



WHAT A JOY, WHAT A LIFE, WHAT A CHANCE!

By Jose Rincon, Executive Director

Dear Lyric Family,

As you likely have heard by now, I will be stepping down from my role as Executive Director of Lyric Theatre Company later this season. I cannot overstate what an honor it has been to lead this company over the past year, and I encourage anyone with a passion for community service and the performing arts to apply for the position. The full job description can be found on the Lyric website.

But before I go, I am very much looking forward to our spring production of *Mamma Mia!* We have already sold nearly 4,000 tickets for this blockbuster phenomenon, so hurry up and get yours before it's too late! For *Mamma Mia!* tickets go to www.FlynnTix.org or call 802-86-FLYNN.

Another thing I am looking forward to is officially opening our brand new rehearsal hall. An update on rehearsal hall construction progress is included in this issue of *The Spotlight*, and if you would like to come see the exciting developments in person, feel free to call the Lyric office and schedule a tour!

A MESSAGE FROM THE LYRICKIDS ALUMNI

As Lyric enters the final stage of its very successful capital campaign, LyricKids alumni are joining together to raise money for a special donation to the capital campaign. We invite all LyricKids past, present, and future (and LyricKids at heart) to join us in contributing to the campaign in honor of Declan Quinlan.

Declan was a much-loved member of our LyricKids community. He was creative and kind, and possessed an irrepressible spirit and sense of style. He understood what many people never come to understand—that it is by giving to others that our lives are fully enriched and where true happiness lies. One of his dreams was to perform in a Lyric Theatre Production on the Flynn Theatre stage. Declan's dream came to fruition when he was cast as "Tootles" in the 2010 production of *Peter Pan*. No matter if you had known him ten minutes or ten years, Declan made you feel important and special. His kindness and infectious energy easily filled the room and made everyone around him smile.

There are so many of us who have benefited from participation in Lyric's education programs, cabarets, and MainStage shows (onstage and backstage). We can think of no better way of thanking Lyric, than by coming together to contribute to the capital campaign in honor of Declan. It would mean the world to us if you would join us.

Click [here](#) to donate to the campaign.

"All it took was the decision to step out of my comfort zone. Chances come and chances go, but if you make the decision to step out of the box, you can go places in a day you never dreamed you'd be when you woke up." —Declan Quinlan

SPOTLIGHT SHOUT-OUT

By Christopher Brown

A BIG shout-out goes to all of the dedicated volunteers who have been working away on our new rehearsal hall! Our dream of finally being under one roof is finally coming true! Thank you!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

I wanted to share some news, updates and information about the Capital Campaign with you. The Campaign has experienced a very productive and lucrative autumn/early winter! We have received several large donations, new pledges, one-time gifts and grant monies.

These have enabled us to expand the scope on our initial work on our rehearsal hall, initiating work on Phase I and II. Good news indeed!

This construction project is supported by a Cultural Facilities Grant funded by the State of Vermont and administered by the Vermont Arts Council. To see some pictures of the progress, please click [here](#).

We are still actively seeking donations to fund and dedicate the dance floor for the space. While we are accepting all donations, of course, we would love to honor as many current and past Lyric choreographers, by having their names displayed on the future plaque, which would be placed in the hall. Please consider a donation, in your name, or in honor of another—and as always: help spread the word. Please visit and share our Capital Campaign page, with easy donation options; click [here](#).

When I say we are in the home stretch, I sincerely mean it. Every single penny, of every donation is being put to its most fruitful use. I could not be more grateful for such an auspicious start to the New Year and the attainable prospect of concluding this campaign in the very near future.

-Rob Parzych, Capital Campaign Chairperson

WANTED: NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Search Committee

Lyric Theatre Company is looking for a new Executive Director. This is a unique and exciting opportunity to engage with our community, membership, donors, and volunteers in promoting and delivering a community theater experience to over 14,000 attendees a year, while ensuring financial sustainability. The ED reports to the Board of Directors and oversees all functions of this nonprofit. Click [here](#) for the full job description.

SAVE THE DATE—BROADWAY TRIVIA NIGHT AT WATERWORKS: TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019

Join Lyric friends and fellow theatre and trivia loving folks for a Broadway-themed Trivia Night at Waterworks in Winooski. More details to come!



MAMMA MIA! COSTUME QUEENS
By Mary M. Lee

Formerly known as the Costume Goddesses, a step into the 90's for *Mamma Mia!* brings out the Costume Queens. Ask anyone connected to Lyric who the hottest group to be involved with during the production of a show is and they will quickly say the Costume Queens. Attending my first Costume Kick-Off night for *Mamma Mia!* in early January, I was embraced and welcomed despite my clearly lacking seamstress skills. Within seconds, I was handed a seam ripper and a hug by Grace Freeman and her son Ian who have both been involved with 17 shows. With a costume team of almost 25 people, these mostly women represent an assembly of Lyric involvement with secrets in their garments.

Purple-fringed disco shirts, tall white go-go boots, food for a royal feast, and spirited punch made for the backdrop to the highlights review of what is to come with *Mamma Mia!* The collective wisdom and relentless hours will bring over 150 tight, swanky, bright, creative costumes to the stage in dance, song and love in April when the show goes on. Lyn Feinson, *Mamma Mia!* Costume Designer, shares that ABBA-size is a verb with *Mamma Mia!* The main characters of *Mamma Mia!* allow freedom to be bigger, playful, irreverent and supporting every walk of life. Creating extraordinary out of ordinary, Lyric's production of *Mamma Mia!* will convert the ABBA world in 1999 to characters that you want to hang out with. Sexy, tight-skinned and quite comfortable with themselves, look for characters embellished in sequins to light the stage.

The Costume Queens clearly have bonded over their scissors and sewing machines. Recent introductions included a flashback of memories to the 90's and reflections on past shows together. Several had taken hiatuses over the years to start families, move across the country and back, a few divorces and even significant illnesses. Through shows, the 90's and life events, the Queens bring love, care and a whole lot of laughter for months as they rip, stitch and chat.... Proclamations of gossiping but no b****ing.

Lyn Feinson herself is a flaunting, yet humble queen. She brings excitement and a draw to the team engaged with inspiring the stage through costumes. Described as fun, funny and relentless with her work ethic, ideas and innovation, she gives people input into decisions, responsibilities and ownership on projects.

Margaret Spivack, project manager for *Mamma Mia!* costumes, describes her own passions as Lyric and Dragonheart. She keeps coming back as it's "her thing" away from her family. Each time I see her, she's wearing something with bedazzle and glitz.

Judith Graves, working on a sparkly silver jacket, has been involved in eight shows, enticed into *Legally Blonde* by a drop of a comment to Serena Magnan O'Connell about painting her sewing room. Having worked once on an oil rig, she appreciates the smart, witty and fun people she hangs out with during each show season.

Cole Patno, a junior at South Burlington High School, is working on his fifth show having started with *Tommy*. His involvement started with his mom Sharon and he is now viewed as a protégé. When he joined costumes, he readily admits that he had minimal skills and now is able to hand sew and dress the cast at showtime. The Dancing Queen ladies have provided him with other positive role models and a whole lot of other moms. The Costume Shop makes him feel creative, comfortable and very happy as he balances a crazy high school schedule of academics and activities.

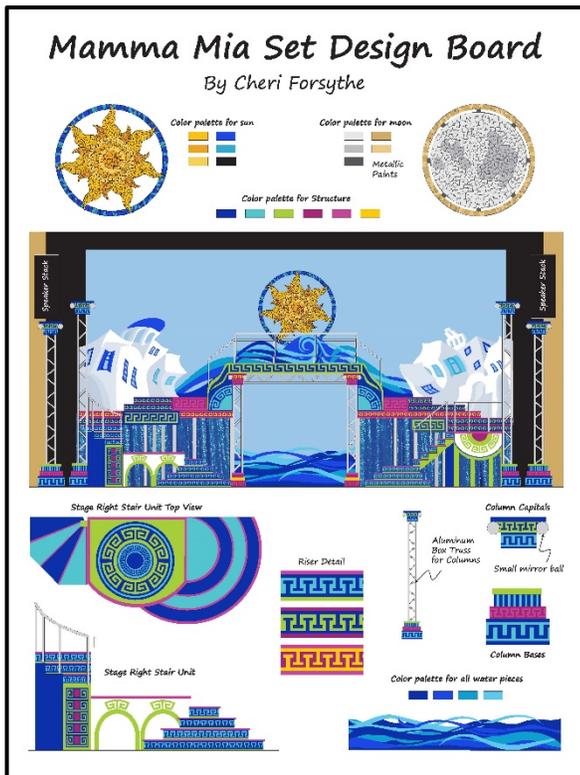
Laurie Dana and Lyric are a family affair. Her first show was as a member of the *Oklahoma!* cast in 1976 and she has had a wide variety of involvement in shows including set construction, marketing, stage production and costumes for 19 shows. Her husband Rich is involved with set construction and her daughter Liz does both set construction and painting. She has seen significant change and has met really great friends over the years. Recently, Laurie was cutting fabric to three girls' costumes, not really knowing what the end product would look like. She shared "sometimes we just have to trust Lyn as it will all make sense at some point."

Having never finished a quilt, Robin Baker, Costume Construction Chair, has been involved with costumes for all nine of her shows, started with *West Side Story* #2 in 1995. The first day she showed up, she was handed a seam ripper before the team figured out that she could actually sew. A backstage tour of the Flynn impressed and hooked her and now the friendships and the weekly banter hold her tight.

Lyn recognizes that *Mamma Mia!* is a big show in concept and execution. It's not for the light of heart and she is incredibly grateful for all of the Costume Queens' homework, ideas time and talent.

ADVERTISE IN THE PROGRAM FOR MAMMA MIA!

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. Call 802-658-1484 for a copy of the program ad sales flyer.



MAKING SET DESIGNS COME TO LIFE

By Janet Bessmer

Picture this: It's a dark and stormy night... wait, that's the intro for *The Addams Family*... Wrong play.

Anyway after a postponed start due to a snowstorm, set decoration for *Mamma Mia!* is finally underway. Here is the scene: a group of people in paint-stained clothes painting a Greek village, stylized water, the Eiffel Tower, and multicolored platforms, one is transported from a cold Vermont winter scape to a vibrant colorful Mediterranean island.

Without set decoration a play especially a musical is like a song without lyrics. You can hum along but it's so much better and more meaningful when you can sing along to the tunes. Set decoration sets the tone for the theater experience. It creates the atmosphere so the audience has an idea where they will journey from the opening scene to the finale. In *Mamma Mia!* we are setting the stage for one big party, and one production number after another. Every Wednesday and Thursday night from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Sunday afternoons 1:00-4:00 p.m. the Set Dec crew is having a party creating the party-like atmosphere of *Mamma Mia!* where Sophie's search for her biological father, who will walk her down the aisle, involves inviting three possible candidates to her wedding. Unbeknownst to her Mom, Donna, and her best friends, Rosie and Tanya, all three men show up. Hilarity ensues when everyone tries to figure out what to do. Incorporating the songs from ABBA, from *Knowing Me Knowing You*, to *Take a Chance on Me*, to *SOS* and *Winner Takes It All*... It is one big party!

We welcome any and all to join us; you don't need to know any special techniques, you don't even need to know how to disco dance. You just need to enjoy the camaraderie of a group of people working to get the atmosphere just right for the party that will be held at the Flynn April 11-14.

LYRICKIDS SUMMER CAMPS

By MaryBeth Nuovo

LyricKids is proud to announce our two summer camp offerings for campers between the ages of 8 and 13. Join us for *The Jungle Book* from July 15-19 and *Magic Tree House: Pirates Past Noon* July 22-26. Both camps run from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Camps will meet at 7 Green Tree Drive, Williston, Monday through Thursday, while we will gather each Friday at Williston Central School for our dress rehearsal and performance. Tuition is \$250 before May 1, 2019, and \$285 afterwards. Discounts apply to siblings, Lyric members and enrollment in both camps. For more information and to enroll, visit www.lyrictheatrevt.org.

INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE INVOLVED?

JOIN A LYRIC COMMITTEE!

By Christopher Brown

Looking to get more involved with Lyric? Interested in the 'business behind show business'? Lyric has 10 standing committees that work year-round to support the organization and we are always looking for more folks to get involved! From Facilities to Finance there are several opportunities to use all kinds of skills.

Most committees meet monthly (whether in person or virtually). A current list of committees and chairs can be found on the last page of each *Spotlight*. Any questions can be directed to Christopher Brown, chair of Membership and Nominating Committees at christopherbrownvt@gmail.com. Looking forward to hearing from you!



ADDAMS FAMILY

TRIVIA

By Freda Tutt

To the left: Charles Addams Cartoon

The Addams Family began in the 1930s as a series of cartoons in *The New Yorker* by Charles Addams. None of the macabre, gothic characters who lived in an old spooky mansion had names, which left the job to the writers of the 1964-66 ABC TV series version. Let's start with a bit of trivia from that 1960's TV show.

- What type of cat was Morticia's pet named Kitty Kat? A Lion (We will NOT have a lion in our production.)
- What is the address of the Addams Family House? 0001 Cemetery Lane (We WILL have a cemetery.)
- How tall was Lurch? 6'9" (Our Lurch CAN be shorter.)

Now for a bit of trivia from *The Addams Family, A New Musical*.

- Who wrote the music and lyrics? Andrew Lippa (but Martin Hain will bring the music to life for Lyric.)
- What year did it arrive on Broadway? 2010 (We will arrive on the Flynn stage November 2019.)
- Who originated the roles of Gomez and Morticia? Nathan Lane and BeBe Neuwirth (YOU could be our Gomez or Morticia ... so come and audition!)



**P.O. Box 1688
Williston, VT 05495**



Get your tickets soon!

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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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

**POOR LOST CIRCUS PERFORMERS: ON GOLDEN POND
By Jeffrey Fox**

Poor Lost Circus Performers will present the beloved multi-generational story *On Golden Pond* at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, March 21-24. Join Lyric veterans Robert Demic (as Norman Thayer, Jr.) and Benjamin Fox (Billy Ray), and the rest of this wonderful cast as they tell the story of connection and redemption at a cabin on the shores of Golden Pond. Tickets are available by calling (802) 382-9222 or at <http://bit.ly/OGP19tix>.



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

