



# THE SPOTLIGHT



Editor: Pat Boera

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March 2021

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### "Five Minutes of Spring"

By Erin Evarts

As we prepare to mark a year since Covid-19 truly hit the Lyric community I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the work we accomplished in the last 12 months. It has truly represented Lyric's resilience, our community of volunteers, willingness to lend our support, and ability to pivot and create in times of hardship. Thank you for the work, your time, and your continued creativity.

We are eagerly preparing to bring back in-person theatre at Lyric in the coming weeks! While Lyric was lucky enough to never have to close our doors, we did have to wildly shift the work of the organization. It is with a renewed sense of hope and excitement that we prepare for *A Year with Frog and Toad*! Not only is this production thrilling in terms of getting back to rehearsals and having music fill the Creative Space but it is also so joyful to be working with such a fantastic team. With many new-to-Lyric team members I hope that our volunteers will come out in full force to support, audition for, and help build our next show.

I would also like to take a moment to thank the amazing Lyric choreographers who helped make our "Dancing with Lyric" week such a success. Thank you to Kyla Paul Merchand, Tara Mayhew, Ryan Addario, Katy Albert, and Kate Whalen for sharing your creativity and enabling so many to access FREE dance classes. While originally aimed at kids, I'd encourage ALL Lyric members to take one of these classes and stretch out and shake off the winter a bit. The classes are still available on our YouTube Channel

[https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB1K2DeGxw\\_Mu8i4N4luDJH2H0q1GGqH2](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB1K2DeGxw_Mu8i4N4luDJH2H0q1GGqH2)

I hope to see you soon!

## DELANO-NULTY SCHOLARSHIP

By Erin Evarts

Lyric is now accepting applications for the 2021 Delano-Nulty Scholarship. For nearly 50 years, Lyric Theatre Company has been part of the dynamic arts community in the area. For the past several years, Lyric Theatre Company has awarded \$2,000 to an area high school senior to help support their interest in pursuing an education in the performing arts. This scholarship, The Delano-Nulty Award, honors two of Lyric's founding members – Howard Delano and Polly Nulty. Please go to <https://lyrictheatrevt.org/education/delano-nulty-award/> for all relevant information for 2021 applications. Applications are due before Friday, May 7.



## SUMMER CAMPS 2021

By Erin Evarts

We are so excited to welcome the energy of LyricKids back to Green Tree Drive this summer, for two sessions of camp! Both camps will conclude with performances on the Marjorie Howe Stage here at the Lyric Creative Space. For details about registration and health precautions go to <https://lyrictheatrevt.org/portfolio/lyric-kids/>

We are so happy to have such an amazing team leading our LyricKids Camps this summer.

Kaity McSalis: Artistic Director

Kim Nowlan Hathaway: Choreographer

John Luce: Music Director

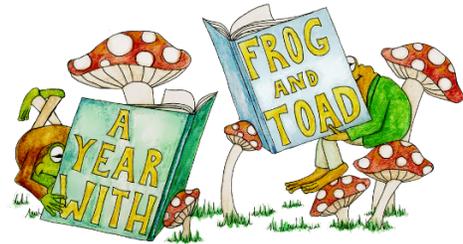
Celeste Piette: Senior Counselor

### SESSION I: *Seussical the Musical Kids Camp*

Monday, July 19-Friday, July 23

### SESSION II: *Cabaret Creation Camp*

Monday, July 25-Friday, July 29



*A Year with Frog and Toad* is a Tony Award-nominated musical that follows two of literature's greatest friends, Frog and Toad, through four fun-filled seasons. Come along as they wake up from their winter-long hibernation to find the joys in the everyday and celebrate the differences that make their friendship one that endures every season.

Producer: Noa Saunders

Director: Julia Sioss

Stage Manager: Maggie McCloskey

Music Director: Lila Danielson Wong

Assistant Director/Choreographer: Carolyn Sandoval

Assistant Stage Manager: Vanessa George

Education Coordinator: Carah Pioli-Hunt

Scenic Designer: Madeline Rose Barnes

Technical Director: Katelyn Paddock

Costume Designer: Hayley Ryan

Sound Designer: Justin Brault

Graphic Designer: McKenna Black

## AUDITION INFORMATION

You may audition by video submission or in person. All auditions will consist of a vocal audition, a reading, and a completed audition form.

Go to <https://lyrictheatre.org/frog-and-toad/> for all the audition information.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**March 16 — 5:00 p.m.** | Video Submissions due.

**March 17 & 18 — 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.** | In-Person Auditions

**March 20 — Times TBD** | Callbacks

**March 21** | Casting calls throughout the day.

**June 11, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.** | Show at Isham Family Farm in Williston

**June 12, 2021 - 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.** | Shows at a location to be announced shortly

**June 19, 2021 - 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.** | Shows at Dorothy Alling Library in Williston

**June 26, 2021 - 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.** | Shows at Fletcher Free Library in Burlington

**Rain dates will be Sunday June 13, 20, and 27 at the same times and locations listed above.**

## CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

### Actor 1—Frog

Caring and loyal. Always looking out for his friends. The calmer, more zen of both he and Toad. Simultaneously adventurous and assured. Vocal range: A3-A6

### Actor 2—Toad

A hard worker, but impatient for results. Self-conscious. Stubborn. A good friend to Frog. Timid. Vocal range: A3-A5

### Actor 3—Bird, Mouse, Squirrel, Young Frog, Mole

Must possess the playful and quirky personality of a lady bird and ability to portray the scared innocence of Young Toad. Vocal range: A5-A3

### Actor 4—Bird, Turtle, Squirrel, Mother Frog, Mole

Must possess the playful and quirky personality of a lady bird and strong frenetic energy of a squirrel. Should seem older than Actor 3. Vocal range: A3-A5

### Actor 5—Bird, Snail, Lizard, Father Frog, Mole

Must possess the blind determination of a nerdy snail and the “cool kid” attitude of a slick lizard. Should seem older than Actor 3. Vocal range: A3-B5

## A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Hello all! I am Julia Sioss and I am Artistic Director of Lyric Theatre Company's production of *A Year with Frog and Toad*. This show follows two best friends in a year of their life, showing their wild adventures as they find out how to navigate the world around them. Frog and Toad wake from a winter-long hibernation to garden, swim, bake cookies, rake leaves, and go sledding. In this show they learn that their differences bring them together, and they celebrate their individuality through the whimsical, vaudeville workings of this enchanting show.

Frog and Toad are perhaps the most beloved best friends in children's literature. These whimsical stories

are positively enchanting for readers, and in directing the show I hope to procure an environment which mirrors that of the books. Through creating a minimalist design for the show, children in the audience may use their imagination and say, “I could be Toad too!” Partnering with the local libraries would allow the show to go above and beyond traditional Theatre for Young Audiences, and encourage young people's interest in both Theatre and Literature.

While we gear up for auditions, I want to reinforce the idea that all are welcome to audition for **ANY ROLE** in this show. The characters in *A Year with Frog and Toad* are speaking, singing animals, therefore no binary construct of gender used in prior production will influence the casting of this show. My casting practices will not be determined by race, gender, sexuality, or physical appearance, instead dictated on acting ability, availability, and the actor's willingness to work. Theatre is the business of inclusion and open-mindedness; therefore, discrimination will not be tolerated in any part of this show's process, beginning with casting. As long as the actor is able to perform the part, they will receive equal consideration.

### **THIS SHOW IS OPEN TO ACTORS AGES 16 AND UP.**

The process will require a fair amount of focus and self-discipline, which may be hard for those still in elementary, middle, and early high school. We are casting **five** actors to limit the amount of potential contact, given the current health climate. For more details, please check out <https://lyrictheatre.org/frog-and-toad/>!

The Team and I are eagerly awaiting auditions, and we hope you stay safe in the meantime!

*Best, Julia*

## TUPPERWARE PARTY TO BENEFIT LYRIC

By Rachel Drew

As promised, our online Tupperware party hosted by Jenny Boquet will be open March 3-24. Jenny has created a special Facebook group for the party at [www.facebook.com/groups/tupperware\\_lyric\\_theater\\_vt/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/tupperware_lyric_theater_vt/). By joining the group, you will have access to special live demonstrations of Tupperware products, recipes, and more! Lyric will receive 20% of all sales made through this online party.

If you aren't a Facebook user, you can still shop using this website: <https://sites.google.com/view/tupperwarefundraiserforlyric>. After ordering, please text your order confirmation number to Jenny at 802-343-6189 to make sure orders are properly credited to Lyric's party.

If you have any questions about how to access the online party or about your order, please reach out to Jenny Boquet ([JennyBTupp@yahoo.com](mailto:JennyBTupp@yahoo.com)). Thank you as always for your generous support of Lyric Theatre Company!



Visit the Facebook group to shop and for

fun demonstrations, games, and more!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/tupperwarelyrictheatervt>



For more information, please contact  
Jenny Boquet  
Tupperware Star Manager  
(802)343-6189  
[JennyBTupp@yahoo.com](mailto:JennyBTupp@yahoo.com)

## HELP LYRIC FILL OUT ITS SEASON

By Jane Harissis

The Production Selection Committee is actively searching for two or three smaller events/productions for 2021. In particular we would like to see another **outdoor concert series** similar to the one we did last year. We would also love to see another **virtual event over the holiday season**. If you've ever considered directing or producing, this is your chance. We are here to help you through the process and help you put together a team. We are open to events or performances, virtual or in person. We know how to run productions safely. Help us keep Lyric in the thoughts of Vermonters by providing Covid-safe shows or events for the community. Please contact Erin Evarts at the Lyric office or Jane Harissis at [vitsivan@aol.com](mailto:vitsivan@aol.com) if you can help.

## 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; **Movement for Parkinson's**, January 18-May 13; **Mini Dancers**, pre-recorded/play anytime; and **Hip-Hop for Kids**, pre-recorded/play anytime. Info: [flynnvt.org](http://flynnvt.org)  
★ Lost Nation Theater offers a subscription program called **Patreon** – their virtual “stay at home” season. Info: [lostonationtheater.org](http://lostonationtheater.org)

★ Vergennes Opera House presents the **Broadway Direct Series** with the release of a new 30-minute video every month over the winter. Featured performers include Bill Carmichael Walsh, Elisa Van Duyne, Jonny Barden, and Caitlin Walsh. Tickets/info: [vergennessoperahouse.org](http://vergennessoperahouse.org)  
★ Middlebury's Town Hall Theater's offerings include **Great Art Wednesday Online**, **MNFF: Split/Screen**, **MACo's Flash Forward**, **The American Dream Project**, and more. Tickets/info: [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org)



## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH QUIZ: THE PLAYWRIGHTS

By Talaura Harms

[Source: [Playbill.com](http://Playbill.com), March 6, 2021]

Take this quiz to see how much you know about women playwrights who made history with their words.

- 1-This 1981 Pulitzer Prize winner by Beth Henley centers on the McGrath sisters of Hazlehurst, Mississippi, one of whom has just shot her husband.
- 2-Lynn Nottage won a second Pulitzer Prize for her Broadway debut play, this 2017 drama set in a Rust Belt town, where economic and racial tensions come to a head after rounds of factory layoffs.
- 3-At alternating performances, Cynthia Nixon and Laura Linney swapped the roles of Regina and Birdie in this 1939 classic about greed and ambition by Lillian Hellman.
- 4-Lorraine Hansberry became the first Black woman playwright produced on Broadway with this 1959 classic with a title from the Langston Hughes poem “Harlem.”
- 5-Despite a 1998 Pulitzer Prize for *How I Learned to Drive*, Paula Vogel did not make her Broadway debut until 2017 with this telling of the controversial 1923 debut of Sholem Asch's *The God of Vengeance*.
- 6-Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett co-wrote this 1956 play, based on the WWII journal of a Dutch teen, making Goodrich the first woman to win a Tony Award for Best Play.
- 7-In 1989, Wendy Wasserstein became the first woman with a solo Tony win for Best Play for this show that follows the title character from her college days to her single motherhood twenty years later.
- 8-This 2016 Tony nominee for Best Play by Danai Gurira, set during the Liberian Civil War, marked the first all-Black cast and creative team to premiere on Broadway.

Look for the answers elsewhere in this issue.





7 Green Tree Drive  
South Burlington, VT 05403



**Auditions! Auditions! Auditions!**

**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, 2021**

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**Lyric Office Address: 7 Green Tree Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403**

**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



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

*Generous support from*



**ANSWERS TO THE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH QUIZ:**

1-Crimes of the Heart; 2-Sweat; 3-The Little Foxes; 4-A Raisin in the Sun; 5-Indecent; 6-The Diary of Anne Frank; 7-The Heidi Chronicles; 8-Eclipsed.