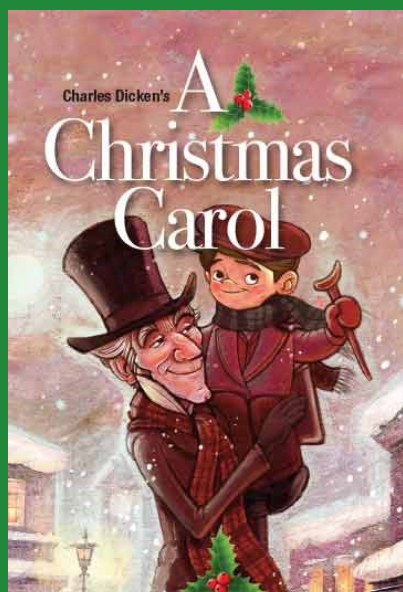




FLOODLIGHT

FEATURED PRODUCTION

October 2017



DECEMBER 1 - 16, 2017

Produced by
Maria Ciarrocchi
and Jean Coyle

Directed by
Eleanore Tapscott

Musical Direction by
Linda Wells

Choreographed by
Victoria Bloom

Director **Eleanore Tapscott** and co-producers **Maria Ciarrocchi** and **Jean Coyle** invite you to experience the world of the Victorian Christmas created by Charles Dickens. The play is based on one of the most enduring popular works of fiction in the English language. As director Tapscott writes, Dickens' story is "about the family, helping the poor, a moment where you might pause and reflect on your life. It's about Ebenezer Scrooge realizing, through the counsel of ghosts, that he must embrace his family, look after his good-natured clerk, and become the embodiment of generosity."

The crew for the production includes **Sherry Clarke** and **Micheal O'Connor**, Co-Stage Managers; **Linda Wells**, Musical Director; **Victoria Bloom**, Choreographer; **Cheryl Sinsabaugh**, Dialect Coach; **Matt Liptak**, Set Designer; **Charles Dragonette**, Set Dresser; **Ken Becker**, Master Carpenter; **Stacy Becker**, Set Painter; **Mary Hutzler**, **Luana Bossolo**, **Denise Landers**, **Kathy Murphy**, **Susan Burkhead**, and **Patty Lord**, Painting Assistants; **Michelle Hall**, Properties Designer; **Jeff Auerbach** and **Kimberly Crago**, Lighting Designers; **Kimberly Crago**, Master Electrician; **Keith Bell**, Sound Designer; **Juliana Confrancesco**, Costume Designer; **Carol Pappas**, Assistant Costume Designer; **Heather Hicks**, Hair Design/Make-up; **Shannon Robichaud**, Wardrobe Chief; **Russ Wyland**, Rigging; **Michael DeBlois**, Photographer; **Becky Patton**, Double-tech Dinner Caterer; **Jamie Blake**, Double-tech Dinner Assistant; **Becky Waldman**, Opening Night Party Caterer; **Monty Montgomery** and **Lloyd Thompson-Taylor**, Opening Night Party Assistants; **Sherry Clarke**, Audition Coordinator; and **Eileen Doherty**, **Roberta Cullen**, **Margaret Snow**, **Mary Ferrara**, and **Lloyd Thompson-Taylor**, Audition Assistants.

The cast includes **Cal Whitehurst** as Ebenezer Scrooge; **Richard Isaacs** as Bob Cratchit; **Erik Rieloff** as Fred; **Larry Grey** as Marley/Mr. Fezziwig;

(continued on page 3)

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Russell Wyland, President
Maria Ciarrocchi, Governor for
Membership
Kirstin Apker, Floodlight
Coordinator
Linda Wells, Floodlight Editor
Next Floodlight December 11th

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President's Column



Russell
Wyland

Instilling the Love of Theater

I just returned from a brief vacation in London and, like so many Americans, I made a pilgrimage to the West End to see some theater. My British friends have two children, one age seven and another age five. When they announced that the kids would join us for a matinee of *42nd Street*, I was immediately dubious. How could kids possibly sit still for a show of two-and-a-half hours? Wouldn't they spoil the show for the adults sitting around them? They told me not to worry, since *42nd Street* would be the third major production that they had attended.

The matinee began, and it was nothing short of spectacular. The acting, dancing, singing, lighting, special effects, and lavish costumes created the kind of jaw-dropping spectacle one expects from a show at Drury Lane. At several points, I pulled my focus away from the stage and looked down the row at the kids. There they sat on their booster cushions, watching the action breathlessly. At intermission, I noticed many other pre-teenage kids were attending. After the show we asked our kids what they liked best, and they answered in a surprisingly detailed way: they liked the set at the beginning of act two, which included clever use of lighting and scrims; they liked the dancing at the curtain call; and they liked how everyone danced together. The next day, they could still recount the plot.

Why am I writing about this? I was reminded of three important things during that matinee of *42nd Street*.

1) It is important to introduce kids to theater and to instill in them the wonder and joy of the stage. In the coming months, LTA will stage *A Christmas Carol* and *Anne of Green Gables*, both of which offer us the opportunity to introduce LTA to the next generation. Are all shows appropriate for all audience members? Of course not, but *A Christmas Carol* and *Anne of Green Gables* should be seen as the perfect chance to bring a kid to the theater.

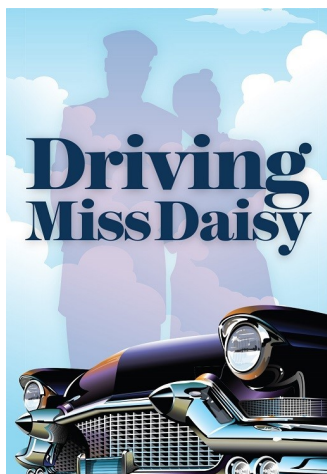
2) The importance of inexpensive theater cannot be overstated. Seeing a show – even with half-priced tickets and a favorable exchange rate – is expensive. We splurged to make sure our kids could see *42nd Street*, but not everyone can pay that amount of money. Community theater offers a way to make drama, comedy, musicals, and mysteries available to everyone of all ages, and keeping LTA's prices low (and quality high) will help us develop audiences for years to come. Spread the word: community theater is where the love of theater is hatched.

3) LTA is very lucky to have a dedicated and talented group of teachers – **Kath, Roberta, Michael, Heather, John, and Linda** – who have devoted themselves to building the future of theater in Alexandria. Our youth education programs thrive, and the teachers and Governor for Education **Mike Baker** have made it happen.

So don't forget to instill the love of theater in the children in your life. It is a gift that will last a lifetime.

I close this column with the famous words of Julian Marsh, the director in *42nd Street*, who memorably said, "You're going out a youngster but you've got to come back a star!" Any child who sees theater, participates in theater, or learns what theater is all about is already a star in my book.

Russell Wyland, President



Thank You from *Driving Miss Daisy*

We would like to thank the cast, designers, and crew for their work on *Driving Miss Daisy*. Although our houses were not full, we had many standing ovations and received many wonderful comments on our casting, lighting, and set design. Stage management was superbly handled by **Melissa Dunlap** and **Margaret Evans-Joyce**, ably assisted by **Eileen Doherty** and **Mary Ferrara**. Thank you to all the backstage crew, light and sound operators, and front of house managers and ushers. We even sold our Packard car grille, at strike. It was a pleasure to work with you all.

Carol Strachan, Producer

Jim Howard, Director

(continued from page 1)

Matthew Fager as Dick Wilkins/Topper; **Tom Bethards** as Old Joe; **Nic Barta** as Young Scrooge; **Mytheos Holt** as Young Marley; **Avery Evans** as Young Dick Wilkins; **Jenna Hoffman** as Ghost of Christmas Past/Lillian; **Kevin Broderick** as Ghost of Christmas Present; **Steve Palkovitz** as Ghost of Christmas Future; **Hannah Pecoraro** as Mrs. Fezziwig; **Liz LeBoo** as Mrs. Cratchit/Mrs. Dilber; **Kylie Miller** as Martha Cratchit; **Carol Clark** as Belle; **Mariah Fraker** as Caroline; **Daler Truitt** as Peter Cratchit; **Thomas Kennedy** as Tiny Tim; **Alex Truitt** as Boy Cratchit; **James Kennedy** as Boy Scrooge; **Morgan Jay** as Turkey Boy; **Elena Ruiz** as Fan; **Leila Abarca** as Belinda Cratchit; **Viktoria Truitt** as Girl Cratchit; **Amarantha Flachs** as Belle's Oldest Child; **Harry Barnes** as Ignorance; **Mary Katherine Kennedy** as Want; and **Charlotte Barnes** and **Seychelle Shamir** as Ensemble.

Creepshow: A Night of Halloween One Acts

On October 27th and 28th, the LTA Millennial Committee presented a trio of one act plays as part of their New Voices Series. Selected from a nationwide contest that drew 185 script submissions, these three pieces were directed by millennials and featured both new and veteran LTA talent of all ages. Each play offered a compelling take on fear, family, and what makes us laugh and shriek on Halloween.

For three showings each night, audiences started on the first floor of the historic Academy building with **Rob Masushita's** *The Amityville Play*, directed by **Danielle Gallo** and featuring **Lauren Devoll**, **Katey Clausen**, **Lori Brooks**, **Katie Kellenberger**, **Joanna Burke**, **Christopher Bearden**, **Bailey Cunningham**, and **Caroline Burnham**. On the second floor, they saw **George Cameron Grant's** *Sacrifice*, directed by **Mia Amado** and featuring **Julie Edwards**, **Gary Cramer**, **Victoria Sova**, **Alex Lew**, **Tyler King**, **Nicole Lamberson**, and **David Rawlings**. The evening concluded on the third floor with **Elford Alley's** *Ghosts*, directed by **Kathleen Barth** and featuring **Taylor Witt**, **Jerry Gideon**, **Zak Webb**, **Marsha Rehns**, and **Pamela Kasenetz**. The entire event was conceived by **Ashley Amidon** and produced by **Ashley Amidon**, **Brooke Angel** and **Charlotte Corneliuson**, with costumes by **Joan Ebbecke** and props by **Charlotte Corneliuson**.

With six sold out shows (144 attendees total) and a lot of positive feedback from attendees, the event was a scary good success!

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.

LTA Award Winners 2016 - 2017

Excellence in Sound Design

Alan Wray for *Anything Goes*

Excellence in Props Design

Brendan Quinn for *Steel Magnolias*

Excellence in Costume Design

Juliana Confrancesco and Megan Murphy for *A Christmas Carol*

Excellence in Lighting Design

Jeffrey Scott Auerbach and Kimberly Crago for *A Christmas Carol*

Excellence in Set Design

John Downing for *A Party to Murder*

Excellence in Set Painting

Adrienne Kammer and Mona Wargo for *A Party to Murder*

Excellence in Set Construction

John Downing and Bill Glikbarg for *A Party to Murder*

Excellence in Set Decoration

Jocelyn Steiner for *The Fabulous Lipitones*

Excellence in Makeup Design

Larissa Norris for *Anything Goes*

Excellence in Hair Design

Rebecca Harris for *Steel Magnolias*

Best Bit Role

Josh Gordon as Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol*

Best Performance in a Minor Role

James Pearson as Gentleman #1 in *A Christmas Carol*

Best Junior Performance

Cassie Cope as Anybodys in *West Side Story*

Best Supporting Role in a Musical

Tahara Robinson as Anita in *West Side Story*

Best Supporting Role in a Play

Justin Latus as Richard in *Key for Two*

Best Lead Role in a Musical

Ken Kemp as Moonface Martin in *Anything Goes*

Best Lead Role in a Play

Tony Gilbert as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*

Best Musical Director

Francine Krasowska for *Anything Goes*

Best Choreography

Stefan Sittig for *Anything Goes*

Best Director

Michael J. Baker, Jr. for *A Christmas Carol*

Overall Production

Anything Goes

Mary Beth Smith-Toomey and Maria Ciarrocchi,
Producers

Stefan Sittig, Director

Junior Technical Excellence

Rebecca Balough

Outstanding New Member

Brendan Quinn

Long and Exceptional Service in a Single Department

Margaret Evans-Joyce

Outstanding Service to LTA

Rachel Alberts

MVP Awards

West Side Story - Leslie Reed

Steel Magnolias - Sherry Singer and Jamie Blake

A Party to Murder - Michelle Hall

A Christmas Carol - Linda Wells

Anything Goes - Shannon Robichaud

Key for Two - John Downing and Jim Hutzler

The Fabulous Lipitones - Matt Liptak, Lynn Lacey,
and Melissa Dunlap

Red, White and Tuna - Jamie Blake



The winners who were present to collect their awards gather onstage after the show for a group shot.

Photo by Keith Waters.

Your Board of Governors at Work

As usual, your board is hard at work! While LTA audiences settle in with the 2017 - 2018 season, the board is already busy planning for 2018 - 2019. Elsewhere in this edition of the *Floodlight*, Governor for Seasonal Planning **Ashley Amidon** has written a column about her first experience as the head of the Play Reading and (later this year) Director/Producer Selection committees. LTA actually begins the play-choosing process somewhat later, and takes somewhat longer, than other area theaters. We are hopeful, however, that we will have a new season ready to announce before the holiday season, leaving us ample time to find directors. Once that's done, the board must make a series of important decisions including developing responsible budgets and planning the calendar for the upcoming year. Stay tuned for all of these important announcements in the coming months.

As you might have noticed, the box office and business office renovation did not happen in early October as planned. Our rather ambitious plans were delayed when the builder couldn't get the necessary supplies. Governor for Building **David Hale** has reviewed the always busy calendar, and he recommended to the board that we delay work until mid-December. Everyone attending this year's LTA holiday party will get a glimpse of the renovation.

Jim Howard, Governor for Development, is making plans for LTA's participation in the Scottish Walk in early December. One idea includes dressing a bright yellow convertible VW Beetle in a kilt and passing candy and LTA information to parade goers. But who will sit in the back of the convertible? You'll have to attend to find out. The parade is always a good opportunity to bring the community into our building and let them see what we have to offer. If you would like to help in some way, please let Jim know.

Congratulations to Governor for Public Relations **Rachel Alberts** for receiving LTA's highest honor, the award for Outstanding Service to LTA. While she has functioned in many roles at the theatre, her current governorship is among the most demanding. Many, many thanks to you, Rachel, for making sure the public knows about LTA, and congratulations on a well-deserved award.

At the September meeting, the board approved **Jamie Blake** as the new Executive Secretary. This is a particularly important post. This secretary keeps the LTA Policies and Procedures Manual up-to-date and serves as the major resource regarding decisions that previous boards have made. Welcome, Jamie.

Finally, it is with both sadness and excitement that the board says goodbye to Governor for Box Office (and recent co-producer of *Legally Blonde*) **Rae Edmondson**. Rae has been a stalwart on the board for the last few years, and he has been an important voice for progress and efficiency not only in the box office but in all areas of the theatre. Rae has moved his family to Loudoun County, where his love of the stage will no doubt lead him eventually to another theater. I am sad for the board, which loses a great governor, but I am excited for Rae and his family as they start a new chapter. Don't be a stranger, Rae – Loudoun County isn't that far away. I hope to announce Rae's replacement in the next edition of the *Floodlight*.

Russell Wyland, President

Annual LTA Ladies Holiday Dinner and Gift Exchange

Monday, December 11th, 6:00 p.m.

Tempo Restaurant (4231 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia)

The cost is \$35.00, which includes appetizer, entrée, dessert, taxes, and tip (sodas, coffee, and alcoholic drinks are extra). A finalized menu will be sent out prior to the event. To reserve a spot, mail a check to LTA Ladies Night, 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. The check should be made out to **Margaret Evans-Joyce**.

Governor's Message

Seasonal Planning

Before I was elected as Governor for Seasonal Planning in June, the process of how LTA selects a season was murky for me at best. I knew there were committees involved, and the board, and somehow at the end a season was announced in the new year. What an education the last few months have been!

Because this can be such a confusing and unknown process, I wanted to take this chance to (hopefully!) demystify a little the selection of a season.

It starts with deciding how we collect possible shows. While there are a number of ways the Governor for Seasonal Planning can choose to solicit scripts, I wanted to start my term off by being very open and inclusive, making sure that every member of LTA would have the opportunity to weigh in on the process. I made the decision (which was approved by the board) to select our season via open call this year. Anyone from anywhere could submit a show. We received an astounding 125 submissions!

I also opened up the Play Reading Committee to applications from the whole LTA membership. This committee reads the scripts LTA receives and makes a recommendation to the board on a suggested season. We had a great response of 19 applicants for the committee from new and veteran directors, producers, techies, actors, and longtime volunteers. Committee chair **Lynn O'Connell** and I selected a group of seven that represents all the different areas of LTA and includes both newer and more experienced readers.

I started to winnow the options down – from 125 scripts submitted, the committee read 32 plays and 19 musicals. All shows performed within the last ten LTA seasons were automatically removed. Last week, the committee met to formalize the recommended slate of shows to send to the board. We spent several hours talking about how each script stacked up on a number of factors, such as the ease of casting, the quality of the script, cast size, what other theaters have performed and how recently, and resonance with LTA audiences. The goal is to have a balanced season that will reflect the eclectic taste of our audiences and the variance in our audition pool.

The committee recommended seven shows and five alternates. The board will now have a month to read these 12 scripts before meeting in a special session in November to discuss and decide which shows will be the best fit for LTA. Of course, there can always be a last minute issue with getting the rights, so on occasion the board may have to re-select a show.

Going forward, I'm eager to move our season selection to a little earlier in the year. LTA is one of the preeminent community theaters in the area, and selecting our season earlier will allow us to be more proactive in attracting directors. Also, should any problems with rights arise, we will have more time to find an alternate.

If you would like to help recommend LTA's 2019/2020 season, keep an eye out early next year for a call for committee members. Because we have such a dynamic theatre, I want to continue to have a mix of newer and more experienced members on our Play Reading Committee, and I will be encouraging turnover in membership on all the committees under my jurisdiction.

I'm very excited to continue working with our committee and the board to create another wonderful season for LTA.

Ashley Amidon

Governor for Seasonal Planning

New Members

Tom Bathards

Natalie Cavender

Avery Evans

Mike Mazek

Hannah Pecoraro

Seychelle Shamir



Council Corner

Did you ever wonder how our opening night parties became such gala affairs? I remember when I first joined LTA, men were wearing tuxedos, women donned formal dresses, and opening night was on a Friday night.

In looking at council history, it seemed that the opening night parties were originally just a bit of wine and cheese held on a Saturday evening. Then on October 18, 1961, the council went to the Board of Governors and asked if they could have the next opening night, November 18th, be a fundraiser for the building. The board said no because it was “undemocratic.” Opening night was a family event for our hardworking members. However, the board had a special meeting to discuss the issue further, and at that meeting, the Council asked to sponsor a “preview” night on Friday, November 17th, complete with a champagne buffet – at \$10.00 per person – for the benefit of the building fund. It was approved!

Well, apparently it was a glittering and gala affair, with the festively dressed audience sitting on rough wooden auditorium chairs (cast-offs from Arlington County’s Washington-Lee High School, purchased for 50 cents apiece) in a concrete-floored, cinderblock-walled theater. But they were a proud, happy, and enthusiastic crowd – just as they are today.

The council is putting up our holiday decorations on November 18th, and **Brooke Angel** has graciously agreed to chair the event. She will be working alongside our Assistant Director, **Tina Anderson**, and our Financial Officer, **Sharon Field**. Also, Ladies Night is December 11th at Tempo!

Let the holidays begin ...

Carolyn Winters

LTA Council Director

The Arts Build Communities

Awards Night Thank You

Our heartfelt thanks to hosts **Matt** and **Michael** and to **Jennifer Lyman**, our stage manager (our apology for the inadvertent omission from the program). Our thanks also to **Kira, Riley, Sherry, Barbara, Jeff, Kim, David Correia, Russ, Francine, Ben, Mara, John, Peter, Jerry, Gurpreet**, the award donors, presenters, winners, nominees, and **David McCallum** and his catering team. All of you helped to make the 2016 - 2017 season and Awards Night a triumph!

Thanks to all, **Ashley Amidon** and **Rance Willis**

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

Mark Your Calendars

11/18	LTA Council holiday decorating
12/1	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> opens
12/11	LTA Ladies Night
12/17	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 2017 – 2018 season are:

President.....	Russell Wyland
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.....	De Nicholson-Lamb
Governor for Membership.....	Maria Ciarrocchi
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.....	Jamie Blake
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!