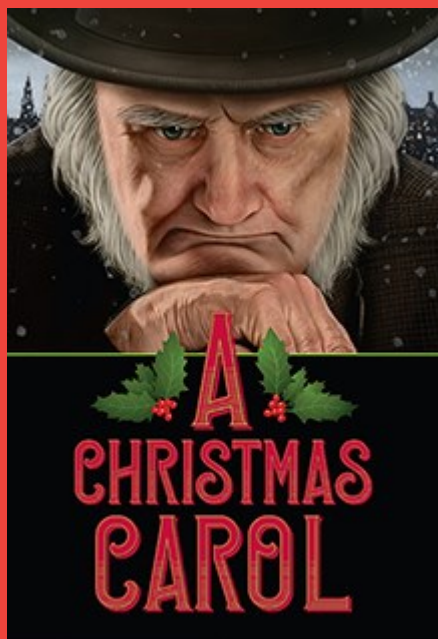




# FLOODLIGHT

## FEATURED PRODUCTION

November 2021



December 3 – 18, 2021

Written by  
Charles Dickens

Adapted by  
Donna Ferragut

Produced by  
Stacey Becker  
and Ira Forstater

Directed by  
Carol Jean Clark

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is pleased to present once again the timeless holiday favorite, *A Christmas Carol*. This heartwarming tale of compassion and transformation brings to life many of the beloved characters and spirits from the classic book by Charles Dickens.

Co-Producers **Stacey Becker** and **Ira Forstater**, with Assistant Producer **Zell Murphy** and Assistant to the Producers **Sarah Liebman**, are excited to announce our very talented cast and crew. Our holiday story will be brought to life on the LTA stage under the guidance of Director **Carol Jean Clark** and Assistant Director **Fred Lash**, with the performances overseen by Stage Managers **Sherry Clarke** and **Peter Leresche**.

We welcome to the stage **Robert Chaves** (Marley/Businessman), **Carolyn Darville** (Belle/Mary), **Florence Ferraro** (Christmas Present/Gentlewoman/Mrs. Dilber), **Merry Forbes** (Mrs. Cratchit/Skater), **Larry Grey** (Fezziwig/Pawnbroker Joe/Poulterer), **Shelby Kaplan** (Caroline/Businesswoman/Topper), **Jolene Mafnas** (Christmas Past/Gentlewoman/Ruth), **Pat Mahoney** (Bob Cratchit/Dick/Father), **Matthew Randall** (Scrooge), **Andrew Sanchez** (Fred/Young Scrooge/Caroline's Husband), and **Eva Shinagel** (Mrs. Pipchin/Mrs. Fezziwig).

We are equally fortunate to have among our actors two groups of youths who, due to double-casting, will perform on alternate days. Our Green Team (with performances on December 3rd, 5th, 9th, 11th, 15th, and 17th) features **Natalie Cavender** (Tiny Tim/Fan), **Emily Martineau** (Martha/Boy Scrooge), **Elena Ruiz** (Peter/Turkey Child), and **Anoushka Sharma** (Belinda/Urchin). Our Red Team (with performances on December 4th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 16th, and 18th) features **Miranda Lacy** (Martha/Boy Scrooge), **Seychelle Shamir** (Belinda/Urchin), **Clare Shannon** (Peter/Turkey Child), and **Jillian Sheedy** (Tiny Tim/Fan).

(continued on page 2)

### The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Frank D. Shutts II, President

Stacey Becker, Governor for  
Membership

Kirstin Apker, *Floodlight* Coordinator

Linda Wells, *Floodlight* Editor

*Next Issue December 2021*

### Inside This Issue

President's Column	Page 2
Thank You	Page 3
Education Update	Page 3
Governor's Message	Page 4
New Members	Page 4
Call for Directors	Page 5
Auditions	Page 6
Council Corner	Page 7

Order Your

Tickets Now!

Call the Box Office

703-683-0496

# President's Column



Frank  
Shutts

The Board of Governors has approved this revised mission statement and vision statement based on a recommendation by the newly formed Past Presidents Committee. Thank you to **Lynn O'Connell** and to **Sarah Holt** for providing the initial drafts.

## Mission Statement

The Little Theatre of Alexandria seeks to create a vibrant, thriving artistic space where our members and the greater community can engage in rewarding theatrical experiences that entertain, educate, and build community.

## Vision Statement

The Little Theatre of Alexandria will:

- ♦ be the benchmark of community theater
- ♦ provide Alexandrians and neighboring communities opportunities for artistic growth
- ♦ celebrate our past, live the present, and evolve for the future
- ♦ be a vital performing arts organization that is recognized throughout the region for its commitment to live theatrical productions and its support of theatre-lovers – a “home-away-from-home” for everyone
- ♦ continue to operate in our own venue, while looking for ways to expand outside our walls
- ♦ provide a safe space and exemplify a spirit of service that reflects respect, trust, integrity, and cooperation.

**Frank D. Shutts II**

LTA President

(continued from page 1)

Our incredible production team includes **Jeff Auerbach** and **Kimberly Crago** (Lighting Design and Master Electricians), **Carol Strachan** (Properties Design), **Shelby Baker** (Properties), **Matt Liptak** assisted by **Stacey Becker** (Set Design), **Peter Leresche** assisted by **David Correia** and **Krista White** (Sound Design), **Jim Hutzler** and **Jeff Nesmeyer** (Set Construction), **Brian Knapp** (Photography), **Chanel Lancaster** (Hair/Makeup Design and Green Team Youth Guardian), **Martha-Grace B. Moore** (Red Team Youth Guardian), **Bart MacMillan** and **Steve McBride** (Audition Pianists), **Alden Michels** (Dialect Coach), **De Nicholson-Lamb** (Set Painting), **Jean Schlichting** and **Kit Sibley** (Costume Design), **Margaret Snow** (Wardrobe), and **Russ Wyland** (Set Decoration and Rigging).

Please join us for LTA's must-see holiday show and annual fundraiser and treat yourself to a wondrous experience of pure seasonal joy!



## Thank You from *Wait Until Dark*

Susy has outwitted her adversaries for the final time, the sinister Harry Roat, Jr./Sr. is at last vanquished, and perhaps Gloria is now accustomed to being called “Four Eyes.” With the closing of this edge-of-your-seat thriller, we thank everyone who had the opportunity to see the production and experience the suspenseful ride.

On behalf of ourselves and our director, **Heather Benjamin**, we sincerely thank the dedicated cast, designers, crew members, and other volunteers for their tremendous work to make *Wait Until Dark* an absorbing and scary production. A special thanks to our stage managers, **Nick Friedlander** and **Lauren Markovich**, for their invaluable support to a director and producer new to LTA, and to our assistant director **Michael J. Fisher** for keeping track of all the details.

Here’s hoping that watching a truly unsettling and unpredictable story has renewed our appreciation of the relative comforts and certainty of our own lives.

**Alicia Goodman** and **Margaret Evans-Joyce**, Co-Producers

## Education Update

By the time you read this, fall classes will have started to wrap up and we'll be preparing for our December offerings. They include ...

- ♦ abbreviated Saturday afternoon and Monday after-school sessions for grades 1 – 3 and 3 – 5
- ♦ afternoon Tea Parties with Father Christmas for ages 3 – 8
- ♦ morning, afternoon and all-day workshops for grades 3 – 5 on December 21st and 29th
- ♦ Hogmanay at Hogwarts celebration for grades 2 – 5 on December 30th.

We'll also help to get you into the spirit of the holidays with a couple of improv workshops for adults.

Before all that though, we hope to see you at the Scottish Walk, which returns Saturday, December 4th. If you or a youngster you know would like to walk with us, email Heather at [bardsplay@gmail.com](mailto:bardsplay@gmail.com) for details. We'll provide the costumes and our High School Ambassadors will be available to help chaperone the little ones.

Finally, here's a sneak peek into what's ahead in the New Year ...

- ♦ youth classes: Acting, Improv, Shakespeare, Creative Dramatics, Puppet Making, DramaTots, Playmakers
- ♦ adult classes: Acting, Improv, Script Writing, Paint Design, American Dialects, Cold Reading Workshops.

Several classes will culminate in mainstage performances at the Annual Youth and Adult Spring Showcases.

Partial scholarships are available through the generosity of the LTA Council. Email Heather at [bardsplay@gmail.com](mailto:bardsplay@gmail.com) for details.

**Heather Sanderson**  
Governor for Education

Scottish Walk photos by  
**Heather Sanderson**





## Governor's Message Box Office

As you enter the LTA lobby for a performance, you'll notice that the box office is back in operation. Our wonderful volunteers at will call and the desk are again welcoming you to the theatre, answering questions, selling and distributing tickets, and assisting with large print playbills and hearing devices. But honestly, the box office has never stopped its activities during this extended pandemic period. We've just been busy thinking – and working – outside the box!

How do we notify and accommodate patrons holding thousands of tickets to cancelled performances? How do we adjust season subscriptions when there is no longer a season? When shows resume, how do we sell tickets when our longtime ticket service announces it is ceasing operations? How do we safely seat patrons in a way that complies with necessary occupancy limits and physical distancing requirements? How do we find a new box office manager when a vacancy occurs in that position? How do we resume in-person operations and ensure the safety of volunteers? How do we obtain a new ticketing system, transfer years of patron lists and information, design the user interface, and train volunteers to use the new system?

Remarkably, LTA has been able to accomplish something done by few, if any, other theaters: continue live performances throughout almost the entire pandemic period. And while many LTA members and volunteers have been involved in achieving this challenging goal, on the box office side, thanks must be given especially to former Box Office Manager (now Business Office Manager) **Crissy Wilke**, former Business Office Manager **Tina McCrea**, our many virtual box office volunteers, our returning in-person volunteers at will call and the desk, former President **Russ Wyland**, Treasurer **David Hale**, Safety Officers **Stacey Becker** and **Ken Brown**, current President **Frank Shutts**, and our new Box Office Manager **Jeff Westlake**. And of course, the kindness and financial support of our subscribers, members, patrons, and the Board of Financial Trustees have been vital in this endeavor.

So welcome again to the box office and to LTA's new season! Congratulations to Crissy and Jeff on their new staff positions. We have a new ticketing system (Audience View Professional) and new equipment and wonderful desk volunteers who have been training to use them. Also, many of our terrific will call volunteers have returned to offer masked yet friendly faces and to be sources of information for our patrons. Thank you so much to all of our volunteers for your time, commitment, enthusiasm, and friendship!

LTA has survived and thrived during this challenging time because of the recognition by all of us of the importance of community and continued support for the arts. For those ready to return to LTA and for those who are new to our theatre, the box office offers a wonderful and welcoming place to volunteer. It has been my home base at LTA, and I hope it can be yours, too. If you are interested, please reach out to us. For more information, you can contact Box Office Manager Jeff Westlake at 703-683-5778 x1 or [jeff@thelittletheatre.com](mailto:jeff@thelittletheatre.com). We hope to see you in the box soon!

**Ira Forstater**

Governor for Box Office

### New Members

Lori Barringer  
Rachel Dixon  
Rebecca Heisner  
Freddie Perez  
Andrew Sanchez

Patrick Costello  
Merry Forbes  
Michael James  
Heather Renault

Ted Culler  
Krista Grimmett  
Suha Kudsieh  
Susan Ross

## Call for Directors: 2022 – 2023 Season

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is seeking directors for the 2022 – 2023 season. For consideration, please submit all the following material by January 3, 2022. Please submit your packet of material as one PDF. If you are interested in being considered for more than one show, please submit a separate and complete PDF for each.

All director submissions should include the following:

- A letter of interest stating your desire to direct at LTA, which show you are submitting for, and a basic concept for that show. The concept should include: 1) your overall vision for the show, including why you want to direct, what you will bring to this show as director, and what you hope audiences will take away from performances of your production, 2) technical aspects such as set, sound, lights, props, and special effects, and 3) what you see as challenges in directing this show at LTA and how you propose to meet those challenges.
- This season, the holiday show is part of the seven-show season. LTA is considering applications for either *A Charlie Brown Christmas* or *A Christmas Carol*. Applicants may apply for one or both shows, but please follow the submission instructions above.
- A current résumé that includes all productions directed – including theater, location, and year. Directors new to the LTA performance space are required to have attended at least one current LTA mainstage production. Other relevant theater experience may be included, as well as current contact information (telephone and email address are mandatory). Do not submit reviews/photos of previous productions. Please note that candidates must have directed at least one full mainstage production outside of college in order to be considered for shows other than *A Christmas Carol* or *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. For more information on the role experience plays in evaluating applications, please review the FAQ document [here](#).
- Any possible schedule conflicts that may exist during the pre-production months, tech week, and production dates of the show. In general, productions audition approximately eight weeks prior to tech week. Take into consideration that rehearsals are to be held weeknights (up until 10:00 p.m.), Saturdays during the day, and/or Sunday afternoons and evenings.
- A list of three references familiar with your past work. The list must include each reference's name, address, telephone number, and email address.

Have questions? You can view the FAQ document [here](#). Question that isn't covered?

Contact [LTASeasonalPlanning@gmail.com](mailto:LTASeasonalPlanning@gmail.com).

### **2022 – `2023 Season**

July/August 2022: *Something Rotten* [director selected]

October 2022: *Design for Murder*

December 2022: *A Charlie Brown Christmas* or *A Christmas Carol*

January/February 2023 Musical: *Sister Act* [director selected]

February/March 2023: *Lettice and Lovage*

April/May 2023: *Mary Stuart* [director selected]

June 2023: *The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of Your Presence at a Celebration of Their First One Hundred Years*

**To Submit an Application:** Email applications to [ltaseasonalplanning@gmail.com](mailto:ltaseasonalplanning@gmail.com) by January 3, 2022, with the subject line, "Director Application." Incomplete applications will not be considered. Interviews will be conducted **January 15 – 31**. Please note: due to the large amount of applications we generally receive, we will not be able to offer interviews to all candidates. Any questions concerning the application process should also be directed to [ltaseasonalplanning@gmail.com](mailto:ltaseasonalplanning@gmail.com) with the subject line, "Director Application Inquiry."

Thank you for your interest in LTA, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Director Selection Chair **Franklin Coleman** and Governor for Seasonal Planning **Eleanore Tapscott**

# Upcoming Auditions

Set against the backdrop of Cambridge University in the late 19th century, *Blue Stockings* tells the story of women who risk breaking contemporary social expectations for a world-class education and the men whose worldview is enhanced or challenged by their presence at the prestigious school. The central theme of struggling for and acclimating to social change make this play timeless in nature despite its Victorian setting.

*Blue Stockings* was originally cast and produced about two years ago and closed before opening due to the pandemic. Therefore, all the characters were cast and rehearsed to the point of being off book. A large number of those previously cast have been offered and accepted the resumption of their roles. Only the characters listed below are currently being auditioned for out of a cast of approximately 20 (depending on double casting).

## Audition Notes

All races and ethnicities are welcome. Please prepare a one-minute monologue from a play of a similar genre, with or without the use of a British accent. Auditions will also include cold readings from the script. Please be prepared to demonstrate the use of an upper-class British accent when reading from the script. Please bring a headshot and résumé if you have them and be ready to list all conflicts.

Auditionees should be prepared to provide vaccination cards at the audition table and masks are required to be worn at all times, except when the actual audition occurs. All actors in the production must provide proof of complete vaccination. Masks will not be worn when on stage but will be required during rehearsals at the discretion of the producers and director. Those cast must be, or must become, members of The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

## Character Descriptions

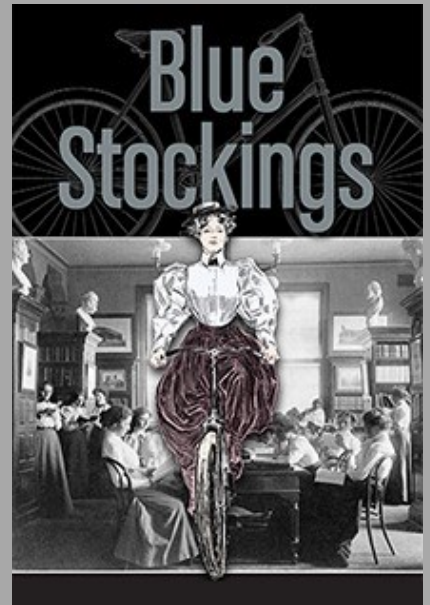
**RALPH MAYHEW** (early 20s to early 30s): Trinity student. A scientist and romantic. This role requires an actor who either speaks Italian or can achieve fluent pronunciation by working with the show's Italian language coach.

**LLOYD** (early 20s to early 30s): Trinity student. A young vanguard of traditional English values. The type who would probably run for prime minister.

**EDWARDS** (early 20s to early 30s): Trinity student, something of a romantic. This character must be able to jump on top of a table and sing a few bars of "The Last Rose of Summer" without musical accompaniment.

**PROFESSOR COLLINS** (late 30s to 60s): Lecturer at Trinity. Part of the old guard of Cambridge dons, but willing to keep an open mind.

**BILLY SULLIVAN** (mid 20s to mid 30s): Maeve's brother. Illiterate, rough around the edges but dutiful.



February 26 – March 19,  
2021

Written by  
Jessica Swale

Produced by  
Lloyd Bittinger,  
Margaret Chapman, and  
Christine Farrell

Directed by  
Marzanne Claiborne

## Audition Dates

Saturday, December 4, 2021

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 5, 2021

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

## Callbacks

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.



## Council Corner

After my audition in the Green Room for the upcoming play, I was asked to take a seat in the theatre auditorium while the director and producer continued the auditions with other actors. As the evening worn on, I sat wishing I had done things differently in the audition, and then I glanced at the name plate on my theatre seat's armrest. It read "**Dorothy and Frank Fannon**" – and as I read it, I heard my name called and the director told me that I got the part. Wow, what a sign! That was my first time ever at LTA, in the late fall of 1974.

The director was **Myrtle Morris**, a fabulous actress, and it was her husband, **Jim**, a friend and co-founder of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, who had told me of LTA – where he had starred a few years earlier in *The Most Happy Fella* – and suggested that I try out, never mentioning that Myrt was his wife. Ha! This was almost as curious as the storyline in the Tennessee Williams drama in which I was cast, *Summer and Smoke*, which went up in February 1975.

Some months later, at the LTA Annual Awards, I was lucky enough to meet my "kissin' cousin," as she called me, Mrs. **Dorothy Fannon** – alas, no known relation, save our mutual 19th century Irish roots – when she presented me with a silver bowl (fittingly Paul Revere style!) for my second role at LTA that year,

Richard Henry Lee in *1776*. She and her husband and many members of their lovely Alexandria-area family were and are LTA supporters and benefactors. In fact, a true highlight of my LTA stage life was performing opposite Dorothy's daughter-in-law, **Kathy Fannon**, in Neil Simon's *Little Me* in 1981.

As you may already have been able to tell, these are vivid, wonderful memories for me! And as an LTA member since 1974 and an LTA Council member since 1985, such truly fond moments have continued to accumulate – as a performer in terrifically fun musicals and comedies with marvelous actors and super directors and crews; as Council Director, with Vice Director **Bonnie Jordan**, when our gang launched the annual outside holiday decorating and took a Council meeting on a Potomac dinner cruise; and as opening night party server, front of house volunteer, and carpenter's helper on a few set construction jobs (and a whole bunch of set tear-downs!).

All of these diverse opportunities to participate are what makes LTA such a special – and enduring – place, a people organization of its members, volunteers, supporters, subscribers, and patrons, and an all-embracing theater-loving community in its own right. It's why, despite my former day job requiring me to participate less over some years, I always tried to stay involved through the LTA Council, and now hope our friends and new patrons, who are discovering the re-opening LTA, will come and join in too, as LTA is able to emerge fully again after one difficult and certainly dramatic time!

### **Peter Fannon**

LTA Council Member

Peter portrayed the Narrator/Charles Dickens in LTA's 2020 live and video production of *A Christmas Carol*. Before that, his last LTA stage portrayal was as Emperor Joseph II in *Amadeus* in 1997.



**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)

## LTA About Town for Halloween



Cast members of the *Spirits of Carlyle House* tour celebrate after their final of four Friday nights of haunting performances. Front row: Charlene Sloan (Civil War nurse). Back row: Kirstin Apker (Smithsonian curator), Matthew Randall (W.W. Simpson), Danielle Comer (Sybil Carlyle), James Robertson (Smithsonian curator), Jeremiah Tamagna-Darr (Union soldier), Alex Eskew (Patrick Buckley). Not pictured: Greg Wolfson. Photo by Kerry Mitchell.

## Mark Your Calendars

12/3 *A Christmas Carol*  
opens

12/4 - 12/5 *Blue Stockings*  
auditions

## 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 2021 – 2022 season are:

President.....	Frank D. Shutts II
Governor for Artistic Support.....	Beverley Benda
Governor for Box Office.....	Ira Forstater
Governor for Building.....	Kenneth Brown
Governor for Development.....	Christopher A. Tomasino
Governor for Education.....	Heather Sanderson
Governor for Front of House.....	Monty Montgomery
Governor for Membership.....	Stacey Becker
Governor for Production.....	Alan Wray
Governor for Public Relations.....	Rachel Alberts
Governor for Seasonal Planning.....	Eleanore Tapscott
Governor for Technical Support.....	Ken Crowley

Additional officers are:

President Pro-Tem.....	Ira Forstater
Treasurer.....	David Hale
Board Secretary.....	Lynn O'Connell
Executive Secretary.....	Jamie Blake
LTA Council Director.....	Zell Murphy

## 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:**

**Stacey Becker,  
Governor for Membership**

[membershipgovlta@gmail.com](mailto:membershipgovlta@gmail.com)

**Thank you for your service!**