



**LYRIC THEATRE PARTNERS WITH
VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FILM FOUNDATION**

By Jose Rincon, Executive Director

I am excited to say that Lyric Theatre will be part of the Vermont International Film Foundation's **2019 Global Roots Film Festival: *Why Sing, Why Dance***. Every year the Global Roots Film Festival showcases films from around the world that share a common theme. This year's festival will feature movie-musicals from the U.S. and abroad, and Lyric is grateful to have the opportunity to provide a live performance component to the three-day celebration.

Lyric members will perform songs from movie-musicals spanning over 80 years, with selections from *The Wizard of Oz*, *Grease*, *Footloose*, *The Little Mermaid*, *A Star is Born* and more. The talented cast includes Kim Anderson, Megan Beaucage, Gabby Boera, Hannah Farrell, Eamon Lynch, Amelia Mason, Hannah Normandeau, Ethan Tischler, and Ashley O'Brien on piano. Composer and film historian Neil Brand will be with us to discuss major milestones and trends in the development of the American movie musical canon. **The 2019 Global Roots Film Festival: *Why Sing, Why Dance*** takes place April 5-7 at Main Street Landing in Burlington, and the Lyric event happens April 6 from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. Visit www.vtiff.org for tickets and more information. Thank you to **Trust Company of Vermont** for their generous support of this event. See you there!

**A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR
By Rosalind Saunders**

I never cease to be amazed at the wide variety of skills and expertise Lyric's volunteers bring to our organization. When thinking about volunteering for a theater company, the first things that most likely come to mind are artistic; important and wonderful things like directing, acting, music, dance, sets, costumes, props, lights, and sound. In my role as Board Chair, I spend the overwhelming majority of my Lyric time in meetings that have little to do with staging shows. For example, this week alone, I have had Lyric meetings and conversations about the roof, executive director search, capital campaign, and marketing. And every time, I am blown away by the other types of talents people bring to Lyric. We have architects, lawyers, accountants, and public relations and technology experts, just to name a few, who are guiding and advising us, and putting tremendous amounts of time into the smooth behind-the-scenes running of Lyric. We value and love all of our volunteers, but this is a special thanks to these folks, without whom Lyric would be a very different organization.

**THE ROLE OF TECHNICAL DIRECTOR FOR A
LYRIC THEATRE PRODUCTION**

By Tom Dunn

Lyric Theatre is an organization rich with volunteer talent for its productions. Over the years, on the technical side of productions, an incredibly well distributed approach to getting things done has developed. Thus the role of the Technical Director (TD) is different than you might find at other theatres. Set Engineer and the Set Construction chair positions would often be handled by the TD.

At Lyric the TD's job is to work with all the technical committee chairs from Set Design, Engineering, Construction, Decorations and Props along with Sound, Lighting, etc. to ensure good communications and the timely solution of problems. The TD works directly for the Production Supervisor and works closely with the Artistic Team and the Stage Managers.

The actual work by the TD will vary from production to production based on the skills in the other areas. But, because the TD works with all the different teams, it is important that they understand those areas well. So a strong background in one or more technical areas is a big help.

Before the show moves into the Flynn, the TD would normally coordinate the communications of the show's designs and other plans with the Flynn staff. They would develop the load-in schedule and work with Set, Props and others to develop the detailed scene-change plans.

Once in the Flynn, the TD would work with the Stage Managers to coordinate the load-ins and run the technical rehearsals. This would include helping to block the movement of scenery and props. They are also responsible for making sure the backstage areas are set up for Costumes, Hair and Makeup.

The TD is usually not part of the Stage Crew but remains available to solve any problems that might come up during the run of the show.

The Technical Director plays a key role in the success of a Lyric show by allowing all the other teams to do what they do best. *Mamma Mia!* has so many talented people working on it that all I can hope is that the small role I'll be playing as TD will help to make it all come together.



A large and enthusiastic group gathered for the *Mamma Mia!* Cast and Crew Potluck held on Sunday, February 10, in the new rehearsal space



MAHANA MAGIC FOUNDATION

By Monica Marshall, Managing Director

Imagine you are having coffee with a friend and she tells you that she was just diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. You know she has two girls—Lilly 8 and Jamie 10. The 10-year-old is your daughter's best friend. Your friend, Jane, says "How do I tell my girls?! What am I going to do?! I don't know how to do this?!"

These are the questions our founder Greg Couture asked himself when he was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. The hospital told Greg that they did not have a specific person or group that could help his girls. Greg created the Mahana Magic Foundation from seeing first-hand the needs to support his own children through his battle with cancer.

Mahana Magic Foundation is a local non-profit that supports children who have a parent or care giver with cancer. The Foundation's mission finds expression through a variety of initiatives including sponsorship of monthly programs such as art classes, ropes courses and sailing with Healing Winds of Vermont. Having these outings allows kids to meet other children going through similar experiences in a fun, relaxed setting. Building social connections with others going through similar challenges stems the tide of social isolation common to these circumstances and provides an outlet to express and process emotions. Additionally, we sponsor a week-long art camp at the Davis Studio and will be adding a cooking program at Healthy Living. We are constantly evolving and growing, ever looking for new initiatives that further our mission.

We have funded a Child Life Specialist at the UVM Medical Center for the past nine years. She holds support groups, offers advice on how to answer children's questions and gives them tours of the hospital.

New this year, the foundation is very excited to announce we will be awarding five \$1000 scholarships for graduating seniors. And, last month we sponsored our first Mahana Magic Winter Festival. This was open to all families directly or indirectly impacted by cancer. Activities included snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing, horse-drawn sleigh rides, dog-sled exhibition, food and games. The foundation is also proud to sponsor the Family Room at the Stowe Weekend of Hope and sponsor the American Cancer Society Relay for Life children's programs in St. Albans and St. Johnsbury.

If you would like to learn more about our mission or care to make a donation, please do so through our website.

WANTED: COUNSELORS FOR SUMMER CAMP

By MaryBeth Nuovo

LyricKids is looking for camp counselors! The ideal counselor will enjoy working with children and have some experience in theatre. They should be friendly and willing to take the initiative when needed. Must be available 8:45 a.m.-4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, July 15-July 26. A stipend will be provided. To apply please submit résumé and cover letter to MaryBeth Nuovo at mbnuovo@aol.com.

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.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: SEEKING MEMBERS

By MaryBeth Nuovo

Are you looking to become a part of Lyric's educational mission? The Lyric Theatre Education Committee has been working on some exciting new projects. We have facilitated several well-received workshops, and more are planned. As always, our summer camps are a big hit, and we have more big ideas on the horizon. But we need you! The commitment consists of one meeting per month and all we ask is that you bring your enthusiasm for educating and celebrating Lyric's membership all over Vermont. To learn more, please email Committee Chair MaryBeth Nuovo at mbnuovo@aol.com.

IT'S SHOW PROPOSAL TIME FOR LYRIC'S FALL 2020 SHOW

By Sean Leach

The Show Selection and Evaluation Committee is seeking proposals for fall 2020. The deadline for show proposals is April 30, 2019. The guidelines are stated below. Please contact Sean Leach, chair of Lyric's Show Selection and Evaluation Committee, at leachs@aol.com for more information and to submit your proposal.

Main Stage Show Proposal Criteria:

- Has not been produced by Lyric in the past ten years
- Has broad-based audience appeal
- Is appropriate for directors, cast and crew available to Lyric
- Has potential for substantial ticket sales
- Has artistic value

Written proposals should include:

- Names and qualifications of the Producer, Director, Choreographer and Music Director
- Synopsis of show
- History of the show (where and when it has been performed)
- General vision including cast size and mix, special talent needs and why it should be produced by Lyric Theatre Company
- A preliminary budget (past show budgets are available from the Lyric Office)
- Some general marketing ideas to promote the show

SUPER SENIOR: KEN WOLVINGTON

His vision may be going, but Ken Wolvington hasn't lost sight of his true passion. Joe Carroll from WCAX shows us why this Vermont Super Senior is a class act in a segment which was featured on the station last week. If you missed it, you can review the story here:

<https://www.wcax.com/content/news/Super-Senior-Ken-Wolvington-506502931.html>

BRINGING THE ADDAMS FAMILY VISION TO LIFE: BEHIND THE SCENES By Christopher Brown

Hello all—Christopher here. It's my first foray into assistant directing a MainStage production for Lyric and I'm having a wonderful time! I am learning so much from my team about all of the preparations that go into a show MONTHS before auditions even begin. I wanted to give you all a glimpse into what the process has been like setting the stage, design-wise, in bringing *The Addams Family* to life for fall 2019!

In putting a team together, Freda and I have been excited to bring on a strong mix of players who have done their roles before, folks who are new to role and even some who are learning/apprenticing along the way. This mix of tenured wisdom and new ideas has swirled together to create a fun, inspiring and creative vision for our show.

Tim Henderson has done an incredible job as Set Designer; he has already taken our vision from our heads, to paper, to a 3-D working model! Ann Vivian has come in to the team with a unique position—Set Colorist. It is Ann's job to take what Tim has created and bring it to life through color. Working off of this, our Costume team, led by Kerry Farrell has incorporated their costume palette into these conversations to make sure everything flows smoothly. Adding in Cathie Covey and Janet Bessmer as our Set Decoration team has only made us stronger as they bring their expertise and vision to the table. Just wait to see what lighting and special effects has in store.

What I have enjoyed the most about the process so far has been the collaborative nature in which we are working—every player has a voice in the process. As someone who is in “learning mode,” I have valued the contribution and expertise of each person on our team. Everyone is open to teaching as well as receiving feedback. We are very lucky to have such dedicated and invested volunteers here on #TeamSpooky. Stayed tuned for more updates along the way, and I'll be seeing you at *Mamma Mia!*

FUN AND FUNNY AT GNOP SLEEPOVER By Carole Vasta Folley

Girls Nite Out Productions (GNOP) brings comedy front and center for their 2019 season with their selection of *The Sleepover—A Comedy of Marriage* by Vermont playwright Carole Vasta Folley. It opens November 6 at Main Street Landing's Black Box Theater.

The inspiration for *The Sleepover*, which won a Vermont Playwrights Award, is “comedy—pure and simple,” says Vasta Folley. “The fodder of dysfunctional marriage, in the midst of inescapable second-rate couples' therapy, provides

the perfect elements for absurd situational and physical comedy.”

The Sleepover tells the story of Mark and Susie, a married psychotherapist and life coach, who hold their first overnight marriage retreat. Arguing from the start, the two clumsily attempt to help five couples. Things go from bad to worse when Julie, who reluctantly attends the retreat with her long suffering husband, turns out to be Mark's former fiancée.

Vasta Folley adds, “This past year, I've reworked *The Sleepover*, enhancing the story and the fun quotient. It's been such a blast, I look forward to bringing it to the stage with GNOP!” An ensemble piece, *The Sleepover* features 12 characters. Audition information will be posted soon at girlsniteoutvt.com.

ON OTHER STAGES

★ Vermont Stage presents *The Roommate*, March 6-24, at their new home at Main Street Landing. Tickets/info: vermontstage.org

★ Essex Players present *The Tell-Tale Farce*, March 1-16, at Memorial Hall. Tickets/info: essexplayers.com

★ Poor Lost Circus Performers present *On Golden Pond*, March 21-24, at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater. Tickets/info: townhalltheater.org

★ 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

DELANO-NULTY AWARD

CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

For 45 years, Lyric Theatre Company has been part of the dynamic arts community in Vermont. Lyric is proud to award \$2,000 to an area high school senior to help support their interest in pursuing an education in theater arts. The Delano-Nulty Award honors two of Lyric's founding members—Howard Delano and Polly Nulty. The application deadline is Tuesday, April 30. Criteria:

- Graduation from an area high school with plans to attend college the following September
- Involvement in theatre through Lyric Theatre Company, school productions, or other area theatre companies
- Demonstration of continuing interest in the performing arts
- Educational/career goals that relate to the performing arts (theatre, music, dance or technical theatre)

For more information and to apply:
<https://lyrictheatrevt.org/education/delano-nulty-award/>



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



Opening Night...a month away!

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.

Deadline for April issue: March 28, 2019

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 Chris Brown, South 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

MAMMA MIA! TICKETS ...AND... RAFFLE

If you have not already purchased tickets, go online or get to the Flynn Box Office very soon. Ticket sales are brisk and you definitely will want to be in the audience for this show.

During the run of the show, we'll be selling raffle tickets. Our thanks to Lyric member Keith McManis for arranging for the donation of an overnight at The Essex, Vermont's Culinary Resort & Spa as our wonderful prize.



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

