



THERE'S NO PEOPLE LIKE SHOW PEOPLE

By Jose Rincon, Executive Director

Congratulations to the cast of *Annie*! If you look at the list in this issue of *The Spotlight*, you will likely recognize some seasoned Lyric performers, but it is also exciting to note that nearly half of the cast is in a Lyric role for the very first time. The fact that so much local talent returns to our shows year after year while we continue to grow the company with fresh faces speaks to the heart of what Lyric is about—community!

Tickets are already selling well for *Annie*, so if you have not bought yours yet—what are you waiting for? You don't want to miss our new production of this perennial favorite—the songs and characters you love, brought to life by a whole new generation of orphan girls, some pretty fabulous grown-ups, and a few four-legged friends. Go to www.flynntix.org or call 802-86-FLYNN today!

Lyric Theatre Company's Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, September 16, at the Eagles Club on Shelburne Road. The event gets underway at 5:30 p.m. Join us as we celebrate a successful 44th season and hear about exciting plans for the coming year!

THOUGHTS ON CHILDREN'S AUDITIONS- FROM A MOM WHO HAS BEEN THERE

By Rosalind Saunders, Board Chair

I have to admit I have spent a lot of time the past couple of weeks thinking about the families whose daughters auditioned for *Annie*. I want to offer my congratulations to ALL of the girls, no matter the outcome. I'm writing this month's article not as the Lyric Board Chair, but as the mom of two theater kids who are now adults. When our girls were growing up, my husband and I "survived" countless auditions. There were plenty of times our girls were disappointed (however, it is actually true that parents take it harder than the kids), but looking back I have to say I am grateful for every opportunity they had to put themselves out there. It definitely taught them to learn to deal with not getting their first choice role or not getting cast, and it's true that it prepared them for so many other things in life. They both, along with all of the theater kids we knew, breezed through school presentations, discussions with college admissions counselors, and internship/job interviews. But, the thing I'm most grateful for is that every time my kids did not get cast, there always was another opportunity that presented itself. Sometimes it involved theater, like painting sets or working backstage, but other times it was a new activity or hobby they would never have had time to explore. But the most important thing was that each of these opportunities brought new friendships, new skills, and new confidence.

THE CAST OF LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY'S ANNIE

Annie	Stephanie Miskavage
Daddy Warbucks	Mark Cranmer
Miss Hannigan	Serena Magnan O'Connell
Grace Farrell	Mindy Bickford
Rooster	Don Patrick O'Connell
Lily St. Regis	Hayley Ryan
Bert Healy	Owen Rachampbell
Molly	Molly O'Neil
Pepper	Charli Kellaway
Duffy	Bella Joly
July	Nylah Mitchell
Tessie	Fiona McCormick
Kate	Juliana Tomlinson
Mary	Nina Cusick
Betty	Veronica Miskavage
Helen	Zoe Bernstein
FDR	Bill Bickford
Marine Guard; Fred McCracken	Rick Cusick
Ass't Dog Catcher; Sound FX Man	Justin Gardner
Dog Catcher; Jimmy Johnson	Justin Goodman
Eddie	Eric Rainville
Drake	John Sonnick
Bundles	Tim Stetson
Hull	Mark Tarnacki
Lt. Ward	Michael Tutt
Boylan Sister / Sophie	Jennifer Cohen
Women's Ensemble	Sarah Crowley
Boylan Sister	Gwen Delgadillo
Mrs. Pugh	Rowan DerbyBurras
Mrs. Greer / Perkins	Chloë Fidler
Women's Ensemble	Kathryn Gosselin
Cecille	Kylie Halpin
Annette	Carah Pioli-Hunt
Boylan Sister	Holly Raiche
Star To Be	Julia Sioos
Sandy	Samwise Gamgee Hathaway
Sophie	Sophie McDonald
Pip	Freedom "Pip" Jackson

LYRIC COSTUME SALE

By Rita Myers

Mark your calendar for our Costume Sale which will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Lyric's Creative Space on Green Tree Drive. Our huge collection of costumes is being culled. All items reasonable priced: clothing, accessories, one-of-a-kind costumes and specialty items such as furs, tulle skirts as well as fabric yardage. There are unique and vintage treasures galore.



COMMUNITY PARTNER FOR *ANNIE*:
LUND
By Charlotte Blend

Lund has been helping women, children and families across Vermont since 1890. Lund helps children thrive by empowering families to break cycles of poverty, addiction and abuse. Lund offers hope and opportunity to families through education, treatment, family support, and adoption.

As Vermont's oldest and largest adoption agency, Lund firmly believes that having a family is a right, not a privilege. Lund finds forever families for children through private infant adoption, and adoption of children in state's custody through Project Family—an award winning collaboration with the Vermont Department for Children and Families. Lund also offers lifelong family support for adoption and guardianship families, options counseling for expectant parents, and search and reunion services for adult adoptees. Lund has facilitated the adoption of over 10,000 children over the past 128 years; 4,340 of these were through Project Family.

There is a forever family for every child. Lund's dedicated, compassionate adoption team will not stop until every child is home.

UPDATES FROM THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

By Rob Parzych, Capital Campaign Chair

We were thrilled to be the recipients of a \$28,000 donation to the Capital Campaign from the Antonio and Rita Pomerleau Foundation Trust. This donation is the culmination of the tireless work of John Gravel and the committee and represents 10% of our outstanding goal. We're getting there!

We have also been awarded \$28,750 from the Vermont Arts Council Cultural Facilities Grant. This grant has a 1:1 match requirement in order to obtain the funds. While the committee has terrific energy, ideas and trajectory, soliciting donations also poses unique challenges.

Please continue to help spread the word about Lyric, the campaign, and our need for a finished rehearsal space. Word of mouth really does work! We have seen several donations come in from people who are unfamiliar to the committee, but have clearly been informed in some way about our efforts.

I will continue to do my due diligence for the organization and this campaign, and as such will remind you that if you are able to, NOW is a great time to donate. I would absolutely love to see your name listed on the rehearsal room donation plaque. For a gift of \$1000 or more, it will be there for everyone to see, and thus become a true part of the Creative Space. Don't have that kind of cash lying around? Not to worry—get a group together and pool your funds! Have a donation made in the name of a favorite show you worked on, a memorial gift in someone's name...the list of creative possibilities is endless. A one-year pledge of \$1000 breaks out to \$19.23 per week or \$2.75 per day. Your donation in any amount is appreciated and gets us that much closer to our goal.

One time, or monthly gifts, are quickly and securely processed on the Lyric website www.lyrictheatrevt.org via

PayPal, utilizing the DONATE button at the bottom of the page. Be sure to include a notation that your donation is for the Capital Campaign in the [Special Instructions](#) section. Otherwise, donations are flagged as Annual Gifts. You, of course, can contact the Lyric office or speak with Jose directly to set up other types of giving that are best for you. Stay cool my friends!

LYRIC AT THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY FAIR

By Pat Boera

Thanks to Board members Kathy Grise and Margaret Welch for representing Lyric and promoting our 45th season at the Champlain Valley Fair and to Alise Certa in the office for helping coordinate event logistics and copying.

TIM STETSON GOES OVER THE EDGE

By Pat Boera

Congrats to *Annie* cast member Tim Stetson who went Over the Edge for the Flynn. Tim scaled the nine-story façade of the Burlington Courtyard Marriott Hotel in tune with "It's a Hard Knock Life" and "Tomorrow" promoting the show while raising funds for the Flynn's Education Programs.



KEY DATES AND CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

By Mike Fidler, Director

Kick-Off: Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Auditions: Sunday, December 2; Monday, December 3; and Tuesday, December 4, 2018

Call-Backs: Thursday, December 6; Friday, December 7, 2018

The heart of *Mamma Mia* is the music of ABBA and we intend to present the songbook with maximum production value. In many ways the ambition is to make it feel as much like a pop concert featuring ABBA's greatest hits as a musical comedy in the traditional sense. For anyone interested in a slightly more rock and roll approach to theater, this is a show to get involved with behind the scenes.

It is also an opportunity to have a unique experience on stage. We are intending to cast a large "company" who, alongside the band, will be on stage through much (if not all) of the show. A much larger percentage of the numbers than usual are "production numbers" and our onstage company will serve as backing singers and dancers throughout in a performance style that will sometimes seem closer to American Idol than it will a "normal" musical. Many will never leave the stage.

While everyone will sing and dance to some extent, there will be featured dancers who will hardly be required to sing and there will be an ever-present chorus (in the true sense of the word), singing in virtually every number with limited movement. There will also be everything in between. A key component of this chorus will be its reflection of our own society and in this respect we are hoping to attract performers of all shapes, sizes and ages. The uniting factor on stage will be the energy, spirit and delight that is magically contained in the music of ABBA and our ambition will be to package

up that joy and deliver it into the audience. Being part of this ensemble offers very exciting opportunity.

In terms of the libretto proper, *Mamma Mia* famously chronicles the story of a single Mom and her daughter on the eve of her wedding. On the surface, it's a familiar, breezy comedy as the daughter searches for the identity of her father and love interests wax and wane; underneath, a more poignant story develops as the two generations of women explore the requirement of a male figure in their quest for fulfillment and a mother comes to terms with her daughter leaving for adulthood. Available characters exist for all ages and genders, typically as follows, although note that the list below is subject to change and should not be considered definitive:

Principal Roles

Donna Sheridan: The owner of the Taverna on the Greek island of Kalokairi; Sophie's mother, (around 40, American). She is the former lead singer of Donna and the Dynamos. Honest, straight and hard-working, she is the most naturalistic and vulnerable of the characters. Delivers some of the biggest solos in the show. (*The Winner Takes it All, Slipping Through My Fingers, Dancing Queen, Super Trooper, Money Money Money, among others.*)

Sophie Sheridan: Donna's headstrong 21-year-old daughter, Sophie is determined to have what her mother never had: a traditional family and a father to walk her down the aisle. Young, bright and energetic, she has lived all her life on the island and is ready to leave. (*I Have a Dream, Honey Honey, The Name of the Game, Lay All Your Love on Me, Under Attack, among others*)

Tanya Cr sham-Leigh: One of Donna's oldest and best friends, Tanya (around 40) has married several millionaires and discovered a lot more about plastic surgery than love - to the extent that she was ever looking. Wild, fun-loving and a big character, she flirts mercilessly with young men, happy to play, but not to stick around. (*Chiquitita, Dancing Queen, Super Trooper, Does Your Mother Know, among others*)

Rosie Mulligan: Donna's friend (around 40, American, often plus-size) a former member of the Dynamos; unmarried, free-spirited and a renowned author of cookbooks. A character who has developed a confident, funny and self-deprecating exterior which masks her inner vulnerability. Mostly comic, yet one of the most poignant moments in the show in the heart of Act 2. Dances like nobody's watching. (*Chiquitita, Dancing Queen, Super Trooper, Take a Chance on Me, among others*)

Sam Carmichael: One of Sophie's Potential fathers and a wealthy architect (40-50, American). Sam has regretted leaving Donna all his life and now finds himself divorced and back in her presence. He is straight-laced, confident and composed. At times he is perhaps a little over-bearing, but he is determined not to mess up the second chance he has been given... a very true and honest character within the chaos. (*S.O.S., Thank You for the Music, Knowing Me Knowing You, among others*)

Harry Bright: Another of Sophie's potential fathers and a respected London banker, (40-50, English). Once a head-

banging, partying musician who went down the straight road—at least with his career. He is quirky, in the closet and something of a romantic nostalgist. A nice guy, determined to make up for some past regrets and full of singing. (*Thank You for the Music, Our Last Summer, among others.*)

Bill Austin: Another of Sophie's potential fathers, a well-known travel writer, Bill has visited the far reaches of the earth, but never found what he's really looking for. A real character (40-50, often English or Australian), Bill has generally avoided the complexities of a relationship and now wonders if it's too late. Lots of comedy and a golden heart within. (*Thank You for the Music, The Name of the Game, Take a Chance on Me, among others*)

Featured Roles

Sky: Sophie's fiancé; a former stockbroker who moved to the island in a young version of a mid-life crisis. He is older than Sophie (25-32, American), but smitten by her exotic charm. Perhaps he is too eager to please and has not quite found all the answers he had hoped for on the island. (*Lay All Your Love on Me, among others*)

Ali and Lisa: Sophie's friends who have traveled to the island for the wedding. (early 20s, American) A supporting double-act of bubbly, bridesmaidly excitement, not necessarily gender-defined. (*Honey Honey, among others*)

Pepper: A flirty waiter at the Taverna featured through his brief relationship with Tanya. (20-25, could be from anywhere). Hot, energetic and fun-loving, makes a great double-act with Eddie. Opportunity for a good mover. (*Take a Chance on Me, among others*)

Eddie: A waiter, boatman and handyman at the Taverna. Other half of double-act with Pepper. (20-30, American). Fairly non-specific. Opportunity for a good young character actor to create something interesting. (*Full Company numbers*)

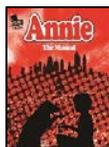
Father Alexandrios: The minister who officiates Sophie's wedding. Often a heavy-weight Greek Orthodox priest, this is a potentially delightful little role for a character actor of non-specified gender with some imagination. A nice little turn in Act 2 for someone who doesn't want too much to sing. (*Finale Numbers*)

ON OTHER STAGES

- ★ Lost Nation Theater presents *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, September 6-16. Tickets/info: lostnationtheater.org
- ★ Lamoille County Players present *All Shook Up*, September 27-October 7. Tickets/info: lcplayers.com
- ★ Girls Nite Out Productions presents *Sitting Pretty*, October 3-13. Tickets/info: flynncenter.org
- ★ Vermont Stage's 2018-2019 season opens with *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, October 3-28. Tickets/info: vermontstage.org
- ★ Stowe Theatre Guild presents *The Odd Couple (Female Version)*, October 3-20. Tickets/info: stowetheatre.com
- ★ The Flynn Center's Broadway series includes *Rock of Ages*, October 18; *Spamalot*, October 22; Lyric's *Annie*, November 8-11; *Elf*, November 14 and 15; and *Something Rotten*, November 29. Tickets/info: flynncenter.org



P.O. Box 1688
Williston, VT 05495



Tickets for 2018-2019 season on sale beginning September 14
Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

Postage
here

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 October issue: September 28, 2018

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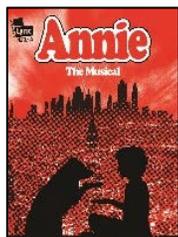
MEETING TIMES FOR LYRIC'S STANDING COMMITTEES

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

**SUPPORT LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY
WITH A PROGRAM AD**

By Pat Boera, PR/Development Committee

Are you a business owner interested in reaching a target audience of community members who support the arts? Consider buying an ad in Lyric's season program. We offer competitive ad rates for eighth-page, quarter-page, half-page, and full-page ads in color or black&white. The deadline to submit your camera-ready ad is September 28. Contact the Lyric Office (802-658-1484) to request a copy of the program ad sales flyer.



**November 8-11, 2018
Flynn Center MainStage
Burlington, VT**

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