



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"June is bustin' out all over"

By Erin Evarts

It has been a whirlwind couple of months at Lyric! With classes, scholarships, auditions, events, and meetings monopolizing much of our time. Thank you to everyone who has helped make the last few months so successful.

A sure sign of spring is the Annual Appeal arriving in mailboxes and inboxes. If you haven't donated already, I would encourage you to do so now. Your financial contribution to Lyric will help us continue to provide artistic opportunities year-round. We are so grateful for the support we have already received; it has been and continues to be a vital part of our success.

In June I hope to see many of you at *A Year with Frog and Toad!* Pick your venue, pack a picnic, and pre-register at <https://lyrictheatrevt.org/frog-and-toad/>. It has been 27 years since Lyric put on a summer show, and I think it will be well worth the wait.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

A Vision of Lyric: The Last Five Years and the Next Five Years

By Nate Venet

One of Lyric's great achievements is the fact that hundreds of us come together, year after year, to accomplish and create things where there was nothing before. We do this not only through thoughtful and evolving development of our regular processes and systems (and through them putting on great theatre), but also by dreaming big, making plans, and working towards them as a community.

One way those dreams and plans get crystalized and articulated is through an organizational vision and strategic plan. A strong vision and plan are vital in helping any organization move from where it is now to where it wants to be. It can answer:

- Who are we?
- How do we see ourselves?
- What do we value?
- How will we fulfill our mission tomorrow, next year, or five years from now?
- How do we see our community changing, and what do we need to do to stay relevant?
- How can we focus our growth/change efforts in a way that is unified, constructive, and inspirational to our membership?

Lyric's last vision and strategic plan, meant to cover roughly 2014-2019, covered a lot of big dreams.

Ownership of a rehearsal, administrative, and construction space. An addition of smaller productions to our annual offerings, alongside our shows at the Flynn. Planning and execution of events celebrating Lyric's 40th Anniversary. Creation of educational opportunities year-round for children and adults.

It's a testament to the commitment of our membership, both in terms of time and financial resources, that Lyric has met these and other goals while continuing to provide the same high-quality theatrical and educational experiences to our membership and community that have always been central to our mission.

With all this in mind, earlier this spring Lyric's board began thinking about what our vision and plan for the next five years might be. These are, of course, not things that we can come up with overnight, and not things that we can or should develop in a vacuum. Input and participation from the membership is vital to this process. To that end, I and the rest of the Executive Committee would like to kick off this conversation with the following four questions:

1. What do you value the most about Lyric?
2. What inspires you to stay involved with Lyric?
3. What challenges do you see facing Lyric?
4. What is your vision of what Lyric looks like in 2026?

We're eager to hear your thoughts. If you have answers to any of these questions, or any other thoughts, please email me at natevenet@gmail.com. And stay tuned for more ways to be involved in this conversation as the year progresses.

SAVE THE DATE FOR LYRIC'S ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendar for Friday, September 17. Please join us to vote in our new board members and celebrate an incredible year navigating through the many challenges we faced and conquered. More information to come...but plan on a movie night and food trucks!

SPOTLIGHT SHOUT-OUT

By Serena Magnan O'Connell

This month the membership committee would like to acknowledge the hard work of Jane Harissis and Kelley Lane. These two volunteers organized a very successful event at the Sunset Drive-In giving Lyric members an opportunity to reconnect with one another, raising some money for Lyric in the process and highlighting Lyric in a community that is new to us! We thank you two for all that you did to make this event come together. The evening was full of fun for all and went off without a hitch thanks to your thoughtful planning.



MOONLIGHT IN VERMONT AUDITIONS
From the Moonlight Team

Moonlight in Vermont: An Outdoor Fancy Show is a celebration of influential jazz standards and the popular music of "The Great American Songbook" brought to you by Lyric Theatre, the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, and ECHO: The Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. We are excited to be holding auditions for singers and dancers in June.

AUDITION INFORMATION

The team is seeking vocalists and featured dancers to perform standards of "The Great American Songbook" in a 120-minute show. To audition, you must be 18 years old as of June 22, 2021. All vocal auditions will be by video submission, and dance auditions for featured dancers will be held in person at the Lyric Creative Space. All state-mandated public health precautions will be followed at auditions, rehearsals, and performances. If you have any questions regarding auditions please contact Stage Manager, Sarah Wright, sarahmckwright@yahoo.com. For all audition information, please see the website: <https://lyrictheatrevt.org/moonlight-in-vermont/>

VOCALISTS

You must fill out an **Audition Form**, and upload two separate videos directly into the form in the field corresponding to the selection category. Each video should begin by clearly saying your name. *Please don't forget to attach your videos.* You will perform two songs: one song up-tempo and one ballad, with the corresponding backing track. Please pick the songs and keys that work best for your voice from the options on the website: <https://lyrictheatrevt.org/moonlight-in-vermont/>. Feel free to sing up or down the octave for comfort.

FEATURED DANCERS

Please fill out an **Audition Form** in advance of the dance call. This form will serve as your registration. The Dance Audition will be held in person at the Lyric Theatre Creative Space on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. to allow for warm-ups. All shoes are appropriate, character and small-heeled shoes are preferred.

All Audition Forms containing videos and/or registration info must be received by Monday, June 21, at noon.

Callbacks will be held in person at the Lyric Theatre Creative Space on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. Casting calls will take place the following day.

LYRIC'S 18 BELOW CAST ANNOUNCED

By Christopher Brown

The team of *Lyric's 18 Below: Legends in the Making* is excited to announce the cast for this summer's cabaret series. Our cast ranges from age 8-18 and includes 11 new Lyric performers!

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Ambrose Cusick | Lucas Moran |
| Lili Diemer* | Molly O'Neil |
| Charlie Dimitroff* | Lyla Trigaux* |
| Henry Dimitroff* | Blake Von Sitas* |
| Bella Joly | Abigail Vos* |
| Ray Lindsley* | Grace Vos* |
| Kenna Lund* | Joseph Vos* |
| Mattea McCormick | Michael Vos* |

**First time in a Lyric production*

We invite you to join us for one of our free performances on August 3 at Adams Farm Market, August 7 at Burlington City Hall Park, or August 11 at the Williston Library.

Thank you to all of the talented folks who auditioned!

LOOKING FOR THE HEART OF SATURDAY NIGHT...
By Taryn Noelle, Creator, Stage Director & Choreographer

Twenty years ago, in 2001, my dear friend Jane Harissis brought me to New York City to see Susan Stroman's *Contact* at the Vivian Beaumont Theatre, at Lincoln Center, and my life was forever changed. Jane had a friend in the show, and she thought that we both needed to see it. Not really knowing what I was in for, two hours later we had seen the most gorgeous acting....and the majority of it was told through dance! This somewhat new premise for story telling hadn't been widely produced before Susan Stroman's brilliant dance play lit up Broadway. I felt that an inner lightbulb or call from a higher power had been ignited, and I knew that somehow, somewhere, someday, I needed to be a part of this type of storytelling. Well, fast forward twenty years later to 2021, and again with a nudge from my dear friend, we are preparing to launch our own original dance-based musical titled *Looking for the Heart of Saturday Night...* for Lyric Theatre at the Marjorie Howe Creative Space in November. This is a dance-focused show that includes some dialogue as well as live vocals alongside a band. It's a patchwork quilt of friends and family searching for love and pursuing their dreams, and it's about the similarities that bind and connect them to each other. With a projected cast of 20 dancers, actors and vocalists from ages 8-80, we hope that you will consider joining us on our journey! Auditions for *Looking for the Heart of Saturday Night* will be on Sunday, August 15, Monday, August 16, and Wednesday, August 18, with callbacks on Thursday, August 19. Stay tuned for further updates and an official audition announcement on the Lyric website.

HEY, DID YOU KNOW? By Christopher Brown

Hello members! Whether you are a new Lyric volunteer or have had years of experience, you've probably noticed that there is a LOT of knowledge within the organization. Some of this information is well documented and easily accessible where other items may traditionally be more word-of-mouth or institutional knowledge. The goal of this article is to shed light on a few of these lesser-known items each month in the *Spotlight*. A brainchild of the Outreach and Inclusivity Committee, and supported by the Membership Committee, we hope that this ongoing series helps members feel more in the know, working to close the information gap between members. A few basic items to get us kicked off. Did you know that

- volunteer opportunities exist all year round, and are not only centered around shows and performances?
- Lyric's Archive Room has many resources for volunteers, such as perusal scripts and access to materials from former shows and projects?
- committees are always accepting and welcoming new members?

Stay tuned for more nuggets to come!



A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD Show Details

June 11, 2021 | Opening night at Isham Family Farm in Williston | This special performance is a benefit to support Lyric Theatre and Isham Family Farm. Ticketing info will be available at <https://lyrictheatre.vt.org/frog-and-toad/>

The following performances are free and open to the public. More information will be available as we approach these shows. Please visit <https://lyrictheatre.vt.org/frog-and-toad/> for updates.

June 12, 2021 – 10:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. | Shelburne Museum in Shelburne

June 19, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. | Dorothy Alling Library in Williston

June 26, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. | Fletcher Free Library in Burlington

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

LYRIC-SUNSET DRIVE-IN EVENT A SUCCESS By Jane Harissis and Kelley Lane

A big thank you to the Membership and PR/Dev Committees for their hard work putting together and running the *Grease* Drive-In Movie event. There was a great turnout and fun was had by all. The highlight of the evening was most definitely the pie-throwing booth; thank you to our willing victims, especially Erin who went home 'glazed' with whipped cream. Thanks for all who attended. The Sunset was very pleased.



ON OTHER STAGES

★ **Burlington Discover Jazz Festival** produced by the Flynn and Burlington City Arts June 4-13. flynnvt.org/Community/Burlington-Discover-Jazz-Festival

★ Town Hall Theater will stream Opera Company of Middlebury's **Candide** June 15-30. They are also planning an exciting slate of summer camps. townhalltheater.org

★ Full Circle Theater Collaborative presents an outdoor cabaret June 18 at the North Hero Arts Barn. fullcircletheaterfoundation.org/cabaret-fundraiser

★ Vermont Stage presents **Popcorn Falls** July 28-Aug 8 at Isham Family Farm and **Maytag Virgin** Aug 25-Sept 5 at Blue Heron Pond both in Williston. vermontstage.org

★ Lamoille County Players will present **Annie**, August 25-29. The sun WILL come out tomorrow! lcplayers.com

★ Girls Nite Out Productions presents **Borrowing Time**, an original play by Carole Vasta Folley, in November. Watch for more info.



7 Green Tree Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403



See you at *A Year with Frog and Toad*

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 July issue: June 28, 2021

AT YOUR SERVICE—LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY BOARD & STAFF

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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

JOIN THE BUSINESS SIDE OF SHOW BUSINESS

It takes many different kinds of people and skills to keep Lyric Theatre Company operating. At this time each year, the Nominating Committee of the Lyric Board extends an invitation to Lyric members to consider applying for a seat on the Board or to join one of Lyric's Standing Committees. If you have the time to give, working with Lyric can be a fulfilling way of giving back to our community. Please send any questions you might have and/or nominations to the Nominating Committee Chair, Mary Margaret Lee, at marym.lee@gmhec.org. **Letters of interest and nominations are due by Tuesday, June 8, 2021.**



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

Generous support from

