

READY FOR SPRING AND BEYOND!

By Erin Evarts, Executive Director

There is nothing that warms up the winter weather better than having *Matilda* back in full force and rehearsing here on Green Tree Drive. Please remember that if you have your tickets from the originally planned run in 2020, they are still valid for the corresponding performance this April. We've been working hard to figure out logistics with the Flynn to make sure that all ticketing issues are taken care of, and we encourage you to give them a call directly at 863-5966 if you have any questions or need to purchase additional tickets.

We are also gearing up for our annual Board retreat next month, and I'm looking forward to discussing plans for Lyric's future, including for our upcoming 50th anniversary season! Before then, we are excitedly preparing for our second annual Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) show coming this summer, as well as gearing up for our LyricKids Camps, all while two upcoming Main Stage productions wait in the wings.

This is an exciting time for Lyric Theatre Company, and I'm so glad to share it with you!

LYRIC RESTAURANT NIGHT IS BACK

By Serena Magnan O'Connell

Please join us on Sunday, March 20, at Pizzeria Verita for Lyric night! We encourage as many of our members as possible to either dine-in or order take-out. This restaurant has been a huge supporter of Lyric and we'd like to show them our appreciation. A portion of sales will be donated to Lyric that night. To make reservations (strongly encouraged) call 802-489-5644 after 3:00 pm or visit pizzeriaverita.com. Let's fill that restaurant! Please contact serenamagnan@hotmail.com with any questions.

MATILDA-OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION-NOTICE

By Rob Parzych, Production Supervisor

Due to ongoing safety concerns for our members and the public, we have decided not to hold a traditional opening night reception for *Matilda*.

I know this will be a disappointment for many; however, to err on the side of caution seems prudent. The Flynn has currently suspended concessions, so we are keeping in line with that, too. We are still keeping our options open for a post-production party.

Please share this information with those who may be expecting a reception, but who may not be reading The Spotlight. Be well, stay safe, and we are hopeful we will be out of the woods for *Into the Woods* in November!



MATILDA CAST/CREW-NOT CONTINUING FOR 2022

By Rob Parzych, Production Supervisor

The Artistic Team for *Matilda* would like to acknowledge the following actors and team members, who were unable to continue their journey with us for the 2022 production. We honor their talent and dedication to our production. They deserve every accolade and amount of applause as the current cast and crew. THANK YOU! BRAVO!

CAST:

Sabrina Sydnor: Mrs. Phelps
 Billy Ray Poli: Escapologist
 Aaron Michaelis: Doctor, Henchman, Big Kid Ensemble
 Josh Huffman: Loud Dancer, Big Kid Ensemble
 Benjamin Villa: Cook, Henchman, Big Kid Ensemble
 Raymond Gillies: Henchman, Big Kid Ensemble
 Benjamin Liebman: Sergei, Big Kid Ensemble
 Ashley Michaelis: Loud Dancer, Big Kid Ensemble
 Emma Tichner: Loud Dancer, Big Kid Ensemble
 Abby Lord: Big Kid Ensemble
 Claire Ewing: Big Kid Ensemble
 Rachael Sherman: Nurse, Big Kid Ensemble

CREW:

Liz Dana: Set Construction Co-Chair
 Andy Whitaker: Assistant Stage Manager
 Alex Shevrin: Head Dresser
 Mike Fidler: Special Effects Designer

SPOTLIGHT SHOUT-OUT

By Serena Magnan O'Connell

This month the Membership Committee would like to thank the incredible Donna Riera for once again stepping up and helping in the role of Assistant Stage Manager for *Burlington Does Broadway* and *Matilda*. Donna has been a valuable asset to Lyric since the beginning – that's 1974, folks! – and we are grateful for her efforts. Donna, we are giving you a Spotlight Shout-Out!

LYRICKIDS REGISTRATIONS

Registrations for our two sessions of LyricKids Camps begin Tuesday, March 1, via our website – <https://lyrictheatre.org/portfolio/lyric-kids/>. Our first session will center on a production of *The Music Man Jr.*, with our second annual *Cabaret Creation Camp* taking place the following week. LyricKids Camps are for ages 8-13, and we are happy to be able to keep tuition level at \$310 per session. We encourage you to visit the website to read more about camp and to register. Please note that spots typically fill up quickly, so if you are interested in securing one, please fill out your registration form and get your deposit in ASAP!

LYRIC IS TURNING 50 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 or Erin Evarts at erin@lyrictheatre.org for more information

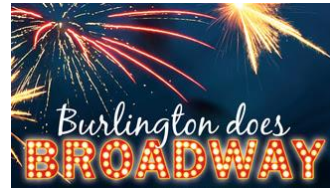
A TRADITION CONTINUES

This year, Lyric Theatre Company will once again offer the Delano-Nulty Award to an area high school senior to help support their interest in pursuing higher education in the performing arts. This \$2,000 annual scholarship honors two of Lyric's founding members—Howard Delano and Polly Nulty. Registration will begin later this month, and all application materials will be available on our website at <https://lyrictheatre.org/education/delano-nulty-award/>.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

By Serena Magnan O'Connell

A reminder that we have changed our method of collecting your volunteer hours. We will be assigning generalized hour amounts based on the positions you hold within the organization and no longer collecting individual hours each month. 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.



BURLINGTON DOES BROADWAY 2022

Production Selection and Evaluation is seeking teams for *Burlington Does Broadway*. Proposals are due by June 1, 2022. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Jennifer Warwick at jenw.sokol@gmail.com or Erin Evarts at erin@lyrictheatre.org.

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 with any questions.

Link to survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfa0IIBKmq_D4Lwfmf0_r6iVFPnHGaaLK60kqDh25MDQEHypQg/viewform

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
- ★ Vermont Stage presents *The Thin Place* at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, March 23-April 10. Tickets/info: 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
- ★ 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
- ★ For complete statewide listings of live performances, visit theaterengine.com



Enjoy this excerpt and read the full article at <https://sjlmag.com/2022/02/15/valastro-making-memories-with-national-touring-production-of-cats/>

VALASTRO MAKING MEMORIES WITH NATIONAL TOURING PRODUCTION OF *CATS*

By Lee J. Green

Growing up the daughter of her synagogue's musical director and being enchanted by a national Broadway touring production of *Cats* when she was just 11 years old, Elana Valastro knew she wanted to pursue a career in musical theatre. When the "purrfect" opportunity came to audition for the current national Broadway touring show of *Cats* – coming to Birmingham Feb. 17 through 20 – Valastro felt that it was kismet.

"*Cats* was always one of my mom's favorite shows and I was hooked when I first saw it," said Valastro, who is a swing for five different parts in the show. "When I auditioned and got a part it felt like such a beautiful, full-circle moment."

The day after her graduation she started working with a regional summer stock theatre for a few months and then moved to New York City in hopes of making her Broadway dreams come true. She worked on a couple of other productions in the New York City area and then was set to start a professional theatre production in Florida. A few hours before the first show in mid-March of 2020, they announced it was shutting down due to the pandemic.

"I left my apartment in New York and went back home to Vermont," she said. "I helped my mom with some of her musical teaching projects and productions then sent in audition tapes in June of 2020 to the national touring production of *Cats*."

It would be more than a year until she would find out she would be a part of the production. "I got the call in August of 2021 and we started rehearsals right away. It was a quick turnaround but I was so happy. It was something I had wanted for so long," Valastro said she has enjoyed being a part of such an iconic show and being able to travel around the country for the first time. "This will be my first time visiting Birmingham and I'm so looking forward to it."

Already during the tour, she has played all five of her characters — Rumpleteaser, Demeter, Bombalurina, Sillabub and Tantomile. "It has certainly been a challenge to play five very different characters at various times, but it is one I have embraced," she said.



AUDITIONS FOR *INTO THE WOODS*

By Kylie Halpin

Does your winter need a fairytale ending? We are thrilled to announce that auditions for *Into the Woods* will be held May 9-11, 2022, at the Lyric Creative Space. This award-winning production will be premiering November 2022 on the Flynn Mainstage.

- Auditions: May 9-11, 2022
- Callbacks: May 12-13, 2022
- Performances: November 2022

We invite you to journey into storybook world of *Into the Woods*, a dark comedy. Descriptions of the characters that bring this magical story to life are included in this issue.

Don't miss the chance to be a part of this award-winning show that serves as a remarkable tribute to the unique vision and creativity of Stephen Sondheim.



FROM THE LYRIC ARCHIVES

Lyric's first production of *Into the Woods* was presented in April 1997 with this amazing team at the helm:

Production Supervisor: Joann Stanfield

Director: Bob Stanfield

Music Director: Stanley Greenberg

Assistant Music Director: Joseph Antonioli

Movement Director: Tanya Cimonetti

Stage Manager: Karyn Dubie

Assistant Stage Manager: Shari Bergstein

Rehearsal Pianists: Shirley Smith, Tom Cleary

Character Descriptions

Character	Vocal Range	Description
Baker Male Presenting Age: 25-45 <i>Strong Mover/Dancer</i>	G2-G#4 Soloist	Although his actions are not always heroic, the "hero" is a harried baker who leads a simple life with his wife. Desperately wanting a child, he sets out to break a family curse brought on by his father. Along the way, he learns to navigate the twists and turns of marriage and fatherhood. <i>Brave, Stubborn, Overwhelmed, Possesses a Strong Moral Compass</i>
Baker's Wife Female Presenting Age: 25-45 <i>Strong Mover/Dancer</i>	G3-G#5 Soloist	The Baker's Wife is a determined and bright woman who wishes to become a mother more than anything. Not willing to leave the chance for a child in her husband's hands, she follows him into the woods to make sure he succeeds by any means necessary. She reignites the spark in her marriage by pushing personal and social boundaries, but it leaves her questioning whether there is more to life than being married and a mother. <i>Headstrong, Confident, Persuading, Easily Charmed, Motherly</i>
Witch Female Presenting Age: 35-55 <i>Good Mover who needs to be agile (bends, climbs)</i>	F3-G#5 Soloist	The antagonist of the story. The Witch wishes to reverse the curse of "ugliness" cast on her for losing her mother's magic beans. Unfortunately, she soon discovers that the kind of "ugliness" she exudes is more than skin deep. After losing the only person she ever loved, she seeks revenge but finds perspective. <i>Possessive, Vengeful, Manipulative, Disillusioned, Eccentric, Protective</i>
Cinderella Female Presenting Age: 20-35 <i>Strong Mover/Dancer (Choreographed falls on stage)</i>	G3-G#5 Soloist	Cinderella is a simple and mistreated maiden who wants to break free from a dreary and unloving home. When her wish to attend the festival leaves her running from prince charming, she struggles to decide if she is worthy and entrusts the decision to him. In the end, Cinderella must find the courage to choose her own path. <i>Indecisive, Clumsy, Flighty, Brave, Caring</i>
Jack Male Presenting Age: 16-25 <i>Dancer (tumbling a plus)</i>	G2-G#4 Soloist	Jack is an irresponsible boy who is almost a man. Lonely and poor, Jack finds solace in the family's cow until his mother sends him off to sell her. Jack's gigantic adventures begin when he trades the cow for magic beans. Determined to make his mother proud (and wealthy) and get his cow back, he takes his adventures too far and learns that some actions have grave consequences. <i>Youthful, Adventurous, Naïve, Energetic, Bright-eyed, Immature</i>
Little Red Riding Hood Female Presenting Age: 16-25 <i>Strong Mover/Dancer</i>	G3-G#5 Soloist	Little Red is a youthful and naïve girl with a seemingly endless appetite for sweets. Overly confident in her way, she sets out on a journey through the woods but soon finds herself outwitted and devoured by a wolf. Having learned her lesson, she becomes more cautious until another tragic event forces her to leave her carefree childhood behind. <i>Strong-willed, Carefree, Overindulgent, Selfish, Cautious, Feisty</i>

Character	Vocal Range	Description
Narrator/Mysterious Man Male Presenting Age: 50+ <i>Good Mover, agile should be able to crouch</i>	G2-G#4 Soloist	<p>This character plays two very different but essential roles. The Narrator is an intellectual and pleasant storyteller, while the Mysterious Man is a nosy meddler who is protective and observant. The audience eventually discovers they are the same person and that their roles as storyteller and father are passed down to the Baker.</p> <p><i>Animated, Worldly, Pleasant Weathered, Withdrawn, Quirky, Guilt-Ridden</i></p>
Jack's Mother Female Presenting Age: 30-50 <i>Good Mover</i>	G3-G#5 Soloist	<p>Jack's Mother is a frazzled and penniless single mother who loves her son but wishes he would take on more responsibility. However, when Jack discovers a big new world, she struggles to reign him in and finds it may be too late to protect him.</p> <p><i>Weary, Worn, Strong-willed, Nagging, Protective</i></p>
Cinderella's Prince/Wolf Male Presenting Age: 20 -35 <i>Dancer</i>	G2-G#4 Soloist	<p>Though charming, handsome, and seemingly perfect, Cinderella's Prince thinks his royal birth entitles him to take anything, and anyone, he wants. This playboy is used to all the accolades without deserving one of them. He says it himself, "I was raised to be charming, not sincere."</p> <p>The wolf is a hungry and insatiable hunter who takes advantage of the weak by misleading and tricking his prey. He finds Little Red irresistible, much like his counterpart.</p> <p><i>Self-centered, Immoral, Shameless, Arrogant, Confident, Charming</i></p>
Rapunzel's Prince Male Presenting Age: 20-35 <i>Good Mover</i>	G2-G#4 Soloist	<p>Charming, handsome, and almost as perfect as his brother, Rapunzel's Prince seeks his own adventures but doesn't fare as well as his brother. Upon falling in love with a fair maiden in a tower, he realizes marriage might be too much work for a prince.</p> <p><i>Adoring, Egotistical, Competitive, Annoyed, Self-Confident</i></p>
Rapunzel Female Presenting Age: 25-35 <i>Good Mover</i>	G3-Bb5 Soloist	<p>Raised and locked away by the Witch, Rapunzel grew up confined to a tower in the woods; and even though she escapes to start a new life, she struggles to maintain her sanity after her distressing upbringing.</p> <p><i>Sheltered, Overwhelmed, Unaware, Unglued</i></p>
Cinderella's Stepmother Female Presenting Age: 40-55 <i>Good Mover</i>	G3-G#5 Soloist	<p>Greedy, selfish, and mean-spirited, Cinderella's Stepmother wants what is best for herself and her two daughters, but not Cinderella. She will do anything to climb the social ladder.</p> <p><i>Greedy, Haughty, Cruel, Desperate</i></p>
Florinda Female Presenting Age: 18-30 <i>Good Mover</i>	G3-G#5 Soloist	<p>Greedy, selfish, and mean-spirited, Florinda follows her mother's lead in abusing Cinderella.</p> <p><i>Jealous, Vain, Comical, Haughty, Cruel</i></p>
Lucinda Female Presenting Age: 18-30 <i>Good Mover</i>	G3-G#5 Soloist	<p>Greedy, selfish, and mean-spirited, Lucinda follows her mother's lead in abusing Cinderella.</p> <p><i>Jealous, Vain, Comical, Haughty, Cruel</i></p>

Character	Vocal Range	Description
Cinderella's Father Male Presenting Age: 40-60 <i>Good Mover</i>	G2-G#4 Ensemble	Cinderella's Father is a spineless man who stands by and allows his wife and stepdaughters to mistreat Cinderella. <i>Apathetic, Indifferent, Depressed, Coward</i>
Steward Male Presenting Age: Any <i>Good Mover</i>	G2-G#4 Ensemble	The Steward serves the royal family and uses any means to solve a problem. He answers only to the royals and uses his position to intimidate anyone below his social class. <i>Arrogant, Direct, Decisive, Willful</i>
Cinderella's Mother/ Granny/Giant/ Female Presenting Age: 40-60 <i>Good Mover</i>	G3-G#5 Soloist	This person will play three very different but important characters. <u>Cinderella's Mother:</u> She appears as a ghostly figure and provides wisdom and wishes when needed. <i>Wise, Caring, Persistent</i> <u>Granny:</u> <i>Feisty</i> , and <i>vengeful</i> . This little old lady is angry and takes revenge on the wolf. She's shocking in a funny way—a great comedic role. <u>Giant:</u> The Giant's wife, our 2 nd antagonist, seeks restitution for her loss. She is deceived by Jack and seeks justice for her husband. (Voice Over Only) <i>Angry, Hurt, Betrayed</i>
Milky White Female Presenting Age: Any <i>Strong Agile Mover (Will need to bend at the waist for an extended period.)</i>	G3-G#5 or G2-G#4 Ensemble	Milky White is Jack's beloved cow, as white as milk. Unable to produce milk anymore, Jack's mother tells Jack that they have no choice but to sell her. She is one of the four objects needed to break the Witch's curse. (We are looking for a strong, flexible mover with great comedic timing. This person will be required to wear a cow costume and may involve some puppeteering. They will sing & dance in the ensemble)
Sleeping Beauty/Wood Nymph Female Presenting Age:16-35 <i>Dancer</i>	G3-G#5 Ensemble	Sleeping Beauty catches the attention of Cinderella's Prince in the 2 nd Act. For the rest of the show, this character will serve as a wood nymph, dancing and singing throughout the show. <i>Graceful & Magical</i>
Snow White /Wood Nymph Female Presenting Age: 16-35 <i>Dancer</i>	G3-G#5 Ensemble	Snow White catches the attention of Rapunzel's Prince in the 2 nd Act. For the rest of the show, this character will serve as a wood nymph, dancing and singing throughout the show. <i>Graceful & Magical</i>



7 Green Tree Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403

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, 2022



**Countdown to Opening Night for
Lyric's triumphant return to the Flynn**

AT YOUR SERVICE—LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY BOARD & STAFF

Rachel Bruce Drew	rachelbdrew@gmail.com
Kerry Farrell	
Cheri Forsythe	
Jane Harissis	vitsivan@aol.com
Tim Henderson	zeyde88@gmail.com
Howard Kalfus	hkalfus@comcast.net
Steve Kendall	stepkend@comcast.net
Mary Margaret Lee	MaryMLVT@gmail.com
Serena Magnan O'Connell	serenamagnan@hotmail.com
Shane McCormack	smccormack@pfclaw.com
MaryBeth Nuovo	mbnuovo@aol.com
Andy Pearson	apearson@sbschools.net
Rebecca Raskin	rebeccaraskin@msn.com
Hillary Read	hbread@gmail.com
Nate Venet	natevenet@gmail.com
Jennifer Warwick	jenw.sokol@gmail.com
Dorothy Wright	
Erin Evarts, <i>Executive Director</i>	erin@lyrictheatrevt.org
Doris O'Brien, <i>Bookkeeper</i>	doris@lyrictheatrevt.org
Ryan Addario, <i>Dev. & Marketing Coordinator</i>	office@lyrictheatrevt.org

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: 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

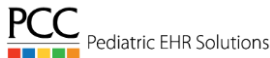
Production Selection and Evaluation (Chair: Jane Harissis): 4th Wednesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., Lyric Office

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.)

