

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Syndi Zook

Yes, the volunteers at Lyric have been working 9 to 5 to get our latest show ready and as I write this message we are just five days from opening night! Lyn Feinson, Debby Dot Decker and the costume crew just had final fittings for 22 different people and Jane Harissis, our set designer, is out back right now painting a beautiful cream colored sofa a nice 1980's bronze and mustard color. On the other side of the looking glass, volunteers have been working at our new production facility getting ready for the big move in day. Sixteen great people showed up last Saturday to paint the new costume and props rooms and the "retired gentleman's club" has been here laying carpet squares.

A big thanks to Laurie and Rich Dana, Charlie Church and Tim Henderson for heading up so many projects, and a triple THANK YOU to J.A. Morrissey, our contractors for this renovation job. They have been so patient and collaborative as we try to renovate our new space and use it at the same time. We have all worked around each other and the cast for *9 to 5 The Musical* has had some special challenges as they have helped to move things around the rehearsal space so work can take place. Thank you 9 to 5-er's. I can't wait to see you onstage!

SPECIAL THANKS TO DAVE EVARTS AND FLOORING AMERICA!

By Syndi Zook

Dave Everts and the good folks at Flooring America have been incredibly generous to Lyric Theatre Company during this time of renovation. They have donated carpet and vinyl to our new creative facility as well as underwritten the cost of a variety of flooring through-out the space. We appreciate their support of community theatre and LOVE the colors they chose for us!



AND LYRIC'S FALL 2018 WILL BE ...?

By Margaret Welch

The Show Selection and Evaluation committee is seeking show proposals for the fall 2018 slot. Do you have a show you would like to produce? Have you wanted to be a member of an artistic team? Please visit the Lyric Website to review the criteria. For more info, contact Margaret Welch at tapwelch@aol.com or Sean Leach at leachs@aol.com. The deadline for proposals is April 30th.

**LYRIC MOVING DAY: MAY 13 RAIN OR SHINE!
ALL HANDS NEEDED!**

The dream comes true! On May 13, we will need as many people as possible to help us move from 55 Leroy Road to 7 Green Tree Drive. Jobs for all, not just heavy lifting – though we need help with that too! Starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 5 p.m. We can use you if you can only give a few hours! Refreshments will be served. Bring work gloves and eye protection if you are afraid of dust!



**APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR
\$1,000 DELANO-NULTY AWARD**

For the past 35 years, Lyric Theatre Company has given a small award to a graduating Vermont high school senior going on to college or professional development in the theatre arts. This \$1,000 award is named for Lyric founding members Howard Delano and Polly Nulty. The deadline for applications is May 5, 2017. For more information go to www.lyrictheatrevt.org/delano_nulty.html

**THANK YOU TO OUR SHOW SPONSOR—
HICKOK AND BOARDMAN NETWORK OF COMPANIES!**
We couldn't have done *9 to 5 The Musical* without YOU!



THANK YOU TO OUR MEDIA PARTNER—WCAX

Did you get a chance to see the great TV commercial that WCAX filmed for us? If not, please check out Lyric's Facebook page. There's a lot of information in a really cute format. We love working with our long-time partner, WCAX!



LYRIC MEMBER REPRESENTS VERMONT IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

Lyric Theatre member Emily Friedrichsen is on her way to DC to represent Vermont in the 2017 Poetry Out Loud Competition! Emily was seen in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in 2013 and performed for Lyric in First Night and with LyricKids. So proud of you Emily! For info about the prestigious Poetry Out Loud Competition go to www.poetryoutloud.org/competition/national-finals

SPIELPALAST CABARET

By Nate Venet

In the midst of the wild whirlwind between WWI and WWII, spanning the Roaring Twenties (known for hair bobs, jazz, prohibition, and bathtub gin), the Depression (unemployment, poverty, loose morals), and the Weimar Republic (don't forget Dadaism, montage, and rebellion), Europeans and American expatriates flocked to the literary cabarets and burlesque entertainments, featuring a wide range of scandalous and subversive performance, including political satire, nude dancing, gender bending and elaborate avant-garde nonsense spectacles. In the increasingly oppressive atmosphere of fascist nationalism and restricted civil liberties, these cabarets celebrated the unstoppable resilience of the individualistic and alternative human spirit in a time of mass propaganda, blind patriotism and military frenzy.

Spielpalast Cabaret is Burlington's longest-running cabaret troupe, and is an homage and extension of those counter-culture movements of the early 1900s. Lyric alum involved include Spielpalast co-founder Lois Trombley and music director Nate Venet. Performances will be held May 5-13. More info and tickets at spielpalastcabaret.org.

ON OTHER STAGES

- ★ Lost Nation Theater's season continues with *Judevine*, April 20-May 7, and *Into the Woods*, June 1-18 at Montpelier's City Hall. Tickets/info: lostnationtheater.org
- ★ Vermont Stage Company's season continues with *The Call*, April 19-May 7; and *The Bake Off*. Tickets/info: flynntix.org
- ★ Middlebury Community Players present *Working*, from the book by Studs Terkel, April 27-May 7. Tickets/info: middleburycommunityplayers.org/tickets/
- ★ Essex Community Players proudly present *Pygmalion*, May 4-14. Tickets/info: essexplayers.com
- ★ The Flynn's Broadway Series includes *Annie*, April 25; and *Pippin*, May 10. Tickets/info: flynncenter.org
- ★ Shelburne Players present two one-act comedies—*The Real Inspector Hound* by Tom Stoppard and *Black Comedy* by Peter Shaffer— at Shelburne Town Centre. Performance dates are April 14, 15, 20, 21, and 22. Tickets/info: shelburneplayers.com
- ★ Lamoille County Players announce their 2017 Season: *Enchanted April*, *Brigadoon*, *The Miracle Worker*, and *Murder Inn*. Tickets/info: lcplayers.com



CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS FOR *A CHRISTMAS STORY, THE MUSICAL*

Congratulations to our many friends on the 9 to 5 *The Musical* Team!

A Christmas Story, The Musical is set in Indiana in November and December, 1940. The Depression is just ending, and Christmas is approaching! Ralphie, our nine-year-old, dreams of getting an air rifle for Christmas—and not just any air rifle, but the Red Ryder Carbine Action BB Gun!

Listed below is information about characters in the musical. Watching the 1983 movie is a great introduction to the storyline, and there are excellent clips of various songs and scenes from the stage show online. Specific vocal ranges, audition information and links will be posted at a later date.

The Narrator

Jean Shepherd/Narrator: (stage age: late 40's to early 60's). Jean Shepherd is the actual author of the books that the story is based on, as well as the actual narrator voice we hear in the 1983 movie! On stage he is a warm, charismatic and engaging storyteller; omniscient but not overpowering. A good-natured curmudgeon with a deadpan sense of humor, "Jean" focuses the action, keeps the story moving and holds the audiences' attention with his presence and spark. Throughout the show, the actor playing this role acts as a narrator, interacts with the actor playing Ralphie, and appears in scenes as different minor characters—sometimes within one scene! This actor must be very comfortable with audiences, and must be able to "read the crowd" and tell the story at the same time. This actor sings one line at the end of the show, and does not dance.

The Family

Ralphie: (stage age 9). A 5th grade boy who wants an Air Rifle for Christmas: specifically the Red Ryder Carbine Action BB Gun. He is a bright, winsome, mischievous, cute kid...someone you wouldn't mind having as a next door neighbor. (He might shovel your driveway for you--and then use your shovel as a sled!) Not a smart-aleck or overly precocious, Ralphie's imagination drives several scenes. The actor playing this role carries several songs; he must be an excellent singer and fluent reader with mega-watt stage presence. Ralphie's dance is minimal.

The Old Man: (stage age 30's to 40's). Gruff and grumbling on the exterior, Ralphie's Dad has a good heart. He doesn't overtly show it, but he does love his family. A blue-collar guy, he usually expects the worst out of most situations; but is transformed into a true "song and dance" man in his moments of fantasy. The actor playing this character must be a strong singer and a good dancer who isn't afraid to go "over the top" for comedic purposes.

Mother: (stage age: 30's to 40's). She is the secret engine that runs the family, keeping the household together with a smile—despite bickering children, limited funds, an x-rated lamp in the living room window, a cranky furnace and a crankier husband. She would never let The Old Man know that she is more in charge than he is—as is appropriate for a housewife of this era! Vibrant, warm, affable—but not a pushover—she is always busy, especially anytime she is in the kitchen, and even more so at Christmas-time! The actor who plays this role must be an excellent singer, a good dancer, and must be very comfortable with children.

Randy: (stage age 7). Ralphie's younger brother, he is cute, cuddly, lovable and whiny—like most baby brothers! He looks up to his big brother, tries to keep up with him, and is young enough that he can be convinced to eat his dinner like a baby piggy! The actor playing this role must be an excellent singer, a good dancer, a fluent reader and have strong stage presence. This actor may also be a featured tap dance performer. **The actor playing this role must be eight years old at the time of auditions.**

Featured Adults

Miss Shields: (stage age 30's to 50's) Ralphie's 5th grade teacher, a seemingly stereotypical 1940s educator—prim and proper, stern when necessary—though warm and even humorous when the situation merits it. In Ralphie's fantasy, she transforms into a dynamic, brassy, show-stopping belter and tap-dancing phenomenon! The person playing this role must be an excellent singer with a strong belt voice, an experienced tap dancer and an actor who can handle comedy AND children!

Santa: (stage age: 30's to 60's) The Santa Claus at Higbee's Department Store is ill-tempered, slightly inebriated and very unhappy with his job—nothing like the “Jolly Old Elf” of the Christmas stories! He gets rid of each kid as fast as he can—probably to shorten his day so he can head for the nearest “watering hole!” The actor playing this role must be a strong comedic actor and singer, and must be comfortable with children. He may be part of the adult male ensemble.

The Kids

The Kids' Ensemble is featured in several major scenes, and should plan on a robust rehearsal schedule! All of the Kids' Ensemble should be strong singers who can hold harmonies, should have tap dance experience and should be fluent readers. The artistic team plans on casting 3-4 girls and 4-5 boys all (stage age) nine years old, and one (stage age) twelve year old.

Flick: (stage age 9/10) A classmate and best buddy of Ralphie's; Flick is the guinea pig in the flagpole licking experiment. The actor playing this role should be able to sustain and communicate with a serious lisp!

Schwartz: (stage age 9/10) A classmate and best buddy of Ralphie; Schwartz becomes the scapegoat when Ralphie utters an unmentionable word.

Esther Jane: (stage age 9/10) A classmate

Mary Beth: (stage age 9/10) A classmate

Nancy: (stage age 9/10) A classmate

Scut Farkus: (stage age 12/13) A textbook example of a schoolyard bully, Scut is loud, obnoxious and intimidating. This truant is a year or two older than Ralphie and his friends, and wears a perpetual scowl under his coonskin cap. He always appears at the most inopportune time to harass his victims. In the end, when he and his sidekick, Grover Dill, are bested, they show themselves to the biggest cowards of all.

Grover Dill: (stage age 9/10) Grover is Farkus's toady, and is always at his side. Younger and smaller than Farkus, Grover delights in being tethered to his “hero.” His rapid-fire belly laughs, always heard with Farkus's threats, make them the scourge of the neighborhood. The actor playing this role may play other roles in the Kids Ensemble.

Adult Ensemble

The Adult Ensemble will consist of 8 to 10 men, and 8 to 10 women (stage ages 20's to 50's). The artistic team would like to cast a mix of strong singers and dancers, who will play a variety of smaller roles in scenes, as well as performing in larger production numbers. Six to eight of the ensemble members will also play Santa's Elves in Higbee's Department Store. Flexible team players who are comfortable with comedy, theatre games, improv and children are eagerly sought for this production!

More information will be posted at a later date on the Lyric website. Merry Christmas!

—*Kelly Kendall, Artistic Director*

LYRICKIDS CAMPS NOW ENROLLING

LyricKids announces two incredible summer camp experiences for musical theatre enthusiasts at Mann Hall Auditorium, UVM Trinity Campus, Burlington, VT.

 <p>Our Team: Nikki Juvan Kim Nowlan John Luce Cathy Rylant Andrea Cronan</p>	<p>Session 1: July 17-21, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For ages 8-12 Presenting <i>Seussical Kids</i></p>
	<p>Session 2: July 24-28, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For ages 8-12 Disney's <i>The Aristocats Kids</i></p>

Tuition is \$250 if you register by May 1, 2017; \$285 if you register after that date. We offer a \$25 sibling discount and a \$50 discount for campers who sign up for both weeks. An additional 15% discount on camp tuition is available for Lyric members at the Stage Manager or higher supporting level. Contact the Lyric Office at 802-658-1484 for info.



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musical theatre enthusiasts!*

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Deadline for May issue: April 28, 2017

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AT YOUR SERVICE—LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY BOARD & STAFF

Christopher Brown	christopherbrownvt@gmail.com
Andrea Cronan	ajcronan71@gmail.com
Tom Dunn	tedunn@comcast.net
Geri Ann Higgins	vtnewf@aol.com
Stephen Kendall	stepkend@comcast.net
Sean Leach	leachs@aol.com
Shane McCormack	smccormack@vtlaw1.com
Brian Meyer	Brian.Meyer@peoples.com
Julianne Doupé-Nickerson	jcdnicker@gmail.com
Mary Beth Nuovo	mbnuovo@aol.com
Annie Ode	ode.annie@gmail.com
Roz Saunders	rzsanders@yahoo.com
Karen Sheedy	kos@jmmcpa.net
Elizabeth Stallings	esieghardt@gmail.com
Doug Viehmann	avidvi@msn.com
Margaret Welch	tapwelch@aol.com
Syndi Zook, <i>Executive Director</i>	Director@lyrictheatrevt.org
Doris O'Brien, <i>Bookkeeper</i>	Doris@lyrictheatrevt.org
Andriana Chobot, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Office@lyrictheatrevt.org
Kristina McSalis, <i>Campaign Assistant</i>	Kristina@lyrictheatrevt.org

MEETING TIMES FOR LYRIC'S STANDING COMMITTEES

Board (Chair: Stephen Kendall): 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Lyric Office, 7 Green Tree Dr., South Burlington
Facilities (Chair: Doug Viehmann): Monthly, Time TBA, Location varies
PR/Development (Chair: Geri Ann Higgins): 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office, 7 Green Tree Dr., South Burlington
Education (Chair: Andrea Cronan): Meeting details TBA
Finance (Chair: Brian Meyer): 2nd Monday of the month, 12:00 noon, People's United Bank, 2 Bank St., Burlington
Membership (Chair: Christopher Brown): 4th Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., home of the O'Connell's, Burlington
Show Selection (Chair: Margaret Welch): Monthly, Time TBA, Location varies

SPOTLIGHT SHOUT-OUT

By Christopher Brown

We would like to shine a spotlight on the Prop Tarts of *9 to 5 The Musical*. Our Props team has gone above and beyond, helping bring *9 to 5* to life in a true and authentic way. From sourcing and finding vintage pieces to creating new items, every prop has been chosen with the utmost care and attention to detail. We can't wait to see how everything helps bring the show to life on the Flynn stage. Thank you for all of your hard work!



November 9-12, 2017
MainStage
Flynn Center for the
Performing Arts

