

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year! Looking ahead to the coming year is always exciting – making plans and setting goals. Here at Lyric we are doing that as well, and without a crystal ball letting us know when we might be able to resume our shows in the Flynn we still have so much to look forward to. Below is a list of plans and resolutions for Lyric in the first few months of 2021!

- Meeting and working with Jay Wahl, the new Executive Director at The Flynn.
- Explore new productions for the spring and summer – for more information on how to propose a show contact the office.
- Clean up the warehouse, Marjorie Howe Rehearsal Space, and Creative Suite to be ready for our next slate of productions.
- Closing out our fall/winter season with *Miracle on Green Tree Drive* (still streaming until January 20th).
- Prepare for our summer camps!
- Connect our community with more of our Delano-Nulty Scholarship Winners.
- Have our annual Board Retreat.
- Work on organizing the Archive Room in a way that makes it accessible and exciting.
- Grow Lyric Member involvement on Board Committees – if you are interested in getting involved, we would love your voice.
- Connect with other arts organizations in the area to see how we can work together to continue to create during this stressful and uncertain time.

Wishing you health and happiness in the new year.

– **Erin Evarts, Executive Director**

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The days are getting longer, COVID vaccines are making their way into the community, and a number of Lyric members are preparing proposals for productions to bring us into the new decade. I've got a feeling '21 is gonna be a good year (a reference back to *The Who's Tommy*, that Lyric produced in 2016)!

At the organizational level, we've been working hard over the past few months to give shape and direction to our year in the time of COVID. Special thanks to our Production Selection and Futuring Committees, led by Jane Harissis and Tom Dunn respectively. Both committees have put massive amounts of effort (and continue to do so) into translating and transforming our existing processes into something that serves Lyric during this time away from the Flynn.

I'd also like to thank the teams, casts, and crews of *New Leaf*, *Songs for a New World*, and *Miracle on Green Tree Drive*. Response to all three of our fall productions has been incredibly positive, both from within and outside of Lyric. I admit to being a "free crier" at movies and plays, but seeing our own Velma Kelly, Elle Woods, Captain Hook, Mary Poppins, the backside of Dave Bukatinsky, the Wicked Witch, Morticia Addams, and Jean Valjean spring out of the Archive Room was definitely an emotional moment. Looking back felt especially poignant as we tread new waters at every level.

With so much in a state of dynamic change, there is a lot of new information coming from the board and the office. If you ever have any questions about what we're doing, why we're doing it, and of course *how you can get involved*, please reach out to me or any other board member. – **Nate Venet**

STILL TIME TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS

FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON

Jane Harissis, Production Selection Chair

The Production Selection Committee is still accepting proposals for events for this winter, spring and summer. We are hoping to do a variety of events/shows like we did this fall. Proposals can be for a small community event or a large event such as *Miracle*. We can help you to find team members, build budgets, etc. All that is needed is an idea you can follow through with. Shows must be revenue neutral or make a profit. All completed proposals are due **January 11th** with presentations to the committee on **January 15th**. Let's continue to show our community that Lyric can continue to flourish during trying times. We will still accept proposals for the summer/fall season after the cut-off date. So for anyone with an interest in proposing, please contact Jane Harissis, Production Selection Chairman, at vitsivan@aol.com.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE SUNSHINE COMMITTEE!

By Donna Riera

It's been a while since I have put anything in the *Spotlight* about this committee, so I thought I would remind you all what this committee does. I am here to send out well wishes by way of the mail, to those members who need it and congratulations to those who deserve it. If you know of any Lyric members, old timers or new, that have just had a surgery, or have been hospitalized, or lost a loved one, let me know. If someone has had a baby, a milestone birthday or anniversary, let me know that too. Please email me the details, name of person, what the card should be about and if you have a mailing address that would be helpful too. Email driera46@gmail.com.

ACTIVITIES AT SPOTLIGHT VERMONT

By Becca Brynga

VTMTA presents a new session of courses: Dance & Drama, and On-Camera Acting! Starting January 16th and running through May 29th, this 16-week course will cover Broadway dance, theatre, and on-camera acting skills. Sign up soon as space is limited in the studio.

Looking for Zoom? This entire course will also be available via Zoom for those who wish to stay home while expanding on acting and dance skills. Here is the webpage:

<http://www.spotlightvermont.com/vtmta-winter>



13 THEATRE BOOKS TO READ THIS WINTER

By Dan Meyer

[Source: Playbill.com]

There's plenty to cozy up with this season, including in-depth looks at *Our Town*, a Tom Stoppard biography, and more.

As the holiday season reaches its climax but daylight remains on short supply, reading season kicks into high gear. Thankfully, there's plenty of new books for theatre lovers to check out while getting cozy by the fireplace (the real kind or streaming on Netflix). This winter, there are several spotlights on female leaders in the industry like Lorraine Hansberry and Martha Graham, biographies on Tom Stoppard and Mike Nichols, and even a novel that flips *Romeo & Juliet* into a hip-hopera school drama. Check out the full list below.

Conversations with Lorraine Hansberry

Edited by Mollie Godfrey

Onstage with Martha Graham

By Stuart Hodes

Drama Menu at a Distance: 80 Socially Distanced or Online Theatre Games

By Glyn Trefor-Jones

Roman and Jewel

By Dana L. Davis

Indigenous Women's Theatre in Canada: A Mechanism of Decolonization

By Sarah MacKenzie

Dan Mason: From Vaudeville to Broadway to the Silent Screen

By Joseph P. Eckhardt

Another Day's Begun

By Howard Sherman

Mike Nichols: A Life

By Mark Harris

Radiant

By Liz Heinecke

The Tale of the Mandarin Duck

By Bette Midler with an afterword by Michiko Kakutani

Tom Stoppard: A Life

By Hermoine Lee

Rhapsody

By Mitchell James Kaplan

AMORALMAN: A True Story and Other Lies Hardcover

By Derek DelGaudio

To read the full article, go to

[https://www.playbill.com/article/13-theatre-books-to-read-this-](https://www.playbill.com/article/13-theatre-books-to-read-this-winter?utm_source=Iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=PlaybillPost)

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TICKETS STILL ON SALE FOR MIRACLE

Tickets for *Miracle on Green Tree Drive: A Lyric Family Christmas special* are still 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:

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ON OTHER STAGES

★ The Flynn invites you to pay what you wish for their online Education Programs. Choose from *Flynn Show Choir* for juniors and teens, January 23-April 17; *Music Together* for ages 0-5 plus caregiver, January 18-March 29; *Musical Theater Dance* for teens and adults, January 14-February 18; *Movement for Parkinson's*, January 18-May 13; Tap I & II for teens and adults, January 11-February 15; *Burlesque* for ages 18 and up, January 12-February 16; *Mini Dancers*, pre-recorded/play anytime; and *Hip-Hop for Kids*, pre-recorded/play anytime. Info: flynnvt.org

★ Lost Nation Theater offers a subscription program called *Patreon* – their virtual "stay at home" season. Info: lostonationtheater.org

★ Vergennes Opera House presents the *Broadway Direct Series*. 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 Duyne, Jonny Barden, and Caitlin Walsh. Tickets/info: vergennessoperahouse.org

★ Middlebury's Town Hall Theater's *Great Art Wednesday* returns with a Frida Kahlo film kicking off the series, January 13-15. Other offerings include *The American Dream Project: "Sweat"* by Lynn Nottage, January 17; and *Split/Screen*, monthly movies from Vermont International Film Festival and Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival, January 22-31 with additional selections through June 2021. Tickets/info: townhalltheater.org

CAN YOU NAME THESE SHOWS FROM JUST THEIR FIRST LINES?

By Marc J. Franklin
[Source: Playbill.com]



Test your theater knowledge:

- 1: Again...Step, kick, kick, leap, kick, touch!
- 2: Now is the winter of our discontent.
- 3: Sometimes to tell a secret, you first have to teach a lesson.
- 4: Two households, both alike in dignity, in fair Verona, where we lay our scene, from ancient grudge break to new mutiny, where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.
- 5: Dark phrases of womanhood/of never havin been a girl...
- 6: I've shat in better places than this.
- 7: Hello, gorgeous.
- 8: What do you do when you're not sure?
- 9: There's a war going on out there somewhere, and Andrey isn't here.
- 10: One of those no-neck monsters hit me with a hot buttered biscuit so I have t' change!
- 11: If music be the food of love, play on.
- 12: On the 23rd day of the month of September, in an early year of a decade not too long before our own, the human race suddenly encountered a deadly threat to its very existence.
- 13: Once upon a time, in a far-off kingdom...

(Answers appear elsewhere in this issue.)



THE FLYNN HIRES PHILADELPHIA ARTS LEADER AS ITS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

[Excerpt from article by Brent Hallenbeck for *Burlington Free Press*]

The Flynn has named the producing artistic director of an arts center in Philadelphia as its next executive director.

Jay Wahl comes to the Burlington performing-arts center from the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, where he has worked for 11 years. Wahl is known for commissioning works in public spaces, "using unconventional platforms as a means of challenging the hierarchies, assumptions, and biases of traditional arts organizations."



7 Green Tree Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403



Available to stream through January 20th.
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.

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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

Answers to the "First Line" Quiz

1: *A Chorus Line*; 2: *Richard III*; 3: *How I Learned to Drive*;
 4: *Romeo & Juliet*; 5: *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf*; 6: *Blasted*;
 7: *Funny Girl*; 8: *Doubt*; 9: *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*; 10: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; 11: *Twelfth Night*; 12: *Little Shop of Horrors*; 13: *Into the Woods*



Awaiting new dates
Flynn Center MainStage
Burlington, VT

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