

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

By Jose Rincon, Executive Director

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Burlington Does Broadway!* I am so grateful we had the opportunity to perform alongside the Vermont Symphony Orchestra on the Flynn Center MainStage, and I am proud of show we put on for a completely sold-out audience of over 1,300 theater lovers. Standing on stage singing “Auld Lang Syne” with everyone in attendance is an experience I will not forget!

We follow up our exciting end to 2018 with an equally exciting star to 2019, as construction progress on the Lyric Theatre Rehearsal Hall is continuing at a rapid rate! Our Capital Campaign Committee Chair Rob Parzych has included an update on the state of the campaign later in this issue of *The Spotlight*, and I want to say a special thank you to the Vermont Arts Council, which has made construction of the Lyric Theatre Rehearsal Hall possible with a 2019 Cultural Facilities Grant.



BOARD CHAIR’S MESSAGE

By Rosalind Saunders, Board Chair

As 2018 comes to a close, I want to wish you all the very best for the new year. Looking back over the past twelve months, Lyric has much to be thankful for: two wonderful MainStage productions (*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *Annie*), a fantastic staff, awesome summer camps, new education workshops, a very successful capital campaign that is coming into the home stretch, construction starting on the new rehearsal space, and most importantly—YOU! I welcome our new members and thank ALL of you for your time, commitment, and dedication to Lyric. Our board, committees, teams, crews, actors, techies, and everyone who volunteers for Lyric make our organization such an amazing community. I hope 2019 brings you health, happiness, and lots of great theater.

SUPPORT LYRIC THEATRE WHEN YOU SHOP ON AMAZON

By Jose Rincon

Did you know that you can support Lyric Theatre when you shop on Amazon? Follow these three easy steps and the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate a percentage of the purchase price to Lyric Theatre Company.

- 1-Go to www.smile.amazon.com and log in with your existing Amazon.com username and password.
- 2-Search for Lyric Theatre Company where it says “Pick your own charitable organization.” Be sure to select the Lyric Theatre Company in Vermont.
- 3-Click the checkbox labeled “Yes” and start shopping!

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE MAMMA MIA! TEAM

By Margaret Welch

Mamma Mia! is now in full swing. It is very exciting to have all the designs and plans start being implemented.

The Kick-off meeting was full of energy and enthusiasm. We had a great group of people signing up to work on all the crews and to audition; 113 talented people auditioned for the show. Thank you to everyone who came to audition and to the efficient audition team that made the entire process run smoothly. The 46-member cast had its first gathering in early December that ended with a disco dance party and everyone singing “Mamma Mia!,” “Dancing Queen” and “Waterloo” off book.

Promotion for the show is in full gear with events planned, press releases sent out and a special ad campaign developed. We would love to hear your promotion ideas and your help spreading the word about the show.

Hair, Make-up, Sound, Lights, Safety and Security and House all begin closer to the time we move into the Flynn. Please refer to the “Volunteer Opportunities” handout available on the *Mamma Mia!* page on the Lyric website for more details and contact information. Everyone who volunteers 20 or more hours on the show receives one comp ticket.

Thirty percent of the tickets have already been claimed (purchased and comped). The Saturday matinee (April 13 at 1:00 p.m.) is the most popular so far and the Sunday evening show (April 14 at 6:00 p.m.) has the most seats available. Tickets can be purchased through the Flynn Box Office (www.Flynntix.org or 802 86FLYNN).

The talent, creativity and commitment of so many people is going to make Lyric’s production of *Mamma Mia!* one great show.



Asa Baker-Rouse (Michael Banks) and Elizabeth Pattison Vant (Mary Poppins) reunite on movie night.

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES BENEFITS LYRIC

Lyric hosted the Vermont premiere of *Mary Poppins Returns* at the Palace 9 Theatre in South Burlington on December 19. We had an excellent turnout and raised \$353 for the organization through proceeds from ticket sales and our 50-50 raffle. Special thanks to our very own Mary Poppins—Elizabeth Pattison Vant—for making an appearance and posing for photos.

LYRIC ALUMNI WITH TIES TO MAMMA MIA!

By Pat Boera

Three Lyric members have made a splash on the Great White Way in *Mamma Mia!*

Michelle Dawson's career on Broadway has spanned a wide range of roles. She made her Broadway debut in *Cyrano* and went on to *Ragtime* and Hal Prince's historic revival of *Showboat*. She last appeared in *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*. Michelle was part of the Broadway cast of *Mamma Mia!* in which she performed the lead roles of Donna and Rosie and was part of the ensemble. Her Broadway National Tours include *Mamma Mia!* in which she starred as Donna for nearly two years and prior to that, as Tanya for a year. Michelle is also an in-demand educator; she helps actors and singers of all ages and levels with voice lessons, acting and master classes.

Liana Hunt made her Broadway debut as Sophie Sheridan in *Mamma Mia!* after appearing in the National Tour of the hit musical. She just finished up a run of *Looking for Christmas* at the Old Globe and is now performing in *SHIZ* at Feinstein's/54 Below. *SHIZ* was conceived by Shaina Taub, a fellow orphan in Lyric's 1998 production of *Annie*. Liana has appeared in *Newsies* on Broadway and has performed in regional productions of *Wicked*, *Les Misérables* and *Beauty and the Beast*.

Paul HeeSang Miller recently performed in the world premiere LA production of *Soft Power*. On Broadway, Paul made his debut in the ensemble, and then as replacement for Eddie, in *Mamma Mia!* He was quoted during an interview saying "In *Mamma Mia!*, I loved singing ABBA songs while having a literal dance party every night." Paul also appeared in the 2017 revival of *Miss Saigon* and in the Lincoln Center Theater revival of *The King and I*, where he performed in the ensemble and covered Lun Tha.



SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON MAHANA MAGIC, COMMUNITY PARTNER FOR MAMMA MIA!

By Pat Boera

Lyric volunteers crossed paths with the Mahana Magic Foundation quite by chance, when we shared a tent at the Champlain Valley Fair a few months ago. Board members Kathy Grise and Margaret Welch, who were staffing our table at the Fairgrounds, chatted with volunteers from this Vermont-based nonprofit and proposed a partnership for *Mamma Mia!*

About the organization: "The late Greg Couture created the Mahana Magic Foundation with a group of supportive friends after he was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. While being treated at Fletcher Allen Health Care, Greg received wonderful emotional care through Cancer Patient Support. However, he felt that his diagnosis was really a family diagnosis. While he received caring support through CPS, he became concerned of where his daughters, Makena and Hana, would find the support they needed. Greg recognized how cancer created fear and uncertainty for children and their need for an outlet to express their emotions. Thus Mahana Magic was born, in honor of his two daughters, Makena and Hana, with their names combined to create Mahana, a Hawaiian word meaning 'to create warmth.'" (Source: mahanamagic.org)

The organization provides support groups and partners with Davis Studio, the University of Vermont Outdoor Adventure Team, and Healing Winds of Vermont to provide programs for children.

We invite you to visit with volunteers from the Mahana Magic Foundation at their table in the Lobby of the Flynn Center during the run of our show in April. To learn more about this special organization, visit mahanamagic.org.

VOLUNTEER FOR ONE OF THE CREWS FOR LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY'S MAMMA MIA!

To adapt a popular saying, it takes a village to put on a show. In addition to the cast, several hundred volunteers work in about a dozen areas behind the scenes for each Lyric production. Here is information about some of the crews that will be holding weekly work sessions at Lyric's Creative Facility in South Burlington beginning this month:

Costumes | Start date: Friday, January 4 (Kick-off); Sewing start date: Sunday, January 6

The costume construction crew is responsible for making or gathering all of the costumes seen on stage. Not only does this involve sewing, but also gluing, scrounging, cutting, dyeing and much more. The costume crew works together in the costume shop at Lyric's Creative Facility and/or volunteers may be asked to take projects home to complete. Working on this crew also gives you the opportunity to sign on as a dresser during the run of the show!

Crew Work Times: Sundays, 1:00-4:00 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Contact: Lyn Feinson, lyn@darntough.com; Robin Baker, robinb@gmavt.net; Margaret Spivak, meespiv18@gmail.com

Properties | Start date: Tuesday, January 8

The Props crew finds (or makes) everything on the stage that isn't screwed down. "Prop tarts" do everything: paint, glue, carpentry, wiring, sewing, cutting-and-pasting, flower arranging and decorating—everyone's particular talent is put to good use! During the run of the show the Props crew works backstage moving furniture on and off and keeping track of all the hand-props the actors carry.

Crew Work Times: Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m.-undetermined time
Contact: Donna Riera, drieria46@gmail.com; Mary Zimmerman, zoomzee65@gmail.com

Set Construction | Start date: Saturday, January 5

From the visions of the set designer and artistic directors, the set construction crew creates the fabulous sets that populate the Flynn stage. Previous experience is appreciated but is not required. We teach, so anyone with an interest in construction is welcome. Even if you can make it only one or two days a week, that's great...all help is appreciated!!

Crew Work Times: Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 6:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-Noon

Contact: Len Rubin, ljrubin2@comcast.net; Ted Anderson, gusand58@gmail.com

Set Decoration | Start date: Sunday, January 20

Once the sets are built, they need to be painted. That is the work of the set decoration crew. If you have any artistic talent or just an interest in painting, this is the crew for you; no experience necessary! There are things to paint and create for every skill level.

Crew Work Times: Sundays, 1:00-4:00 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Contact: Janet Bessmer, jbessmer@drpower.com

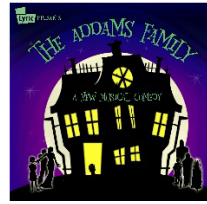
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**By Rob Parzych-Chairperson
Capital Campaign Committee**

Happy new year! The Capital Campaign has made significant gains in the past eight weeks or so! We have been able to secure donations, grants and pledges amounting to \$135,000! The continued generosity of our Lyric members, business partners and philanthropic friends has enabled us to widen the scope of initial work on our Rehearsal Hall. The fundraising continues with several initiatives which the committee is excited about, and will help to close the gap, on this final push to attain our original goal of 1.44 million dollars.

While it's true that we are in the home stretch, capital funds will always be crucial and needed, in order to maintain our Creative Space. The building-like any home-will always need something. Your continued support, whether it be in the form of a pledge, one-time donation, or helping to spread the word, will always be valued, appreciated and vital to the success of this campaign and Lyric's future goals. Donating has been made easier, since the recent implementation of our online tools available here: [Capital Campaign - Lyric Theatre Company](#)

I thank you and wish you happiness and peace in the new year!



ADDAMS FAMILY HAPPENINGS By Freda Tutt

To the left: Show logo
designed by Jane Burchard

The new year may be just starting, but the *Addams Family* team is far from just starting. We have been busy with all things Addams. As you may know, choreographer Kate Whalen moved to Portland, ME, at the beginning of 2019. We were sad to see Kate go, but very happy to let you know that Assistant Choreographer, Tara Mayhew, has stepped up into the role of choreographer. This will be Tara's first show as choreographer and we couldn't be more thrilled. She will be supported and mentored by Nikki Boutin and the two of them will bring the dances to life. Freda and Chris have been busy working on character descriptions and selecting the audition readings. And the whole technical team had a very exciting meeting where our set designer, Tim Henderson, walked us through his amazing sets. Stay tuned for more *Addams Family* Happenings in future issues of *The Spotlight*. #TeamSpooky

ON OTHER STAGES

- ★ Very Merry Theatre presents *The Pajama Game*, January 11-13, at O.N.E. Community Center, 20 Allen Street. Admission by donation. Info: verymerrytheatre.org
- ★ First Light Theatre presents *I Remember Mama*, January 11 and 12, at South Burlington High School. Lyric's Ronnie Thom Farrell is featured. Tickets/info: firstlighttheatrevt.com
- ★ Vermont Stage presents *A Doll's House, Part 2*, January 23-February 10, at their new home at Main Street Landing. Tickets/info: vermontstage.org
- ★ The Flynn Center's Broadway series continues with *The Sound of Music*, February 26 and 27, on the Flynn MainStage. Tickets/info: flynncenter.org
- ★ UVM Department of Theatre presents *Pippin*, February 27-March 3, at Royall Tyler Theatre. Lyric's Asa Baker-Rouse plays Theo. Tickets/info: uvm.edu/cas/theatre
- ★ Essex Players present *The Tell-Tale Farce*, March 1-16, at Memorial Hall. Tickets/info: essexplayers.com
- ★ Shelburne Players present *Noises Off*, April 5-13, at Shelburne Town Center. Lyric members Dick Hibbert, Jamie Polli, and Linda Kindsvatter are featured. Tickets/info: shelburneplayers.com
- ★ Lost Nation Theater presents *The Turn of the Screw*, April 25-May 12, at City Hall in Montpelier. Tickets/info: lostonationtheater.org
- ★ Middlebury Community Players present *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, April 25-May 5. Tickets/info: middleburycommunityplayers.org
- ★ Valley Players present *Harvey*, May 31-June 16. Tickets/info: valleyplayers.com

To learn about other performance events in Vermont,
visit TheaterEngine.com



P.O. Box 1688
Williston, VT 05495



Crews Start Working in January
The party is underway!

The Spotlight: A monthly publication of Lyric Theatre Company. To submit material for the next issue, email boerap@champlain.edu. Distribution questions? Call 802-658-1484.

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AT YOUR SERVICE—LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY BOARD & STAFF

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MEETING TIMES FOR LYRIC'S STANDING COMMITTEES
Board (Chair: Rosalind Saunders): 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Lyric Office, 7 Green Tree Dr., South Burlington
Facilities (Chair: Doug Viehmann): 1st Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office, 7 Green Tree Dr., South Burlington
PR/Development (Chair: Annie Ode): 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office, 7 Green Tree Dr., South Burlington
Education (Chair: MaryBeth Nuovo): 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office, 7 Green Tree Dr., South Burlington
Finance (Chair: Karen Sheedy): Meeting details TBA
Membership (Chair: Christopher Brown): 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., home of the O'Connell's, Burlington
Show Selection (Chair: Sean Leach): Monthly, Time TBA, Location varies
Technology (Chair: Andy Pearson): 3rd Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office, 7 Green Tree Dr., South Burlington

ADVERTISE IN THE PROGRAM FOR *MAMMA MIA!*
By Pat Boera

Are you a business owner interested in reaching a target audience of community members who support the arts? Consider buying an ad in the program for our upcoming show. We offer competitive ad rates for eighth-page, quarter-page, half-page, and full-page ads in color or black & white. Contact the Lyric Office (802-658-1484) to request a copy of the program ad sales flyer.



April 11-14, 2019
Flynn Center MainStage
Burlington, VT

