



GIVING THANKS FOR LYRIC!

As we enter this month of Thanksgiving, I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you. Those of you who read the *Spotlight* each month and follow along with what Lyric is up to, our amazing audiences, those who share your time and energy to Lyric’s mission, and those of you who donate monetarily. You are all a part of this amazing organization, and I’m thankful for that each day.

I often talk about being in awe of the work Lyric does and I won’t stop now. ;) With each new challenge I’m consistently impressed by the dedication, drive, and desire to create that you all bring to this organization. For more than 45 years Lyric has been bringing memorable productions to the stage, and in this year of change and upheaval we are ecstatic to have the opportunity to bring some of those memorable productions right to your living rooms. I absolutely loved attending our *New Leaf* concerts and watching as audiences got a taste of live theatre again, in gorgeous outdoor settings. It would be an understatement to say I am excited when it comes to our upcoming virtual Opening Nights; I can’t wait to see both *Songs for a New World* and *Miracle on Green Tree Drive!* Read more about tickets for the upcoming shows later in the *Spotlight*.

For now, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, THANK YOU! To our ever-growing circle of partners, friends, collaborators, volunteers, and audience members, thank you for proving every day that Lyric represents the best of what a community can be. – *Erin Evarts*

P.S.: Stay tuned – Giving Tuesday is December 1st and we look forward to reaching out to all of you regarding charitable giving. Now is a great time to start thinking about your end-of-year giving and we are available in the office if you have any questions.

SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT LYRIC

By Erin Evarts & Serena Magnan O’Connell

We would like to thank the following businesses for their years of supporting Lyric during our show weeks. Typically, these businesses provide valuable membership benefits to our active volunteers during our tech weeks in the Flynn.

This year, we encourage our members to support these wonderful partners during the premiere weeks for our upcoming shows. Pretend it’s tech week! During the weeks of November 13-20 and December 13-20, consider frequenting these establishments and ordering take-out, buying gift certificates, shopping safely at those that are open, and supporting these amazing establishments. And, be sure to thank them for supporting Lyric while you are there!

Restaurants ▶▶▶

Pizzeria Verità 156 St. Paul St, Burlington
Gryphon 131 Main Street, Burlington
Kountry Kart Deli 155 Main St, Burlington
A Single Pebble 133 Bank St, Burlington
Manhattan Pizza & Pub 167 Main St, Burlington
Leunig’s 115 Church St, Burlington
Sweetwaters 140 Church St, Burlington
St. Paul Street Gastrogrub St. Paul & Maple St, Burlington
EB Strong’s Prime Steakhouse 10 Church St, Burlington
Revolution Kitchen 9 Center St, Burlington
Big Daddy’s Pizza 177 Church St, Burlington

Services ▶▶▶

Stella Mae 96 Church St, Burlington
Hilton Garden Inn 101 Main St, Burlington
Kathy & Company 221 Colchester Ave, Burlington
O’M Salon 171 St. Paul St, Burlington
Dostie Brothers Framing 308 Pine St, Burlington
Fully Present Fullypresentwithyou.com Gerianntv@gmail.com
Stephen and Burns 116 Church St, Burlington



MASK UP!
By Ryan Addario

Like so many other regions around the globe, Vermont is now experiencing Covid-19 case totals that are approaching levels not seen since last spring. So, we are going to jump back into action making masks, to add to the 24,000 we helped make over the course of this year already.

If you would like to help, simply stop by the Lyric Creative Space at 7 Green Tree Drive between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. There is no need to call ahead or make arrangements prior to arriving. Please ring the bell at the Main Entrance, where you will be greeted by a staff member wearing a mask and maintaining compliance with social-distancing recommendations. We ask that you please follow suit, and not fully enter the building. We will provide you with a kit, containing all of the materials and directions necessary to make as many masks as you feel you can finish, but please keep in mind you can come back as often and as many times as you would like. When you are done, simply return the completed masks and any leftover materials back to us, and we will get them to the next stop on their journey.

We are going to get through this, and Lyric will continue doing everything we can to help make sure of that until we are all back at the theater!

SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD
By Lauren René Genta

Songs for a New World is a show about change. The pivots and the possibilities, the hurt and the growth, and all the messy ways that change can bring us together or break us apart. These vignettes explore discoveries both intimate and expansive through song, story, and dance – unbounded by time, place, or imagination. This production and the exciting new way that we are presenting it has been a cathartic experience for our organization, members, and community during this tumultuous period where we have all had to embrace a new world of our own.

It has been an honor to bring this performance to life, and we invite you to join our cast and crew as we celebrate our virtual premiere in style on Friday, November 20! Dress in your most luxurious loungewear, grab a flute of your favorite sparkling beverage, treat yourself to takeout and your favorite movie snacks...it's better than Hollywood because you know the stars. Our Creative Team will be going 'live' on Facebook from our homes (and red carpets) starting at 7:00 p.m. to share insights and memories from behind the scenes; the show goes live starting at 8:00 p.m.! Here's the 4-1-1:

► Ticket sales go live on Friday, November 13, at 10:00 a.m.: <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/40714>

► Streaming access costs \$15 for a single ticket (single viewer in a single location) and \$35 for a family ticket (multiple viewers in one location).

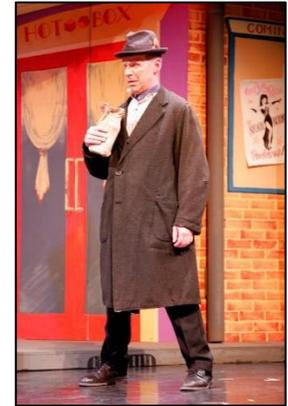
► Once streaming access is purchased, the streaming code provided will be active for 48 hours after the play button is hit for the first time. The production will be available to view from November 20 at 8:00 p.m.-December 20.

► For an optimal viewing experience: use your strongest

Wi-Fi connection, check out your TV's HDMI and casting set up in advance and ensure the best possible sound by adding a speaker if needed.



TALE OF A COSTUME
By Rob Parzych
Lyric member since 2004 - *Grease*



So, this Lyric story isn't sexy or flashy. Nevertheless, it really does illustrate the strength of longevity within an organization, which values those of us who may be a bit rough around the edges, and perhaps, past our "prime" so to speak.

There is a particular wardrobe piece at the warehouse, of which I have become quite fond. Up in the recesses of the costume shop, lives a much worn, slightly ratty and moth-eaten overcoat, of an indescribable olive-drab color.

I first wore it in 2006 as Nachum the Beggar in *Fiddler*. It was presented with it once again in 2007 when I played The Drunk in *Guys and Dolls* (pictured). At this point, the "Stitchin' Chicks" placed an interior pocket in the coat, so I could house my bottle of gin.

I next encountered my old friend, backstage at the Flynn, where I saw it in 2012, awaiting wear by one of the *Titanic* cast members. Lo and behold, there it was again in *RENT*. When I produced *Oliver!* I was happy to see my old pal, hanging on the racks, queuing up with the other costumes as the final selections were made. It was there for *White Christmas* and worn in the 2016 Mardi Gras parade to promote *Mary Poppins*, as well! I even ran across it while unloading costumes from the "old" warehouse to the new Creative Space. Last I saw of my old friend, it was on stage again for the fall 2018 production of *Annie!*

I know Suzanne Kneller can probably tell you who else has worn that coat and in what shows it has appeared, but I have to tell you, it has become like another member of the Lyric family to me...always ready and waiting for its next role, ready to hit the boards.

If that coat could only talk, I am sure it would have a couple of choice Lyric stories of its own! I can only wonder when we will next run into one another, but I know it will happen. Like that overcoat, I think I will hang around for a good, long while.

MUSICALS SET FOR MOVIE ADAPTATIONS

Excerpted from TheaterMania

The Prom: December 11 release date

Everybody's Talking About Jamie: February 26 release date

In the Heights: June 18 release date

West Side Story: December 10 release date

Matilda: Unconfirmed release date

THANK YOU

By Ryan Addario

Thank you and congratulations to Pearl Guerriere, Andriana Chobot, and all of the courageous volunteers, cast, crew, hosts, sponsors, and audience members who helped make *New Leaf* such an extraordinary success. You triumphantly led Lyric's return to live, in-person performances, and we are so proud of all the work and planning that went into creating these four outdoor, socially-distant performances. Thank you from braving so many logistics, locations, and weather variables to create something that meant so much to our community. Brava from everyone at Lyric to everyone involved!

LYRIC WANTS YOUR IDEAS

By Tom Dunn, Chair, Futuring Committee
and Jane Harissis, Chair, Production Selection

Do you have some ideas for Lyric? Do you want to get in on the ground level of the next Lyric project? COVID-19 has forced us to think 'outside the box' and we have formed a Futuring Committee to address other options for performing during the pandemic as well as in the future. We have collected over 40 ideas already. Our three new projects – *A New Leaf*, *Songs for a New a World*, and *Miracle on Green Tree Drive* – are all results of our committee work.

If you want to submit a new idea use this form: <https://forms.gle/5iPCZ8eCrhKdHrYJA>. The Committee will capture the idea and discuss it with you.

Feel free to contact the committee chair, Tom Dunn, at tedunn@comcast.net with your ideas or any questions.



GNOP: "WE'RE TEN!"
2010-2020

We are thinking of you and hope you are doing well during these challenging times. The importance of community can't be stressed enough and we wish to celebrate our ten-year anniversary – safely – with you, on one night and one night only! You are invited to our online event:

"We're Ten!" 2010-2020
Saturday, November 21, 8:00-9:00 p.m.
Suggested donation \$10-\$20+

We will be showing an entertaining and heartfelt ten-year retrospective video produced by our own Janet Stambolian with the help of South Burlington High School Senior Eva Demetrowitz followed by a post-event Q&A with the co-founders of GNOP. Register for a ticket at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/were-ten-2010-2020-tickets-126428845079>

Many, many hands and hearts helped create the GNOP family and community that you know and love. This event is a way for GNOP to give something back to you, our loyal and committed theater fans. Since we can't all be together in person, this is our way of saying, "Thanks for all these great years, and we promise we'll be back next year!" Remember: it's one night and one night only, so don't miss it!

13 THEATER SUPERSTITIONS

By Mark A. Robinson

This is an excerpt only; read the full article at <https://broadwaydirect.com/13-theater-superstitions-halloween/>

There may be no other holiday with more appeal for theater people than one when you dress up in costumes and makeup and have fun taking on a different persona. Theater people also like their superstitions and traditions, and Halloween is steeped with those as well. In honor of the most haunted night of the year, here are 13 theater superstitions and peculiar traditions that are perfect for celebrating the "ghosties and ghoulies and things that go bump in the night."

A bad dress rehearsal means the show will be a hit.

This is an old wives' tale and no one is quite sure how it started (perhaps it was the quiet prayer of a high school drama teacher?). Many theater folks cling to the idea that a bad dress rehearsal is a good omen for a successful opening night. Occasionally, there is the coincidence that a disastrous final rehearsal precedes an amazing premiere, but this most likely is the result of a prepared production, committed artists, and a large-dose of adrenaline, not a deus ex machina.

Blue should not be worn on stage.

The idea that blue should never be worn on stage is a superstition that not many thespians have heard. Perhaps this myth has not survived as strongly as some other superstitions because the reason behind it is no longer relevant. At one point in theater history, blue dye was the most expensive of all the fabric colorings. Producers, in an effort to discourage the spending of money on such luxuries, started a rumor that blue costumes were unlucky. Even then, the economics of theater were a dicey risk.

Never light a trio of candles.

An open flame on stage is already a risk that many theatres would prefer not to take. The more burning candles in a production, the greater the chance that a fire can get out of control. Many theatres have burned down thanks to the use of open flames, especially during times when theatres were made of thatched roofs (Shakespeare's Globe Theatre burned down when a cannon was set off during a production of *Henry VIII*). Then why aren't we supposed to have lit candles in threes? It is believed that the person who stands closest to the shortest candle will be the first to die. Why do people believe that? The origin to that superstition was extinguished a long time ago, but we still follow the rule.

Turn on the ghost light before leaving the theatre.

When you enter a darkened theatre, there are many potential pitfalls, such as open trap doors and orchestra pits to fall into, scenery to walk into, props and furniture to fall over. The ghost light remains turned on in the center of the stage when all other lights have been turned out. It's merely a matter of practical safety. Or is it? The lore of almost every theatre usually involves a few theatre ghosts who haunt the place. Many thespians believe the ghost light wards off these spirits, while others believe they are there to give the spectral divas a lighted area to perform in. Whether it is for safety or for actual ghosts, I think we are all grateful its glow keeps us from having accidents and turning into freshly minted theatre ghosts ourselves.



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



A special production for the holidays!

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 December issue: November 28, 2020

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**MEETING TIMES FOR LYRIC'S STANDING COMMITTEES
MEETING VIRTUALLY FOR NOW**

Board (Chair: Nate Venet): 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Lyric Office
Facilities (Chair: Tim Henderson): 1st Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office
PR/Development (Chair: Rachel Bruce Drew): 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office
Education (Chair: MaryBeth Nuovo): 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office
Finance (Chair: Karen Sheedy): 2nd Friday of the month, 12:00 p.m., Lyric Office
Membership (Chair: Serena Magnan O'Connell): 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., home of Serena Magnan O'Connell, Burlington
Production Selection and Evaluation (Chair: Jane Harissis): 4th Wednesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., Lyric Office
Outreach & Inclusivity (Chair: Hillary Read): 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office

Broadway Songs to Play on Halloween

*This is an excerpt only; read the full article at <https://broadwaydirect.com/broadway-songs-to-play-on-halloween/> From *Little Shop of Horrors*' "Feed Me," to *Beetlejuice*'s "The Whole Being Dead Thing," these songs are perfect to play on Halloween this year.*

- *The Addams Family:* "Move Toward the Darkness"
- *Sweeney Todd:* "The Ballad of Sweeney Todd"
- *The Little Mermaid:* "Poor Unfortunate Souls"
- *Rocky Horror Show:* "Time Warp"
- *The Mystery of Edwin Drood:* "Moonfall"
- *Wicked:* "No Good Deed"



**Awaiting new dates
Flynn Center MainStage
Burlington, VT**

Generous support from

