



THE SPOTLIGHT



Editor: Pat Boera

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December 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I hope everyone is enjoying a safe start to the holiday season!

This has been a truly fantastic and extra-ordinary year for Lyric and we have so much to be thankful for as the year comes to a close. No matter how you choose to celebrate the holidays this year, we hope you'll keep Lyric in mind. We encourage you to shop small and local, and to give the gift of Lyric to friends and family. You can buy tickets to *Miracle on Green Tree Drive* and *Songs for a New World* online now! This is the perfect holiday gift, you can send it via email, no wrapping required, and these shows can be watched safely in the homes of your loved ones.

If you aren't gifting but rather giving, remember that Giving Tuesday is December 1st and our Annual Appeal is in full swing, you can donate online, send us a check, OR you can contact us about other ways to support Lyric all year round. We rely on our donors and sponsors every year to help us make ends meet and through these difficult times without our MainStage shows, every dollar makes a huge difference.

Wishing you a very merry and always happy holiday season! – *Erin Evarts, Executive Director*

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

I think it's fair to say that 2020 has been a year unlike any other for Lyric. This was the first time in our 47-year history that we have not performed on the Flynn stage, and the first time we have had to cancel productions: *Matilda*, which was mere moments away from moving into the Flynn this April, and *Hair*, whose team had been working tirelessly to prepare for what would have been this November's MainStage production.

But, as we reflect at the end of the year, I think it's important to recognize all the ways in which Lyric volunteers have stepped up to deliver an exciting year of theatre in a time when doing so safely and successfully has posed challenges that Lyric has never before had to face.

While following comprehensive and extensive safety protocols, Lyric has managed to produce:

- The kids' versions of Disney's *Frozen* and Disney's *The Lion King* with LyricKids in our own Marjorie Howe rehearsal space
- An outdoor concert in collaboration with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra as part of the Flynn's Hurly Burly series
- *New Leaf Cabaret*, giving outdoor and socially-distant performances in September and October
- A pre-recorded and streaming version of *Songs for a New World* (which is still available to stream from

Lyric's website)

- An all-original Christmas "TV" special, *Miracle on Green Tree Drive*, which will be available to stream starting December 20th

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Erin, Ryan, our board, committee members, casts, and crews, Lyric has made it through the year as a leader in our community, creating theatre and reaching audiences while keeping the safety of our membership at the core of every choice we make.

A return to "normal" is still a ways off, but if we continue with the same passion, thoughtfulness and care that we've shown this year, I believe that 2021 has a chance to be as strong a year as we've ever had. – *Nate Venet*

NEW PROCESS FOR PROPOSING SHOWS AT LYRIC

Jane Harissis, Production Selection Chair

The Production Selection Committee is working on making the proposal process for shows easier. We are encouraging someone with an idea (ideally a producer or director) to approach the PS Committee. Then that person(s) will be assigned a liaison from the committee that will help them gather all necessary material needed for a proper proposal. No longer will you have to have a complete creative team or budget before proposing. The committee will assist you in finding other team members, a budget, technical needs, etc.

With that in mind, Lyric is looking for some new proposals for the spring and summer of 2021. We are looking for shows or events that can be done with the CDC guidelines in mind. Optimally, events will be outdoors or virtual. We are hoping to receive multiple complete proposals by the deadline of January 11th. The spring / summer season will be decided on January 15th. Please contact Jane Harissis, Production Selection Chair, at vitsivan@aol.com if you would consider proposing. There is also a need for more technical members. With two virtual productions this fall, we have found we could really use some more sound engineers and editors, videographers, film editors, and lighting techs. Please contact the Lyric office if you have experience in any of these roles and might be willing to help in a future production.

Thanks, and happy holidays!

This video, created by Erin Evarts and Ryan Addario, will provide a glimpse of the show proposal process:

<https://fb.watch/1XSYKjSCNu/>

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.

During the week of 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 ▶▶▶

| |
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| 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 ▶▶▶

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|---|
| 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 Gerianvt@gmail.com |
| Stephen and Burns 116 Church St, Burlington |

ANSWERS TO HOLIDAY TRIVIA

Tchaikovsky; Gene Autry; Thanksgiving; Dr. Seuss; Scottish; "Meet Me in St. Louis"

YOUR ONLINE SHOPPING CAN BENEFIT LYRIC

If you are using Amazon this holiday season, please support Lyric with your shopping through Amazon Smile. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>



ACTIVITIES AT SPOTLIGHT VERMONT

By Becca Brynga

Spotlight Vermont is excited to host a three-week Playwriting session as a part of our Fall Acting Sampler! Starting December 5th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturdays, students ages 12-18 will learn how to bring life to new characters and adventures!

Also, don't forget, Spotlight Vermont offers a wide range of dance classes with a few classes with space still open! Visit Spotlight Vermont (www.spotlightvermont.com) to view our class schedule. Questions? Email us at info@spotlightvermont.com.

SPOTLIGHT
Playwriting



When: Saturdays 2-4pm
December 5, 12, 19

Where: Spotlight Vermont
50 San Remo Dr.
S. Burlington, VT

Age: 12 - 18 **Cost:** \$75

Register now while space is available!



TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR MIRACLE

Tickets for *Miracle on Green Tree Drive: A Lyric Family Christmas* special are now on sale! This is an exciting new chapter for Lyric. *Miracle* is a televised Christmas special celebrating Lyric's survival through these tough times and our unwavering commitment to ring in the holiday the only way we know how – through song and dance and storytelling. It's a completely original Lyric version of a 60's variety Christmas television show; think Lawrence Welk except packed full of Lyric members doing holiday songs and sketches with full costumes, scenery and special effects. A few songs, a few jokes, a few tears, a few memories, and a whole lot of fun.

To purchase, go to

<https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/42467>

Click through these buttons:

"RENT VIDEO (48 HRS)"

"CURRENT EVENTS +"

"RENT VIDEO"

ON OTHER STAGES

★ Northern Stage presents *It's a Wonderful Life: A Radio Play*, streaming December 8-January 3. Tickets/info: northernstage.org

★ Pour yourself a cup of hot chocolate, grab a plate of molasses cookies, and join Vermont Stage for their 16th annual holiday tradition – *Winter Tales* – available December 9-16. Recommended price is \$25 per adult viewer. Tickets/info: vermontstage.org

★ The Flynn Center presents *A Celtic Family Christmas* with Donnell Leahy and Natalie MacMaster on December 12, at 8:00 p.m. Tickets/info: flynnvt.org

★ Lost Nation Theater presents Willem Lange live on stage performing his reading of *A Christmas Carol: a ghost story*, on Friday, December 18, at 7:00 p.m. Tickets/info: lostonationtheater.org

★ Vergennes Opera House presents the *Broadway Direct Series* beginning this month. They will release a new 30-minute video every month over the winter to keep you connected. Featured performers include Bill Carmichael Walsh, Elisa Van Dwyne, Jonny Barden, and Caitlin Walsh. Tickets/info: vergennessoperahouse.org

A BROADWAY CHRISTMAS: MUSICALS THAT CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY

Source: Mark A. Robinson for Broadway Direct, December 9, 2019

“We need a little Christmas”? Well, we have a whole lot of Christmas for Broadway musical fans. With the holiday season upon us, we at Broadway Direct thought we’d compile a list of the many Broadway musicals that have featured Christmas. From Christmas-themed musicals to unlikely shows that included the yuletide in the plot, here are 18 of them that are guaranteed to put you in the holiday mood.

Annie / It started as a popular comic strip, the story of a plucky orphan who finds a new home with a wealthy billionaire. Little Orphan Annie longs for her birth parents, and despite wanting to adopt the child himself, Daddy Warbucks initiates a nationwide search to find them. Ultimately, we learn they are deceased, and Annie accepts Warbucks’s offer to be her father. The 1977 musical *Annie* culminates in a Christmas celebration and with the joyous Charles Strouse–Martin Charnin song “A New Deal for Christmas.”

Billy Elliott: The Musical / A little boy growing up in a coal-mining community wants to be a dancer and must make his family see that this is his passion. The U.K. miners’ strike of 1984–1985 made for a difficult Christmas for those involved. In *Billy Elliott: The Musical*, the strikers gather in the local union hall where the kids put on a holiday show, singing “Merry Christmas, Maggie Thatcher,” a pointed indictment of then prime minister Margaret Thatcher. The number by Elton John and Lee Hall was accompanied by a gigantic, cartoonish puppet of the song’s despised subject.

The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas / The 1978 musical *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* might seem like an unlikely place to find Christmas music, but the Carol

Hall number “Hard Candy Christmas” is one of the most potent holiday-themed show tunes to play on the Broadway stage. When Miss Mona learns that her popular brothel, known as “The Chicken Ranch,” is being closed down by the Texas government, she and her employees must say goodbye through this heartbreaking number. The song found a wider audience when Dolly Parton recorded the song for the 1982 film version.

A Christmas Story / We all know the film is played to death around the holidays, but the musical adaptation of *A Christmas Story* has its own pleasures in store. Our boy Ralphie is still pining away for his Red Ryder BB gun and working the system to ensure Santa brings him one. However, the stage production brings the story even more vividly to life through the Benj Pasek and Justin Paul score, with holiday-related gems such as “It All Comes Down to Christmas,” “Up on Santa’s Lap,” and the title song. *A Christmas Story* played a limited engagement on Broadway in 2012 and was then made into a television film.

Elf / The comedy *Elf* starring Will Ferrell has been a holiday staple since it hit screens in 2003. In 2012, Matthew Sklar (music), Chad Beguelin (lyrics), and Bob Martin and Thomas Meehan (book) adapted the screenplay for the Broadway stage. Songs such as “Christmastown,” “Sparklejolly-twinklejingley,” “A Christmas Song,” and “There Is a Santa Claus” helped to tell the story of Buddy, the elf from the North Pole who sets off in search of his birth father.

Flahooley / A short-lived musical with a superior score by Sammy Fain and E.Y. Harburg, the 1951 musical *Flahooley* took place at B.G. Bigelow, Inc., a toy manufacturer getting ready for the big holiday release of their laughing doll known as Flahooley. A satirical indictment of capitalism and the McCarthy witch hunts (in which Harburg had been a major target), *Flahooley* was a surprisingly whimsical musical full of puppets, a genie, an Arabian princess, and a parade of wonderful songs, including “Who Says There Ain’t No Santa Claus?” *Flahooley* also launched the Broadway career of Barbara Cook.

Here’s Love / The author of the single greatest musical with a parade, Meredith Willson (*The Music Man*), decided to tackle another story about a famous parade. The composer-lyricist turned the holiday film classic *Miracle on 34th Street* into the Broadway musical *Here’s Love*, which opened in 1963 and ran for just less than a year. Set during the festive time between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Santa Claus in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade insists that he is the real Kris Kringle, attempting to work his magic to bring happiness to a sad and skeptical little girl. In the musical, you will find Willson’s “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas,” a song he wrote in 1951, combined with the song “Pine Cones and Holly Berries.”

To view the full article, go to:

<https://broadwaydirect.com/a-broadway-christmas-musicals-that-celebrate-the-holiday/>



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



**A special production for the holidays!
Support Lyric...buy a ticket.**

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 January issue: December 28, 2020

AT YOUR SERVICE—LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY BOARD & STAFF

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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

HOLIDAY TRIVIA

- ★ In 1892, "The Nutcracker" premiered at a theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia. Who is the composer?
- ★ What cowboy is best known for his recording of "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer"?
- ★ In 1857, "Jingle Bells" was created for what holiday?
- ★ Name the author of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."
- ★ The New Year's song "Auld Lang Syne" is what nationality?
- ★ Judy Garland sang the song "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" in what 1946 movie?
(You'll find the answers elsewhere in this issue.)



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

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