



# THE SPOTLIGHT



Editor: Pat Boera

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February 2022

## “THE COLD NEVER BOTHERED US ANYWAY”

*By Erin Evarts, Executive Director*

It may be freezing outside, but the Lyric Creative Space is filled with the fiery passion of hundreds of volunteers. In these deep winter months, it is so exciting to see our upcoming projects grow in every corner of Green Tree. We have welcomed dozens of new volunteers into the Lyric community in recent weeks, including a number of new cast and crew members for *Matilda*. Get your tickets now – you won’t want to miss Lyric’s triumphant return to the Flynn in April.

I would encourage you to think about the roles you play at Lyric – onstage, backstage, and as a Lyric member in our community. Are you interested in trying something new, expanding your knowledge base, or becoming a mentor to someone else? We are volunteer driven AND volunteer strong; reach out to me in the office if you’re interested in getting involved in new ways. I’m committed to continuing to build a safe and cooperative environment providing creative opportunities for artists and audiences alike no matter the circumstances. If you want to be involved at Lyric, we will find a way to share that passion, on a committee, on a team, in a cast, helping in the warehouse – we can’t wait to work with you.

## LYRIC BOARD OPPORTUNITIES

*By Mary M. Lee*

The Lyric Board is a great opportunity to learn more about our organization and contribute at a leadership level. We appreciate Lyric community members actively engaging in the direction of the organization. Please reach out to the Lyric office if you have an interest in joining the Board or a committee.

## LYRIC IS TURNING FIFTY AND WE ARE SEEKING PROPOSALS NOW FOR FALL 2023!

*By Jennifer Warwick, Vice Chair, Production Selection*

Lyric is turning the **BIG 5-0** and what better way to celebrate than with a **BIG BANG BLOCKBUSTER** season of shows! Help us show Vermont what Lyric can do by proposing a show. The 50th Anniversary is fast approaching, and we are looking for proposals for the fall 2023 production – the first show of the season. We are seeking core team members (Producer, Director, Music Director, Choreographer) to propose a show of their choice by this May. It’s not too soon to get the ball rolling. If you are interested or need any help or questions answered, please contact Jennifer Warwick at [jenw.sokol@gmail.com](mailto:jenw.sokol@gmail.com) or Erin Evarts at [erin@lyrictheatrevt.org](mailto:erin@lyrictheatrevt.org) for more information.

## MATILDA CAST ANNOUNCEMENT

*By Rob Parzych, Production Supervisor*

The *Matilda* team is very pleased to announce the cast of *Matilda the Musical*, scheduled to be performed on the Flynn MainStage, April 7-10, 2022.

*\*Denotes first Lyric Main Stage performance*

Matilda Wormwood	Phoebe Raphael*
Miss Agatha Trunchbull	G. Richard Ames
Miss Honey	Merrill Cameron
Mr. Wormwood	Jayden M. Choquette
Mrs. Wormwood	Hayley Ryan
Michael Wormwood	Ronnie Farrell
Mrs. Phelps	Sabrina Sydnor
Rudolpho	Owen W. Rachampbell
Doctor	David Coggin-Carr*
The Escapologist	Paul Nelson
The Acrobat	Rachel Durante*
Sergei	Roya Millard*

## Matilda’s Class

Bruce	Lucas Moran
Lavender	Fiona McCormick
Amanda	Cady Murad*
Nigel	Mac Murad*
Eric	Rowan Williams*
Alice	Molly O’Neil
Hortensia	Ella O’Neil
Tammy	Harley Everitt*

## Big Kid Ensemble

Asa Baker-Rouse	Christopher Brown
Charlotte Cahillane*	David Coggin-Carr*
Rachel Durante*	Daniel Gibson*
Bella Joly	Dana LaClair
Kenna Lund*	Roya Millard*
Robert O’Neil	Philip Papp*
Jamie Roberts*	Anneka Shepherd*
Ashley Snow*	Avery Smith
Meret Thali*	Beamer Wallace*

The *Matilda* team would also like to acknowledge the actors from our original cast, who were unable to continue their journey with us in 2022: Billy Ray Poli, Aaron Michaelis, Josh Huffman, Benjamin Villa, Raymond Gillies, Benjamin Liebman, Ashley Michaelis, Emma Tichner, Abby Lord, Claire Ewing, and Rachael Sherman. BRAVO and THANK YOU to all of them!

Thankfully, we were able to retain nearly all of our dedicated crew chiefs and designers. We’d like to highlight two *Matilda* departures and thank them for their commitment and talents given to our production: Alex Shevrin, Head Dresser, and Liz Dana, Set Construction Co-Chair. Thank you both!

## NEWS FROM INTO THE WOODS

By **Serena Magnan O'Connell**, Production Supervisor

*Into the Woods* auditions are coming up soon! Mark your calendars for the chance to partake in our journey with your favorite fairytale characters. Auditions will take place at the Lyric Creative Space.

- Kick-Off: Wednesday, May 4, 2022
- Auditions: May 9-11, 2022
- Callbacks: May 12-13, 2022

More information on auditions to come!

I would like to express my gratitude to the following individuals who have already demonstrated immense flexibility and given so much of themselves in the design and planning of our show. I am proud to introduce the team of Lyric's *Into the Woods* coming to the Flynn in November of 2022!

Andrea Cronan	Artistic Director
Jane Bouffard Lambert	Music Director
Cole Marino	Assistant Music Director
Rebecca Raskin	Choreographer
Jane Burchard	Choreographer
Sean Leach	Stage Manager
Cat Myers	Assistant Stage Manager
Belinda Emerson	Technical Director/Special Effects
Julianne Nickerson	Special Effects
Jane Harissis	Set Designer
Doug Viehmann	Set Engineer
Tom Dunn	Projections/Visualizer
Andy Pearson	Lights
Rick Pingert	Sound
Justin Brault	Sound
Tomomi Ueda	Set Decoration
Cathie Covey	Set Decoration
Bruce Cowan	Set Construction
Kerry Farrell	Costume Designer
Leah Burke	Costume Construction
Lesley Graham	Properties
Kerry Powell	Make-Up
Don O'Connell	Hair
Kylie Halpin	Promotions
Jane Burchard	Graphic Designer
Linda Whalen	Program

Interested in joining the *Into the Woods* team? We are still looking for our party planner! Please contact [serenamagnan@hotmail.com](mailto:serenamagnan@hotmail.com).

See you at auditions!

## 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.

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](mailto:davelighthousevt@yahoo.com)

## SEEKING PROPOSALS FOR SUMMER 2022:

### THEATER FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

*A Year with Frog and Toad* was a huge hit last summer and a wonderful addition to Lyric's annual line up that we would like to continue with the tradition. The Production Selection and Evaluation Committee is seeking proposals for this summer's Theater for Young Audiences (TYA.) This is a great way to get some artistic team experience. Proposal deadline is March 4, 2022. For more information, please contact Jennifer Warwick, Vice Chair of PS Committee, [jenw.sokol@gmail.com](mailto:jenw.sokol@gmail.com), or Erin Evarts, [erin@lyrictheatrevt.org](mailto:erin@lyrictheatrevt.org).

### VOLUNTEER HOURS

By **Serena Magnan O'Connell**

A reminder that we have changed our method of collecting your hard-working volunteer hours. We will be assigning generalized hour amounts based on the positions you hold within the organization and no longer collecting individual hours monthly. Any hours accrued while working on a crew, in a cast, on the Board or on a committee do not need to be turned in. The only time you need to turn hours into the office are when you volunteer for Lyric in a capacity outside of the aforementioned positions. Any questions? Contact Serena Magnan O'Connell, [serenamagnan@hotmail.com](mailto:serenamagnan@hotmail.com).

### MEMBERSHIP DATABASE SURVEY

By **Serena Magnan O'Connell**

Have you been counted amongst our membership? If you haven't done so already, please fill out our database survey so we know more about you! This information gives us valuable information about who we are as a community, what we are interested in learning and becoming, and what we need to make that happen!

The survey has been created by the Membership Committee to find out more about you, your skill sets, your experiences, and your interests within our organization as an active Lyric member. The collected information will be used to help us track where the strengths and needs lie within the organization, so that we can foster education and training.

Please contact [serenamagnan@hotmail.com](mailto:serenamagnan@hotmail.com) with any questions.

Link to survey:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfa0IBKmq\\_D4Lwfmf0\\_r6iVFPnHGaaLK60kqDh25MDQEHypQg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfa0IBKmq_D4Lwfmf0_r6iVFPnHGaaLK60kqDh25MDQEHypQg/viewform)

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## ON OTHER STAGES

- ★ 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](http://lostnationtheater.org)
- ★ Valley Players present *Clue: On Stage* at their theater in the heart of Waitsfield Village, January 28-February 13. Tickets/info: [valleyplayers.com](http://valleyplayers.com)
- ★ Essex Community Players present *Drinking Habits 2: Caught in the Act* at Memorial Hall, February 25-March 12. Tickets/info: [essexplayers.com](http://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](http://flynnvt.org)
- ★ Vermont Stage presents *The Thin Place* at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, March 23-April 10. Tickets/info: [vermontstage.org](http://vermontstage.org)
- ★ Lamoille County Players' summer season includes *Clue: On Stage*, May 6-8 and 13-15; *Elf*, July 21-24 and 28-31; and *Blue Window*, September 30-October 2, and October 7-9. Tickets/info: [lcplayers.com](http://lcplayers.com)
- ★ Stowe Theatre Guild's summer season includes *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, June 9-12; *Our Town*, July 14-30; *Bullets Over Broadway*, August 18-September 3; and *A Little Night Music*, September 29-October 15. Tickets/info: [stowetheatre.com](http://stowetheatre.com)
- ★ For complete statewide listings of live performances, visit [theaterengine.com](http://theaterengine.com)

## SOUND DESIGNER JESSICA PAZ TALKS ABOUT THE ART BEHIND THE THINGS YOU HEAR IN THE THEATER

*By Margaret Hall for Broadway, January 20, 2022*

Paz was the first woman to win a Sound Design Tony, for her work on *Hadestown*.

[Source: TheaterMania; search for the full article at <https://www.theatermania.com/broadway/news/>]

For every performer who steps into the spotlight as the curtain rises, there are hundreds of people working behind the scenes to make the magic of theater real. From dressers to spot-ops, house managers to stage door attendants, and everything in between, it truly takes a village to put on a show. This is the third in a series of articles designed to introduce you to the many unique theater professions you might not realize exist.

Sound design is one of the youngest stagecraft disciplines, as technical advancements made it possible only long after other disciplines were in practice (microphones didn't exist in Ancient Greece, after all!). Microphones began to filter into use on the Broadway stage in the early 1960s, and the last musical to tread the boards without amplifications was 1970s *The Grass Harp*. Since then, almost every sound an audience member hears coming from the stage is monitored and amplified by a sound designer and their team.

Jessica Paz, whose work can currently be heard in *Hadestown* at the Walter Kerr and in *Little Shop of Horrors* at the Westside Theatre, talked with TheaterMania about this vital profession. Known for her ability to seamlessly integrate prerecorded sound and carefully constructed soundscapes, Paz is part of a wave of sound designers who use their technical skills in increasingly creative ways. In 2019, she became the first woman to be nominated for and win the Tony Award for Best Sound Design (created in 2007) for her work on *Hadestown*.

### What inspired you to enter this profession?

**Jessica Paz:** I had a friend who performed in *The Rocky Horror Show* every Saturday night at a local regional theater, and I went every weekend to support her. Spending money every week for a ticket was getting expensive, so I started volunteering. Eventually I became a stage manager for them, and there was trouble with the sound, so I stepped in to see if I could help. I fixed it, and I thought it was fun, so I just kept doing it.

### What is it that a sound designer really does?

**Jessica:** When we enter a Broadway space, all we get are our four walls. There's no cables, there's no speakers, there's no microphones. There is nothing. Everything that we bring in and customize in those four walls is the sound design.

### Do you have any advice for women who are entering technical fields?

**Jessica:** For women specifically, a lot of them leave when they decide to have children, because this lifestyle isn't conducive to raising a family; that is a big part of the problem, because the hours are so long, and they are the opposite of the rest of society, so if you have a child to raise, it is extremely hard to balance everything. We work evenings, we work for 16 hours a day during tech, and if you're working the show itself, you're gone every night and every weekend.

This was something I wanted, and it was something I wasn't willing to compromise on in any way. So, I just kept showing up. I felt like if I stuck it out long enough, I'd eventually get what I wanted. And that has mostly worked out for me.

Other than that, you need to be curious, take on all of the work you can, and learn about how every other job operates. It's only going to make you a better collaborator. In terms of jobs like directing, designing lights, working in the wardrobe department, knowing how their jobs work will make you a better designer. If you're just starting out, learn how to program Q lab. Learn how to program Yamaha consoles and DiGiCo consoles. Learn how to use prediction software from various speaker manufacturers. Take every webinar you can to amass knowledge, and make sure to take notes. You never know when something will come up again years down the line.



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**Deadline for March issue: February 28, 2022**



**You'll want to be in the audience for  
Lyric's triumphant return to the Flynn**

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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.)

