

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:
HOPES ARE HIGH, DANCE ONE YEAR IN,
KISS ONE GOODBYE!**

By Erin Evarts, Executive Director

I hope you will all join me in welcoming 2022 to the Lyric Creative Space! We will be working together to bring *Matilda* back into the Creative Space and to the Flynn this spring. We will also be looking ahead to *Into the Woods* this coming fall! With two mainstage shows back on the calendar it is exciting to see how the lessons we learned in the last two years will translate for Lyric as a whole moving forward – including a search for a team to present another TYA performance this summer.

I would like to thank everyone who helped make our New Year's Eve performance of *Burlington Does Broadway* with the VSO and the Flynn another success. A huge thank you goes out to the cast and the team, led by Doris O'Brien, Howie Kalfus, Sue Bailey, Margaret Welch, Todd Hanley, and Donna Riera. It was so wonderful to join forces to bring such a beautiful show to the Flynn stage, not to mention how great it was to be back in the Flynn.

Tickets are on sale now for *Matilda* at flynnvt.org and if you want to get more involved, there are dozens of different ways, check out our website for more volunteer and audition information.

I'm looking forward to all we will create together in 2022!

ARE YOU READY TO PROPOSE A SHOW?

A HUGE thank you to the hundreds of Lyric members who have successfully participated in EIGHT Lyric productions during this pandemic. What an achievement! Because of these shows, we have increased our membership and benefited from numerous members taking on leadership roles. We are all looking forward to the return of our Mainstage shows with *Matilda*, April 2022, and *Into the Woods*, November 2022.

In addition to our Mainstage productions, we would like to produce Theatre for Young Audiences or a Family Friendly One Act late spring/early summer 2022 – similar to *A Year with Frog and Toad*, which was very well received and significantly increased our membership and outreach. And perhaps a small cabaret, as long as it doesn't put undue stress on our resources and membership.

We are looking for proposals for the Theatre for Young Audiences or a Family Friendly One-Act now. We are hoping for more than one proposal per slot and request coming forward with just a core team. If you've

ever wanted to propose a smaller production, let us know! We are here to help you. Proposal criteria can be found on the Lyric website, or you may contact Jane Harissis (vitsivan@aol.com) or Erin Evarts (erin@lyrictheatrevt.org).

Look out for our 50th Anniversary Season Proposal Campaign. Let's continue our fabulous tradition of putting on high-quality performances for the Vermont community!

-The Production Selection Committee



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

The Sunshine Committee has passed the torch from Donna Riera to Rob Parzych. If you learn of a major milestone in someone's life, please be in touch with Rob who will send a card on behalf of Lyric. Contact Rob at r_p67@yahoo.com. Our deepest gratitude to Donna for her longtime service as Lyric's one-person Sunshine Committee.



AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE SOON:

NEW PROMOTIONAL WEAR FOR MATILDA

Help promote Lyric's production of *Matilda* by proudly wearing a shirt. Promotional Wear Chair Pam Carter will be sharing details soon about styles, sizes, and prices.



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.



WONDER OF THE DAY #175:

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT BROADWAY?

[Source: <https://wonderopolis.org/wonder/What's-So-Special-About-Broadway>]

“As its name would suggest, Broadway is a wide street in New York City. It runs the full length of Manhattan. It starts at the island’s southern tip at Bowling Green. The street continues all the way to its northern tip at Inwood. It even goes on into the Bronx!

Broadway is the oldest north-south street in New York City. It existed as a path traveled by American Indians long before Europeans arrived. Today, there are many famous sites along the several miles of Broadway. But one small stretch comes to mind when most people hear the word “Broadway.” It’s the stretch between 42nd and 53rd streets—including Times Square—that is considered the home of the American theater industry.

This famous section of Broadway is known as the Theater District. You will also often hear it called “The Great White Way.” Where did this nickname come from? It started when Broadway became one of the first streets in the U.S. to be lit with electric lights. The nickname remains popular today. Millions of lights on theater marquees and billboard advertisements help brighten the night sky.

The Theater District is home to 40 large professional theaters. Each of these theaters seats 500 or more people. They host a constantly changing variety of productions, including plays and musicals.

Many people believe the theatrical productions on Broadway are the best in the world. Each year, the best Broadway shows are awarded Tony Awards.

Broadway shows are one of the most popular tourist attractions in New York City. In 2010, shows sold more than \$1 billion in tickets! As you can see, many of the shows are popular and quite profitable. For that reason, they often run for years and years. Shows close when they stop drawing new audiences and become unprofitable.

The longest-running musical in Broadway history is *The Phantom of the Opera*. It opened on Broadway in 1988 and is still going strong today. It’s had more than 13,000 performances to date. It has earned more than \$1 billion. It also won the 1988 Tony Award for Best Musical.

Have you ever seen a musical on Broadway? Would you like to? Will you see *The Phantom of the Opera*? Other big hits include *The Lion King* and *Hamilton*. Maybe you’ll write your own hit play or even perform on Broadway one day. The sky’s the limit. Just keep exercising your own creativity!”

ON OTHER STAGES

★ Tuttle Middle School, in association with the First Light Theatre Project, presents *Peter and the Starcatcher* at South Burlington High School Auditorium, January 14 and 15. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. and tickets can be purchased at the door.

★ Lost Nation Theater has a great lineup for 2022 including a new play from Lisa Gaye Dixon; Abby Paige and her *Les Filles du Quoi?*; John Foley and Eric Peterson’s play with music *Going Up the Country*; and Maura O’Brien as Annie Oakley in a full-staged production of Jeanne Beckwith’s new play. Tickets/info: lostnationtheater.org

★ Full Circle Theater presents *Red* at ArtsRiot, January 21-22. Tickets/info: fullcircletheater.com

★ Valley Players present *Clue: On Stage* at their theater in the heart of Waitsfield Village, January 28-February 13. Tickets/info: valleyplayers.com

★ Vermont Stage presents *The Lifespan of a Fact* at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, February 2-20. Tickets/info: vermontstage.org

★ Essex Community Players present *Drinking Habits 2: Caught in the Act* at Memorial Hall, February 25-March 12. Tickets/info: essexplayers.com

★ The Flynn Center continues their Broadway series with *Broadway’s Next Hit Musical Improv Comedy Night*, March 4-5. Tickets/info: flynnvt.org

★ For complete statewide listings of live performances, visit theaterengine.com

HELP WANTED: ESSEX PLAYERS SEEK VOLUNTEER USHERS

Essex Community Players will present their production of *Drinking Habits 2: Caught in the Act* this spring. There will be eight performances, February 25-March 12, with curtain time for evening shows at 7:30 p.m. and matinees on Sunday, February 27, and Sunday, March 6.

The Sisters of Perpetual Sewing miss the excitement of the old days when they were saving convents and reuniting long-lost families. When they learn that the orphanage where Paul and Kate grew up is in peril, they can’t wait to come to the rescue. The merry mix-ups multiply in this warm and winsome sequel to *Drinking Habits*, which was one of the last live shows before Covid closed live theater. Here’s the stellar cast:

Sister Philamena – Karin Stevenson

Sister Augusta – Geri Ann Higgins

Kate – Lauren Patterson

George – Ben Certa

Mother Superior – Alise Lara Certa

Father Chenille – Andrew Rash

Paul – Shannon Lowe

Sally – Jennifer Patterson

House Chair Dave Martin is looking for three volunteer ushers per performance. Ushers will check vaccination cards and seat patrons. Interested? Contact Dave at davelighthousevt@yahoo.com



7 Green Tree Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403



Do you have your tickets for *Matilda*?

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 February issue: January 28, 2022

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: 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.)

