England with a colorful group of passengers aboard the well-appointed cruise liner. Wall Street broker Billy Crocker finds himself hopelessly in love at first sight with socialite Hope Harcourt, who is traveling across the pond with her rather drab fiancé, Sir Evelyn Oakleigh. Before Billy knows what's happening, he is a stowaway. Luckily, the songstress Reno Sweeney and second-rate mobster Moonface Martin are there to help Billy sing and dance his way into Hope's heart. This production is sure to get your toes tapping!

LTA's production team is led by stage managers **Joan Lada** and **Cristina McConnell**. The set is designed and built by **Jimmy Hutzler** and **Jeff Nesmeyer**, painted by **De Nicholson-Lamb**, and decorated by **Russ Wyland**. **Joanne Tompkins** and **Rebecca Sheehy** will design props, and **Alan Wray** will provide sound design. The ship's deck and cabins will be lit by **Ken and Patti Crowley** with help from **Micheal J. O'Connor** as master electrician. Veteran LTA costumers **Jean Schlichting** and **Kit Sibley** will provide 1930s "swellegance," **Larissa Norris** will design make-up, and **Kit Sibley** will design hair. LTA welcomes **Shannon Robichaud** (assistant to the choreographer) and **Katie Beth Hicks** (assistant to the director). **Genie Baskir** will serve our cast and crew a sea cruise double-tech dinner.

The cast includes 21 singing and dancing actors including **Brittany Caldwell** (Model/Ensemble), **Kurtis Carter** (Bishop/Sailor), **Marshall Cesena** (Billy Crocker), **Allie Cesena** (Mrs. Harcourt), **Ricardo Coleman** (Steward/Sailor), **Kelsey Daiber** (Reporter/Ensemble), **Michael Gale** (Purser/Sailor), **Tori Garcia** (Hope Harcourt),  
(continued on page 3)

### The Little Theatre of Alexandria

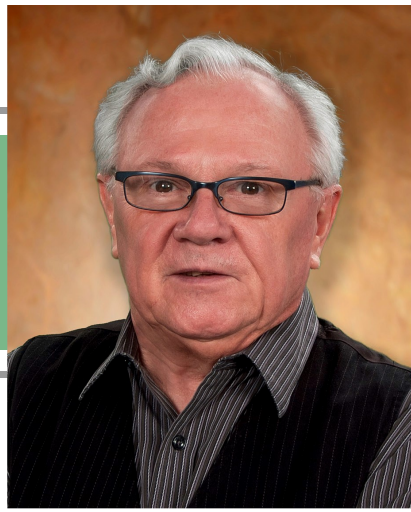
Lloyd Bittinger, President  
Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for  
Membership  
Kirstin Apker, Floodlight  
Coordinator  
Linda Wells, Floodlight Editor  
Next Floodlight January 23rd

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## President's Column



## Lloyd Bittinger

For all of our productions at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, we have a surprisingly large number of people involved, both in front of the curtain and backstage. There are all kinds of designers for each production, such as lights, sound, costumes, painting, et cetera, as well as box office and front-of-house volunteers, caterers, food servers, bartenders, and many more. It takes well over 100 people to put just one of our productions together, and these are all volunteers!

For this column, I want to shine a spotlight on the many volunteers who help us with set construction and painting. Although sometimes we have a very minimal set, most often our audiences are amazed at our sets as they are on the professional level and are truly beautiful. During the months of October and November this year, two of our set construction volunteers, **Jim Hutzler** and **Jeff Nesmeyer**, via the Governor for Education, **Mike Baker**, set up some classes in set construction that they provided at no cost to the registrants. Those who completed the four class sessions were **Ken Brown**, **Susan Burkhead**, **Kimberly Crago**, **Eileen Doherty**, **Ira Forstater**, **Pam Leonowich**, and **Bill Young**. As part of the project, they all contributed to building the set for *A Christmas Carol*. What a great idea this was, and we thank Jim and Jeff for carrying through with the project. Jim and **Dan Remmers** are the chairpersons of the Wood Shop Department, and we also thank them for doing a great job in that capacity.

One of the most beautiful sets we've had was the one designed by **John Downing** for the recent production of *A Party to Murder*. Not only did John design the set, but he also directed the set construction. He was assisted by **Geoff Baskir**, **Joel Durgavich**, **George Farnsworth**, **Bill Glikbarg**, **Jim Hutzler**, and **Bob Schroth**. Just look in the program at all these names of people you never see, yet who do such a fabulous job before you ever walk into the theatre to watch the show. They are many of our unsung heroes, and we thank each and every one of them.

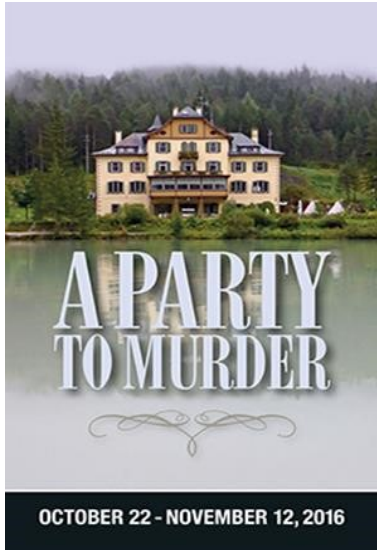
Add to that all of the many people who volunteer their time and talent to paint what gets constructed. For *A Party to Murder*, we had painters all over the stage, including **Mary Hutzler**, **Adrienne Kammer**, **Mona Wargo**, and many others who did not get listed in the program but were acknowledged on the bulletin board in the lobby. Mary and **Leslie Reed** are the chairpersons for the Paint Department, and we thank them also.

When you see all of these wonderful volunteers around the theatre, please remember to let them know that although we never actually see them on the stage, the contributions they make to the success of each and every one of our productions is truly appreciated. We have an amazingly complex and successful organization at The Little Theatre, and we appreciate all of our volunteers who help to make it so. Thank you all very much!

**Lloyd Bittinger**, President

*All for Love of Theatre!*





## Thank You from *A Party to Murder*

The mystery is solved – or is it? The party has been fun! We would like to thank our cast **Eva Coll**, **Damian Legacy**, **Laura Peterson**, **Danielle Comer**, **John Henderson**, and **James McDaniel** for all their hard work and for keeping us in suspense. Thanks to our fabulous designers for the fantastic sound, lights, multi-passaged set, special effects, stage combat, and properties. A special thanks to our first-time painters, **Adrienne Kammer** and **Mona Wargo**, and our set dresser **Susan Driscoll**, for making us feel like Haddington House was a place that we could live in.

Gratefully,

**Robert Kraus** and **Alan Wray**, Producers

**David McCallum**, Associate Producer

**Jim Howard**, Director

(continued from page 1)

**Caitlyn Goerner** (Charity [Angel]), **Ashley Kaplan** (Chastity [Angel]), **Ken Kemp** (Moonface Martin), **Chelsea Majors** (Chinese Convert #2/Ensemble), **Katie Mallory** (Purity [Angel]), **James Maxted** (Sir Evelyn Oakleigh), **Dick Reed** (Elisha Whitney), **Jackie Salvador** (Bonnie), **Theodore Sapp** (Captain), **Andrew Sese** (Chinese Convert #1/Sailor), **Jon Simmons** (Cameraman/Ensemble), **Elizabeth Spilsbury** (Virtue [Angel]), and **Mara Stewart** (Reno Sweeney).

We are looking for a wardrobe crew chief to add to our staff. If you want to be part of our exciting staff and show, please contact Maria ([mariabelle22@gmail.com](mailto:mariabelle22@gmail.com)) or Mary Beth ([mbstoomey@yahoo.com](mailto:mbstoomey@yahoo.com)) to volunteer!

## Scottish Walk 2016

On December 3rd, students from **Heather Sanderson's** and **Linda Wells'** classes represented The Little Theatre of Alexandria in the annual Scottish Christmas Walk through Old Town. **Jim Howard**, Governor for Development, coordinated their participation in the parade. Thanks to all our young marchers for their enthusiasm !



(Top left) Logan MacDonald and Luke Memmo. (Top right) Leila Abarca, Sasha Mkrtchyan, and Sophie De Waal. Photos by Heather Sanderson. (Bottom left) Janney Cooper, Sophia Wypyski, Grace Duran, Izzy Young, and Aurora Hershman. (Bottom right) Leila Abarca, Luke Memmo, Sarah Lore, and Sasha Mkrtchyan. Photos by Jim Howard.



## 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



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# ★ Remembering Roland ★

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Roland Branford Gomez, LTA's long-time Governor for Education, passed away on August 11th. To celebrate his life, his friends from the theatre world and beyond gathered on November 6th for *The Show Must Go On: The Legacy of Roland Branford Gomez*. Emceed by **Jim Howard**, the event featured a short film by **Michael Baker**; musical tributes by **Pamela Copely**, **Maureen Rohn-Goldman** and **Maria Ciarrocchi**, and members of Roland's musical theater classes; and the heartfelt sharing of testimonials by a small sampling of the many people whose lives he touched.



Photos by Keith Waters

## Your Board of Governors at Work

Below are listed some of the issues that are on the table that your Board of Governors is currently addressing. The board meets on the third Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise scheduled), and our meetings are open to members if you would like to attend.

- ◆ Our annual donation drive kicked off recently with a letter going out to members that gives them the opportunity to make tax deductible contributions to the theatre.
- ◆ Earlier this year, three members of the Board of Governors attended a conference in Richmond entitled *Arts4VA*. We plan to have representatives of The Little Theatre at the conference again in January 2017 and are making plans to attend.
- ◆ Our Governor for Membership, **Maria Ciarrocchi**, is in charge of planning our annual holiday party this year.
- ◆ **Rae Edmonson**, Governor for Box Office, is exploring season subscription package options and will present some new ideas in this regard to the board.
- ◆ The theatre maintains three garages off-site that we use for storage. Our Governor for Building, **David Hale**, is working with the other owners of the property to improve the physical appearance of these storage spaces.
- ◆ The Little Theatre will be participating in the Alexandria Tree Lighting Ceremony at Market Square, as well as the annual Scottish Christmas Walk. Our Governor for Development, **Jim Howard**, is coordinating these efforts.
- ◆ **Jean Coyle**, our Governor for Front of House and chairperson for the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Committee, is working on replacing the existing water fountain in the theatre with an ADA-compliant fixture.
- ◆ Through the Governor for Production, **Margaret Evans-Joyce**, **Russ Wyland** is coordinating some CPR classes that will be free to our members.
- ◆ **Rachel Alberts**, our Governor for Public Relations, is working to upgrade the LTA website to make it more user friendly and to provide additional information about the many activities that are taking place throughout the organization.
- ◆ A special Board of Governors meeting is planned for December for the board to consider and select the shows for the next season of 2017 - 2018. This is being coordinated by our Governor for Seasonal Planning, **Frank Shutts**.
- ◆ **Robert Kraus**, Governor for Technical Support, reported that the stage manager monitor and camera have been greatly improved recently, and that the theatre also recently purchased a 75" television monitor that can be used for many purposes, including onstage as a projection monitor.
- ◆ The Governor for Artistic Support, **Beverley Benda**, reported that there have been many improvements in the orderliness of our storage areas with the assistance of **Charles Dragonette** and **Judy Kee**.
- ◆ **Mary Beth Smith-Toomey** was recently approved as the NVTa (Northern Virginia Theatre Alliance) Coordinator representing The Little Theatre.

As you can see, the Board of Governors has many things on which we are working in an effort to keep the Little Theatre of Alexandria moving along in a positive manner.

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



## Governor's Message Production

LTA has a long history of producing plays and musicals that appeal to a very wide audience. Our subscription season typically consists of seven productions: two musicals, one drama, three comedies, and one "wild card" (maybe a mystery). We also have a non-subscription seasonal play that started out as a fundraiser and now is a production eligible to be nominated for our LTA Awards. Other non-subscription productions may be added at the discretion of the Board of Governors. Such additions might include a one act competition, a late night show, or a one-time event.

For each production the Board of Governors approves the director, producers, musical director, and choreographer (the latter two for musicals only). The Governor for Production is the primary liaison between the production staff and the Board of Governors, although all governors have specific interests in each production.

The Governor for Production is also responsible for identifying and recruiting producers. BINGO! – just what I want to talk with you about. The Board of Governors is presently in the process of selecting the next season. Sooooo, I am looking for producers.

In the last *Floodlight*, the many responsibilities of being a producer were spelled out. There are a lot, but don't let that scare you off because we have a fantastic production manual that will guide you step by step. The tasks are meant to be divided, and each producer for that production has their respective tasks to fulfill. The key to being a great production team is communication. Truly, this is the key.

It's a wonderful feeling to put a show together from beginning to end! It's a wonderful feeling when one of your cast or crew members is nominated for an award. It's thrilling when they win. And if your production wins, up you go on stage with the director and your co-producer(s) to claim your trophy! Will there be times you just want to scream because you are frustrated by something? Of course!

If anyone is interested in producing, email me at [mevansjoyce@yahoo.com](mailto:mevansjoyce@yahoo.com) with the subject "I Wanna be a Producer." Try it, you'll like it!

I wanna be a Producer!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Margaret Evans-Joyce**  
Governor for Production

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## Council Corner

Many thanks to all of the Council Members who put up the holiday decorations and took them down. Special thanks to **Ashley Amidon** and **Brooke Angel** (Co-Chairs, Decorating Committee), **Charlie Dragonette** (Co-Chair, Off Site Storage) and, of course, to **Tina Anderson** and **Sharon Field** for their helpful guidance! **Sharon Dove**'s husband Lenny dropped off the greenery on November 25th. The next day, Council members gathered and hung the wreaths outside and decorated the Green Room and the lobby. All the decor was enjoyed till January 7th, which was our "strike" day.

The Shakespeare Garden Buy-a-Brick committee members have been working hard to get ready to kick off our fundraising campaign in February! **Tina Anderson** and **Sharon Field** have mastered the ordering process, **Robin Worthington** has created our brochure, and **Genie Baskir** has been working hard on our marketing and public relations. Twenty-five people pre-ordered bricks, and those bricks should be installed in the courtyard by mid-December.

The Buy-a-Brick campaign kicks off mid-February and will last until April 23rd. Monies will be used to create our Shakespeare Garden. The cost of your personalized brick is \$150.00.

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

## New Members

Kelsey Daiber

John Harper

Ashley Kaplan

Jason Leaf

Theodore Sapp

Mara Stewart

## 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)

## Mark Your Calendars

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 12/17     | <i>A Christmas Carol</i><br>closes                |
| 12/18     | LTA Holiday Party                                 |
| 1/14      | <i>Anything Goes</i> opens                        |
| 2/18—2/19 | <i>The Fabulous</i><br><i>Lipitones</i> auditions |
| 2/25      | <i>Key for Two</i> opens                          |

## 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 vol-  
unteering at LTA, please  
contact:**

**Maria Ciarrocchi,  
Governor for Membership**  
[mariabelle22@gmail.com](mailto:mariabelle22@gmail.com)

**Thank you for your service!**