



FEATURED PRODUCTION

JUNE-JULY 2022



July 23 – August 13, 2022

by **Karey Kirkpatrick** and
John O'Farrell

Produced by
Rachel Alberts, Bobbie Herbst,
and **Russell Wyland**

Directed by
Frank D. Shutts II

Producers **Rachel Alberts, Bobbie Herbst,** and **Russell Wyland** join director **Frank D. Shutts II**, music director **Christopher Tomasino**, and choreographer **Stefan Sittig** will open LTA's 2022 – 2023 season with the hilarious musical *Something Rotten!* Set in late 16th-century London outside the Globe Theatre, *Something Rotten!* is a crazy tale that combines theatrical one-upmanship, the invention of the musical, youthful love (of course), and breakfast food. A dynamic cast and crew will bring this show to the LTA stage, showcasing the music and lyrics by **Karey** and **Wayne Kirkpatrick** and book by **Karey Kirkpatrick** and **John O'Farrell**.

The crew is led by stage managers **Sherry Clarke** and **Jennifer Rhorer** and assistant to the director **Jacquanna Davis**. Set designer **Rob Barr** and set builders **Jim Hutzler** and **Jeff Nesmeyer** will re-create Tudor London, **Myke Taister** will dress it, and **Luana Bossolo** and **Mary Hutzler** will paint it. **Margaret Chapman** and (the aptly named) **Helen Bard-Sobola** will delight us all with their props. Keeping the cast looking their parts are costume designers **Kit Sibley** and **Jean Schlichting**, wardrobe mistress **Robin Worthington**, and make-up and hair designer **Robin Maline**. Rounding out the technical crew are lighting designers **Ken** and **Patti Crowley**, master electricians **Jeff Auerbach** and **Kimberly Crago**, and sound designer **David Correia**. Capturing everything with his camera will be **Matthew Randall**.

The cast includes a talented dancing/singing ensemble of **Brian Ash, Marcus Barbret, Odette Gutierrez del Arroyo, Julia Hornok, Tony Lemus, J. P. McElyea, Luke Martin, Amanda Mason, Eddie Perez, Mary Rodrigues, Andrew Sanchez, Lourdes Turnblom,** and **Evan Zimmerman**. Featured cast members include **Paul Caffrey** (Brother Jeremiah), **Katie Conn** (Portia), **Jack Dalrymple** (Nigel), **Chuck Dluhy** (Nostradamus), **Peter Fannon** (Shylock), **Matt Liptak** (Nick), **Noah Mutterperl** (Shakespeare), and **Anna Phillips-Brown** (Bea).

continued on page 8

Order your tickets now!

★ **Call the Box Office** ★

(703) 683-04961

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Frank D. Shutts II, President
Stacey Becker, Governor for Membership
Griffin Voltmann, *Floodlight* Coordinator
Linda Wells, *Floodlight* Editor

Next Issue September 2022

In this Issue

| | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Membership Update | Pg 2 |
| Council Corner | Pg 3 |
| Feature: Pride Month | Pg 5 |
| <i>Prelude to a Kiss</i> Thank You | Pg 7 |
| Committee Updates | Pg 7 |
| Education Update | Pg 9 |



LTA ANNUAL MEETING

A MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

STACEY BECKER, LTA GOVERNOR FOR MEMBERSHIP

Dear Little Theatre of Alexandria Members,

We are back!

Even though the past two years have been difficult, I am happy to tell you that our theatre has remained open. Experiencing theater together as a community is healing. Theater has the potential to reflect human emotion and there is no other experience like sitting in our auditorium to laugh (and possibly cry) as one.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the June 13th Annual Meeting. If you were unable to make it or have not been to LTA in a while, there have been many changes. The lobby is newly painted and we have installed a digital display board. We are updating our sound system to enhance audiences' listening experience and increase the communication devices shared among the backstage crew. The theatre's Code of Conduct was recently revised to ensure a safe, welcoming, and inclusive experience for our members, staff, production crew, and actors. We have continued to publish our superb newsletter, the *Floodlight*. I hope you have read the past couple of issues. It has an updated look and feel with wonderful articles. Most importantly, our Safety Committee, along with the Alexandria City Health Department, has ensured that all COVID-19 safety protocols have been in place from the beginning of the pandemic to now.

Please remember that you still need to wear your mask and show your vaccination card when you enter the theatre.

We have an exciting and diverse season starting in July. There is something for everyone. We kick off the summer with the hilarious musical *Something Rotten* directed by our President **Frank Shutts**. Our fall play is *Design for Murder*. You will never guess the "whodunnit?" till the very end. Our holiday show this year is *Tiny Tim's Christmas Carol*. You will enjoy this delightful take on an enduring Christmas classic. Then we go right into

our winter musical *Sister Act*. Think Whoopi Goldberg. *Lettice and Lovage* is next — you will not believe what these adorable English ladies are up to. I promise you will be laughing out loud. Next, experience the tragic story of Mary, Queen of Scots in our dramatic play *Mary Stuart*. We close the season with *The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of Your Presence at a Celebration of Their First One Hundred Years*. I guarantee you do not know this part of American history.

I truly hope that you will renew your membership. You can renew online at thelittletheatre.com/opportunities/#membership or by mail. You must admit — the \$50 membership is a bargain. You receive a free ticket to every show, a *Floodlight* subscription, and an opportunity to tap into your creative side by volunteering backstage, onstage, or in Front of House.

Naturally, you also earn the right to vote for the leadership of the Theatre at future annual meetings.

If you can afford a little more, we have kicked off our **"Make it \$60" Campaign**. As we recover from what will be, by date of publication, a three-year deficient budget, we are asking every member to contribute an additional \$10 to their annual membership renewal. A similar fundraiser proved successful back in 2000 when the theater was struggling to reverse a small-but-threatening era of deficient budgets. An extra \$10 may not seem like much, but if everyone who can contribute it will be more than enough to help us build back our coffers and continue to put on the high-quality productions you have come to expect.

I can't wait to see you at the theatre. Be sure to stop by and say hello.

Stacey Becker
Governor for Membership

COUNCIL CORNER

ZELL MURPHY LTA COUNCIL

As I write my last column as the Director of the LTA Council, I can't help but think back over the past 28 months and the unique and challenging experience my term has been. When I assumed the position of LTA Council Director at the February 2020 Council meeting, little did I know that we were about to face a worldwide pandemic that would require us to effectively stop any sort of large-scale group interactions for an indeterminate period of time.

One of the most valuable things that the LTA Council offers is the opportunity for social interaction and fellowship among its members. COVID-19 put an end to that — at least for the first year of my tenure. In July of 2020, the Council held its first 100% online meeting in its history. It was no small feat figuring out the logistics and technical aspects of managing that first Zoom meeting. But we did it, and every meeting since then has included an online attendance option. The online firsts continued during the winter of 2021 when the Council held its first online election of officers.

During the early days of COVID-19, the theatre made the decision to continue operating and adopted the safety protocols as outlined by the CDC and the Alexandria Promise program. A season of one- and two-person shows was developed with the theme "Small Theatre for Unusual Times." As Council members, it was more important than ever to do what we could to show our support for the theatre during this unusual time. The other officers and I took every opportunity to encourage members to volunteer in any way that felt safe and comfortable. During the 2020 – 2021 season, hundreds of Council member volunteer hours were devoted to ushering, audience greeting, backstage work, and fundraising support.

LTA's fantastic education programs also continued safely and in tandem with the "Small Theatre" productions, and it was important for the Council to show its support in some meaningful way for those who made our education programs such a success. In the fall of 2020, Council member and Governor for Education **Heather Sanderson** approached the Council about providing some form of financial support for individuals in need who could not afford the full price of classes. With that request, the LTA Council Scholarship Program was born. The program provides funding towards the cost of classes for both youth and adults in demonstrable need. Since November 2020, the Council has provided \$4,000-worth of scholarship support, and has helped to extend the reach of LTA's excellent educational programming to the broader DC metro community.

In the summer of 2021, the Council's officers recognized

that more direct efforts were needed to promote the work of the Council and to enhance its visibility. The first step was to update the Council's description and Statement of Purpose which appears in each show's playbill. The next step was to identify one or two areas where the Council could provide the theatre with additional needed support. One identified area was that of production-related sponsorships. In the fall of 2021, a group of dedicated Council members got together and worked to secure sponsorship support for *Bright Star's* cast and crew Double Tech dinner. This same group continues to work hard to develop sponsorship opportunities and secure support from local businesses for future productions.

Another identified area of support was that of business planning. Two Council members, **Patricia Nicklin** and in-coming Vice Director **Margaret Chapman**, have offered their services and put together a committee to lead the theatre through a business-planning process.

In addition to all the great work described above, the Council has continued its tradition of holiday decorations for the theatre as well as its ongoing support, maintenance, and enhancement of the theatre's Shakespeare Garden.

Now, finally, after more than two years, the Council can get together once again for in-person social events and we are very excited about our upcoming pre-show reception to be held on the opening night of *Something Rotten!*.

It would be remiss of me not to recognize the Council officers who I have had the pleasure of working with over the past two years. Much thanks and gratitude go out to **Rachael Hubbard**, **Mary Beth Smith-Toomey**, **Lloyd Bittinger**, and **Donna Hauprich**.

A final thank you to all the dedicated Council members who have stood by the theatre during these past two challenging years and who continue to devote countless hours of their time as well as their financial support to the theatre. It has been a pleasure to serve as your Council Director.



Zell Murphy
LTA Council Director



PRIDE

JUNE 2022

CELEBRATING LGBTQ EXCELLENCE SINCE 2000

The Little Theatre of Alexandria Celebrates LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH

Pride Month is celebrated every June as a tribute to those who were involved in the Stonewall Riots. President Bill Clinton first declared June as Gay and Lesbian Pride month in 2000, and President Barack Obama expanded the observance by designating June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month.

During June, we celebrate the notion that diversity is a gift. In President Obama's own words: **“the story of America’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community is the story of our fathers and sons, our mothers and daughters, and our friends and neighbors who continue the task of making our country a more perfect Union. It is a story that all people can live with dignity and fairness under the law.”**

Every June, we rededicate ourselves to the pursuit of equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and celebrate the great strides the community has made in theater and art.

For those who live their truth out loud, and for those who can't; for those still learning about themselves, and for those who teach others; for those who surround us, and for those no longer here, we thank you for everything you do to make LTA such a vibrant and loving community. Happy Pride!



WELCOME NEW LTA GOVERNORS

At Monday's annual meeting we elected two new governors to the LTA Board. Please join the *Floodlight* editorial team in welcoming our new governors for Production and Public Relations!



HILARY ADAMS, GOVERNOR FOR PRODUCTION

Hilary has been an active member of LTA for six years serving in almost every area of the production process. She is eager to step up and shoulder the responsibilities of this governorship.

Already hitting the ground running, she's begun heavily updating the Producer's Manual to better equip new production crews to meet the theatre's high expectations for shows, and is already laying the groundwork for jumpstarting the training pipeline and building a pathway for new theatre members to take on ever more important roles in maintaining the theatre's high standard of excellence.

In her own words, she is beginning the process of "making LTA a place where truly all are welcome."

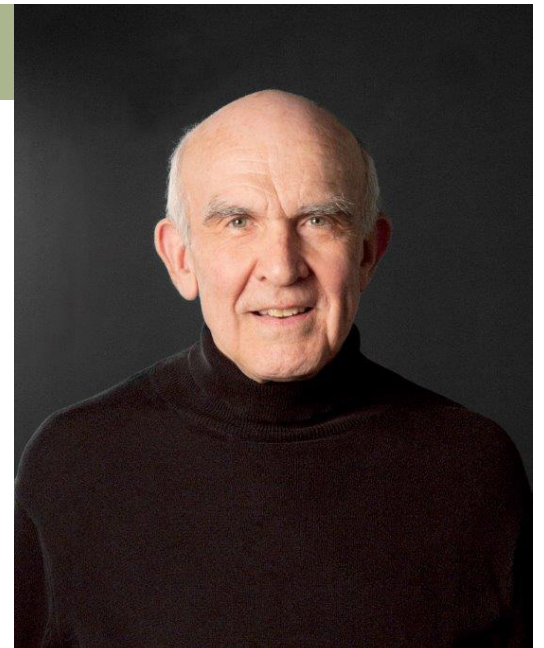
Reach out to her today at productiongovlta@gmail.com.

FRED LASH, GOVERNOR FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

Fred has been associated with LTA since 1989, onstage and off. He's worked in the field of Public Relations for more than 40 years, and is now bringing that expertise home to make LTA the best it can be.

He's announced his intentions to organize a new LTA Public Relations Council to build a brain trust of the theatre's best and brightest to increase LTA's profile in the community and theatre landscape. In his own words he plans to use his "well-known energy, enthusiasm, and extrovert traits to further the best interests of LTA."

Fred is looking to interview actors, producers, directors, department heads, and long-career LTA actors to look for new ideas to continue improving LTA's image, inside and out.



THANK YOU, *PRELUDE TO A KISS!*

MAGGIE MUMFORD, DIRECTOR, AND CAROL STRACHAN, ALAN WRAY, PRODUCERS

Peter Mumford's steps and set, mottled blue and subtly lit by **Jeffrey Scott Auerbach** and **Kimberley Crago** served as setting for our delightful June play, *Prelude to a Kiss*. Designers both seasoned and new, including **David Correia**, **Robin Maline** and **Mary Wallace**, aided by **Ceci Albert**, **Shelby Baker**, **Donna Kenley**, **De Nicholson Lamb**, **Tom O'Reilly**, **Deb Remmers**, **Ruben Vellekoop**, **Russ Wyland** and their assistants made up a superb crew in all production areas. Together they worked to bring wardrobe, props, rigging, and set construction, painting, and dressing together into a pleasing collaborative picture with careful attention paid to the intimate story being told.

Our cast of 11 included eight new LTA members, widening our scope for diversity casting and encouraging new talent.

We thank stage management **Melissa Dunlap**, **Mary Ferrara**, **Ramah Johnson**, and **Cleo Potter**, along with all cast and crew in our production, and hope this BIG KISS we offer you all will serve as an introduction (PRELUDE) into the new LTA season.

—*Prelude to a Kiss* 2022



LTA SAFETY COMMITTEE

STACEY BECKER CHAIR, GOVERNOR FOR MEMBERSHIP



Did you know that LTA has its own Safety Committee? The members are **Stacey Becker** (Chair), Governor for Membership; **Frank Shutts**, President of LTA; **Ken Brown**, Governor for Building; **Kimberly Crago**, Co-Chair of Lights; **Rachel Hubbard**, soon-to-be Director of the Council.

The Safety Committee covers everything from certifying the fire extinguishers and AEDs are in good working order to providing CPR classes annually and ensuring the Code of Conduct is upheld to ensure a safe, welcoming, and inclusive experience for everyone. For over two years we have worked in partnership with the Alexandria City Health Department to confirm we are following all COVID-19 protocols. This has allowed us to keep our doors open during the pandemic. Due to our Covid guidelines we were presented with the ALX Gold Promise Seal and are used as the high bar standard when Alexandria City collaborates with other businesses.

If you have any safety questions or concerns, please email membershipgovlta@gmail.com. We are all of us responsible for ensuring an environment of physical and emotional safety.

I hope to see you around the theatre!

Stacey Becker
Governor for Membership

LTA NEXTGEN COMMITTEE

HILARY ADAMS CHAIR, LTA NEXTGEN COMMITTEE

Since 2016, the NextGen Committee has worked with the Governor for Membership to help bring a new generation of volunteers to LTA through community outreach, networking, and one-act writing competitions. Through the New Voices series, original one-act plays are staged multiple times per year, affording opportunities for new and emerging directors, producers, and actors who may find it difficult to break into the local community theater space.

I stand as a testament to the real impact of the NextGen Committee: I started at LTA as an actor in 2014, and though I did eventually start working on props crews, it wasn't until I got involved with New Voices in 2018 that I was able to try my hand at directing. LTA's mainstage productions are very well known for their quality in Northern Virginia community theater, and in order to preserve that quality, LTA infrequently brings on first-time or early-career directors for mainstage productions. However, through NextGen's New Voices series, I was able to direct several one-acts, gaining the experience and exposure I needed to be brought on as an assistant director for *Blue Stockings*, which closed this past spring to great success, and as co-producer for a main stage production in the upcoming season.

When COVID-19 safety protocols allow us to gather, NextGen social events are a great networking opportunity for people from other local theaters and recent college graduates to get to know people from the theatre and allow for

inter-organizational collaboration. A great example of this is LTA's collaboration with The Arlington Players (TAP), which resulted in an original radio play that aired last year and the Night of One Acts that took place over three weekends this past spring.

Especially since the pandemic started, we've noticed that more people – particularly young working people – are finding their way back to theater through smaller theatrical opportunities and social events that are fun and meaningful while maintaining a low bar for entry. NextGen facilitates these opportunities and aims to create an active community that will translate into long-term, engaged volunteers.

Are you a college-aged or young career individual looking to dip your toe into local theater? Want to promote a theatrical opportunity for young people who are new to theater, or just new to our theatre? Follow [LTA NextGen](#) on Facebook and [@ltanextgen](#) on Instagram.

Finally, after a busy and fulfilling term as chair of this wonderful committee, it is time that I pass leadership on to someone new who can take the Committee onward into the future. I look forward to watching NextGen's progress as the committee enters its next phase.

—Hilary Adams 2022

NextGen

LITTLE THEATRE OF
ALEXANDRIA



SOMETHING ROTTEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

If you are interested in working on *Something Rotten!* contact the producers through the LTA business office (asklta@thelittletheatre.com). Everyone working on this show must be vaccinated and boosted and willing to wear a face mask when at LTA.

EDUCATION UPDATE

HEATHER SANDERSON LTA GOVERNOR FOR EDUCATION

"Come and take choice of all my library," so said Titus Andronicus to his daughter Lavinia. You too are invited to come and check out LTA's new Little Free Library, located in our Shakespeare Garden. We plan on filling it with performing arts related books for both adults and children. We are especially looking forward to seeing our summer camp kids take advantage of the reading materials during their lunch breaks. This joint project of the LTA Council and the Governor for Education was funded by The Council and constructed by one of our winter students, local Boy Scout **Jonah Durbin**. Thanks Jonah!

Jonah will be earning a merit badge for helping us with our Little Free Library project. That's a perfect example of how taking a class can lead to other opportunities. Recently, for instance, LTA's wardrobe team lead, Robin Worthington, organized a week-long service internship project for some local high schoolers. Some of our adult acting students were given an opportunity to perform at a Lee-Fendall House fundraiser. Another adult acting student stepped in at the last minute to perform a poetry recitation at the National Poem in Your Pocket Day celebration at the Athenaeum. Other students have performed online and in staged readings of plays in progress.



If you have an opportunity you think might be of interest to an adult or youth acting student feel free to let me know. Email me at bardsplay@gmail.com.

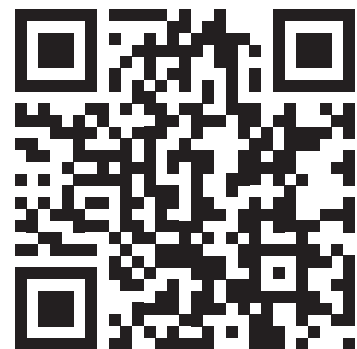
By the time you read this, summer camp will be underway. This year we expect close to 500 youngsters to be making memories during our two-and-a-half-month Summer Camp season. Camps run through August 19th, and you can find full details at thelittletheatre.com/summer-camps/#camplist. Our summer camps aren't just a great way to learn a new theatrical skill or hone an existing one, they also help with the development of life skills such as communication, concentration, dedication, initiative, self-confidence, promptness, self-discipline, teamwork and even shoelace tying!

We're also holding classes for adults in the evenings, including "Improv," "Acting," "Acting for Beginners," and the opportunity to learn the latest presentation techniques in a new class called "Is There a TED Talk In Your Future?" which concludes with a taped presentation on LTA's stage.

Details about all classes can be found at thelittletheatre.com/education/. The fall class schedule will be announced **July 6th**.



Scan here to learn more about this year's LTA educational programs
See you this summer!



The Little Theatre of Alexandria
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Business Office: (703) 683-5778 ex. 2
Fax: (703) 683-1378

www.thelittletheatre.com

Mark your Calendars!

- 7/23 *Something Rotten* Opens
- 10/15 *Design for Murder* Opens

LTA 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

Thank you for your service!