



THE SPOTLIGHT



Editor: Pat Boera

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December 2021

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Erin Evarts, Executive Director

I hope everyone had a marvelous Thanksgiving and your holiday season is off to a wonderful start! I've spent much of the last few weeks thinking about what I am thankful for, and it should come as no surprise that among those things are my family, friends, and little dog. I also have immense gratitude for all those who helped make my year at Lyric so memorable. In our 48th season we have already put up three productions and have two more to come with *Burlington Does Broadway* on New Year's Eve and *Matilda* in April. Tickets are on sale now for both shows and I am so looking forward to seeing you all in the Flynn again soon. We encourage you to shop small and local this holiday season and to give the gift of Lyric to friends and family.

If you are in a giving mood, remember that our Annual Appeal is in full swing. We know how much Lyric means to you, because every year you answer the call, and every year we remain a vital piece of the fabric of our community. You can donate online, send us a check, OR you can contact us about other ways to support Lyric all year round.

Wishing you a very merry and always happy holiday season!



Our AmazonSmile account is a great way to support Lyric with your online shopping all year round. **How to use AmazonSmile on a web browser:**

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com
3. Select your charity – **Lyric Theatre Company (South Burlington)**
4. Start shopping! Remember to checkout at smile.amazon.com to generate donations for your chosen charity. Tip: Add a bookmark to make it easier to shop at smile.amazon.com.



LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY MEANS SOMETHING TO YOU

By Rachel Bruce Drew and Ryan Addario

You have proven this with the time, enthusiasm, and talent you have given in support of Lyric's mission show after show, and season after season. It means something to you like it has meant something to so many others for nearly 50 years.

For all of us who love and value this now historic community organization, the time has come for us to also become its stewards, and ensure it remains a vital part of our region for the next 50 years too. The best way to do this, is by becoming a Debut Donor today.

Thankfully, local arts are a place where modest donation amounts can have a real, profound impact. For a few dollars a month, a small group of young donors like you could costume someone for the Flynn stage or pay the tuition of a LyricKids camper this summer.

We're asking you to think about what Lyric means to you, and if it's worth an investment equal to a streaming service, or plate of fries on a Saturday night. We're asking you to apply a lesson you've no doubt seen play out at Lyric before — that there is great strength in numbers. We're asking because you mean something to Lyric Theatre Company.

To become a Debut Donor, go to: <https://lyrictheatrevt.org/donate-main/> and scroll to the bottom of the page from more information.



RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH BURLINGTON DOES BROADWAY

By Erin Evarts

Ring in the New Year with Lyric and the VSO on the Flynn MainStage with an evening dedicated to the bright lights of Broadway. The event showcases Vermont's finest singers and musicians. *Burlington Does Broadway* will be hosted by Vermont's own Kerstin Anderson and the VSO will once again be conducted by Benjamin Klemme. Join us as the community comes together to turn the page on another year. Tickets are on sale NOW at flynnvt.org. #BDB #attheflynn #lyrictheatrevt





MATILDA UPDATE

By Rob Parzych, Production Supervisor

Hello friends, I am hoping you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Among many other things, I am thankful that we are moving forward with our production of *Matilda!*

The team has held several cast meetings and we are preparing for auditions in January. The dates and some preliminary details are in this issue of the *Spotlight* and will be available on the Lyric website.

Holding auditions brings the bittersweet realization that several of the original cast members are not able to continue their *Matilda* journey with us. Some have moved away; some have school or other commitments. We are so grateful for the commitment they had to this show, and team. We will miss all of them.

The fact that we were able to retain two-thirds of the cast and 99% of our crew chiefs is a testament to our membership, once again, rising to a challenge and showing their fortitude and resiliency.

The *Matilda* Team will be holding auditions for several open roles.

Children’s Auditions-1 day

Sunday, January 9, 2022

1 Role available:

Matilda’s Classmate-Stage Age 8-12, any gender

Adult Auditions-2 days

Monday, January 10, and Tuesday, January 11, 2022

8-10 Roles available:

Adult Ensemble, Big Kids.

Adult Actor Stage Ages: 14-60, any gender

Also

1 Featured Adult Role:

The Escapologist

Stage Age 25-50, Male

Production dates are April 7-10, 2022. Please visit the Lyric website for details and audition materials, coming soon--www.lyrictheatrevt.org!

Tickets are on sale now, so please talk up the show! Also, let your friends and families know that all original ticket purchases will be honored for the new show dates of April 7-10, 2022.

Answers to Sondheim Trivia Quiz: 1-Georges Seurat; 2-Roses; 3-Madonna; 4-Not while I’m around; 5-*West Side Story*; 6-Trumpets; 7-*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*; 8-Sally Bowles; 9-Barcelona; 10-Joshua



COSTUME GODDESSES GATHERING

By Debby Dot McCracken

Lyric Costume Goddesses had a Pre- Every Holiday, get together at The Barnyard in South Burlington. It was our first gathering in two years. We got to chat, catch up, and enjoy each other in person.

Instead of exchanging gifts, we brought new, unwrapped toys/gifts that we donated to Toys for Kids! We filled a barrel!

We can’t wait to see everyone in the theatre!



PROPOSE A MAINSTAGE SHOW FOR LYRIC THEATRE

Lyric is seeking a team and now accepting submissions for our Spring 2023 Mainstage production consisting of a Production Supervisor, Director, Music Director, and Choreographer. The Production Selection Committee is looking for proposals for the following shows:

Shrek: The Musical

Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella

Disney’s Beauty and the Beast

Disney’s The Little Mermaid

To read more about the process, please visit our website by clicking [here](#). If you are interested in building a team and may want to propose, please contact Jane Harissis, Production Selection Chair, via email at vitsivan@aol.com OR Erin Evarts, Lyric Executive Director, at erin@lyrictheatrevt.org.



**JOIN US FOR HOLIDAY CAROLING ON THE
CHURCH STREET MARKETPLACE
Sunday, December 12, 2:00 p.m.**

SONDHEIM TRIVIA QUIZ

- The theater world lost a titan with the death of Stephen Sondheim the day after Thanksgiving. Lyric has presented multiple Sondheim shows in our nearly five-decade history: *West Side Story*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *A Little Night Music*, *Into the Woods*, and *Gypsy*. In tribute, we offer this Sondheim Trivia Quiz. You'll find answers elsewhere in this issue.
- 1-*Sunday in the Park with George* was about this painter.
 - 2-Finish this famous Sondheim lyric: "Everything's coming up ____."
 - 3-Which pop star sang Sondheim's "What Can you Lose" in the 1990 film *Dick Tracy*?
 - 4-Finish the lyric from this *Sweeney Todd* song: "Nothing's gonna to harm you, _ _ _ _ ." (Four words)
 - 5-For which musical, did Sondheim write the lyrics, but not the music?
 - 6-Which musical instrument completes this lyric from *Anyone Can Whistle*: "There won't be ____."
 - 7-Which Sondheim musical includes the characters Hero and Pseudolus?
 - 8-Which of these characters is not from a Sondheim musical: Anita, Sweeney Todd, Sally Bowles, or The Witch?
 - 9-Robert and April sing about which European city in the musical *Company*?
 - 10-What is Stephen Sondheim's middle name: Joshua, James, Michael, or Richard?

**THE NEVERLAND YOU NEVER KNEW
By David Bailey**

Tuttle Middle School, in association with the First Light Theatre Project, is bringing the Tony Award winning *Peter and the Starcatcher* to the stage this January. This cleverly spun tale is the prequel to Peter Pan and gives us the origin of many of the Neverland characters. Not just for kids, this unique production offers ingenious stagecraft, scenic set designs and clever humor that will delight all ages.

While considered a straight play, this production, dubbed a play with music, includes a few musical numbers that will elevate and delight spirits. David Bailey and Wendy Valastro team up to provide artistic and musical direction with choreography by Hanlan Paquin.

The show will take place at the South Burlington High School Auditorium on Friday, January 14, and Saturday, January 15. Both shows are at 7:00 p.m. and tickets may be purchased at the door.

SOME TIDBITS ABOUT *IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE*

With many local theater companies presenting performances of *It's a Wonderful Life* during this holiday season, your editor thought you would enjoy learning some interesting things about the classic movie. The following paragraphs are excerpted from Matt Hickman's article "6 Things You Probably Didn't Know About 'It's a Wonderful Life'" published on December 13, 2019.

You know the story: Angels, bells, "Auld Lang Syne," a depressed and partially deaf savings-and-loan manager who tries to end it all only to be treated to an epiphanic retrospective of his life courtesy of a bumbling trainee-seraphim named Clarence.

"It's a Wonderful Life" is based on "The Greatest Gift," a 1939 short story written by Philip Van Doren Stern. After spending several years trying to sell his story to publishers with no success, Stern self-published his work and sent it to 200 friends as a 21-page Christmas card in 1943. RKO Pictures wound up getting a hold of "The Greatest Gift" and bought the rights to the story with Cary Grant pegged as the star. As they tend to do in Hollywood, things fell through, and the project languished before acclaimed director Frank Capra came on board in 1945 and named Jimmy Stewart as his leading man in the role of suicidal do-gooder George Bailey. Jean Arthur, Olivia de Havilland, Ann Dvorak and Ginger Rogers, who called the character "too bland," were all said to be in the running for the role of Mary Hatch Bailey. Donna Reed, an actress who went on to become the ultimate upper-middle-class TV housewife, ultimately secured the role.

ON OTHER STAGES

- ★ Middlebury Acting Company presents *A Christmas Carol* at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater, December 3-12. Tickets/info: townhalltheater.org
- ★ Bella Voce Women's Chorus presents *Rejoice and Sing*, a holiday concert, on December 4, 7:30 p.m., and December 5, 3:00 p.m. at the McCarthy Arts Center Recital Hall at Saint Michael's College. Tickets/info: seven-daystickets.com
- ★ UVM Theatre and Dance presents *It's a Wonderful Life, a live radio play*, on the Royall Tyler Stage on December 4 and 5, with performances at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Tickets/info: uvmtickets.universitytickets.com
- ★ Shelburne Players present *It's a Wonderful Life, a live radio play*, directed by Beth Curtis, December 10-18 at Shelburne Town Hall. Tickets/info: shelburneplayers.com
- ★ Vermont Stage presents the 17th Annual *Winter Tales*, December 15-19. Tickets/info: vermontstage.org
- ★ Lost Nation Theater presents Willem Lange in *A Christmas Carol, a ghost story* live onstage and live-streamed on December 17 with on-demand recording available December 18-25. Tickets/info: lostnationtheater.org
- ★ The Flynn Center presents their Broadway series starting with *Burlington Does Broadway*, December 31; and *Broadway's Next Hit Musical Improv Comedy Night*, March 4-5. Tickets/info: flynnvt.org



7 Green Tree Drive
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Hope to see you at the Flynn on December 31!

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, 2021

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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: Cheri Forsythe): 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: Stephen Kendall): 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



**April 7-10, 2022
Flynn Center MainStage
Burlington, VT**

Generous support from



Lyric Theatre Company will require proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to be in the Lyric Creative Space or to participate as a volunteer in Lyric productions, events, or activities.

- Proof of vaccination is considered a vaccine card and matching ID.
- Medical and age exemptions will be accepted in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- Policy is effective October 1, 2021. (Current volunteers may submit proof of vaccination beginning immediately.)

