

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The warmth and sunshine have returned to Green Tree Drive, along with a flurry of auditions, rehearsals, and meetings, in preparation for a busy season ahead. We are so inspired by all the activity, and excited for everything in the works this year at Lyric. This past month we cast the next two productions on the schedule – our summer TYA show, *Ivy + Bean*, as well as our next MainStage production, *Into the Woods*. We are thrilled to welcome 14 new performers to Lyric through these productions, and so grateful for all those who shared themselves with us at auditions, on top of the dozens of volunteers making things happen behind the scenes. On behalf of Lyric – thank you one and all!

While we are busy looking ahead, I need to draw your attention to the conclusion of our fiscal year at the end of this month. We are so close to reaching our fundraising goal, but there is very little time left to give. If you have not yet donated to Lyric this year, or are inspired to give again, please head over to our website to support Lyric now. We simply cannot do all the work we have come to expect from ourselves without generous support from our membership and the community. Let's send Lyric towards its celebratory 50th Anniversary Season with all the momentum it deserves!

Gratefully,
Erin



TUNE IN FOR THE TONY AWARDS

The Great White Way is working hard to rebound after the COVID shutdown. Broadway fans are excited by the abundance and variety of nominees for this year's Tony Awards. Twenty-nine productions are represented.

This year's ceremony will be hosted by Academy Award winner Ariana DuBose on Sunday, June 12, from the stage of Radio City Music Hall. The broadcast will air live beginning at 8:00 p.m. on CBS and will stream live on Paramount+. Angela Lansbury will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Tony Award.

See the full list of nominees here and see how many winners you can predict:
<https://www.tonyawards.com/news/2022-tony-awards-nominations/>



CELEBRATE LYRIC'S 50TH BY PROPOSING NOW FOR FALL 2023 OR SPRING 2024 SHOWS!

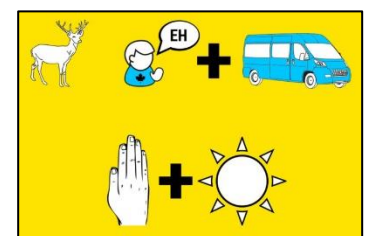
*By Jen Warwick, Vice Chair,
Production Selection Committee*

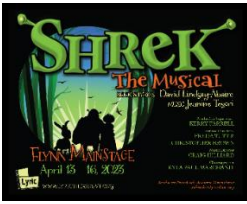
We are fast approaching Lyric's 50th season and the Production Selection Committee is looking for a blockbuster season of shows! Help us find two great shows by proposing a show of your choosing for Fall 2023 or by choosing from one of three for Spring 2024. Spring 2024 blockbuster shows chosen by Lyric members, audiences, and the Production Selection Committee members are *The Wizard of Oz*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Sound of Music*.

We are seeking core team members initially (Producer, Director, Music Director, and Stage Manager – note that some of the team should have some kind of MainStage team experience). Please contact Jen Warwick at jenw.sokol@gmail.com or Erin Evarts at erin@lyrictheatrevt.org for guidance and information. We can help you through the entire process. Deadline for proposal submissions is July 1. Let's show Vermont how theatre is done!

BROADWAY REBUSES

See more at <https://playbill.com/article/its-a-puzzlement-tease-your-brain-with-broadway-rebuses> [Answers elsewhere in this issue]





MUSINGS FROM THE SWAMP

Your monthly *Spotlight* update on our Spring 2023 Mainstage production of *Shrek*

Hello, Christopher Brown and Freda Tutt here! We wanted to spend a little time in this month's *Spotlight* highlighting some of the themes of *Shrek* and how they resonate with us as individuals and as your co-artistic directors for our upcoming production. We believe that the "why" behind doing a show and the team's connection to the story is a vital part of the creation process and look forward to sharing our thoughts along the way.

Christopher – Theme: Friendship can appear in unexpected places.

One of the central friendships that develops in this show is that between Donkey and Shrek. This unlikely duo fights a dragon, save a princess, and face off with a short-statured king all while remaining at each other's sides. They didn't necessarily set out to form a bond, but by letting their guards down, learning to trust each other, and letting go of preconceived notions, the two create a spectacular unit.

Without being too cheesy, this reminds me of what I've seen and experienced many times throughout my years with Lyric. When I was cast in my first show in 2006 (*Seussical*), I had a few casual connections, but couldn't say I was "friends" with anyone in the show. Boy, did that change. Through our shared experiences and collaboration, I ended up with some incredible friendships that have sustained and continued to grow over those 15 years. One of those friendships just happens to be my co-artistic director, Freda. Who knew that sharing a cage on stage (as circus animals) would lead to this incredible and dynamic creative partnership and friendship? And how great it is that we get to share this theme with our team, future cast, and the community at large when we mount the stage in just under a year.

Freda – Theme: What makes us special makes us strong

One of the main themes in *Shrek* is that no one is the same. Pinocchio, the Ugly Duckling, the Big Bad Wolf, Shrek, and yes – even Princess Fiona – are characters that are all a little bit different. They are quirky, but it's those differences that make them strong. It's about outsiders finding a place to fit in. It's a relatable message for just about anyone in a time when many are searching for their own identities. It's a nice sense of power knowing that they don't have to be like everyone else to fit in. The characters find that. Our actors will feel that. And the audience is going to get that as well.

I've always known that I was different ever since I was a child. I couldn't help but to effortlessly be the odd one out. I was the short, fat, unathletic, unpopular kid. Growing up, this upset me. I wanted to be cool and fit in. But as I grew older, I realized how much I actually loved being different. Now, I embrace my individuality. I love it and it's what makes me, well, me. So why is being

different a good thing? Because everyone is different anyway so you might as well be your own kind of different.

When I found Lyric, I found my tribe. They were like me. I knew I could count on my tribe to be there for me whenever I needed anything. As Christopher said, who knew that people so different as a poodle and a drum tummy that shared a cage would form such a strong, creative friendship 15 years later. Like the characters in *Shrek*, there were so many other "different" people at Lyric. By celebrating and embracing those differences to mount a production, we can make MAGIC! Embrace and love who you are. Let your quirkiness shine. Flip your flaws and own them. Be FLAWSOME!!



SEEKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND VETERANS FOR LYRIC'S OPEN HOUSE

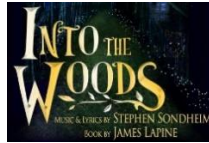
ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, FROM 1:00-4:00 PM

Lyric is looking for new members or current members with interest in working on Lyric productions of all kinds. The Production Selection, PR/Development, Membership, and Education Committees are working together as an ad-hoc committee to put on this Open House event. We could use several more committee members to help plan and run the event. We are also looking for veteran Lyric members with experience as MainStage team members or crew chiefs to share their expertise at the event.

The event will be an opportunity for any interested to come see how the 'Lyric Machine' works. We are looking for veterans from each department (i.e., set construction, properties, stage management, lighting, publicity, etc.) to be available and/or demonstrate what is involved for putting on a production. The entire facility will be open for all to check out and wander according to their interests. Would you like to learn how sets are designed, engineered, built, and painted? How about what's involved being a Producer or Artistic Director? Maybe learn about lighting a show? This will be the event! Families welcome as we plan to have a children's corner as well.

Please consider helping us find the next generation of crew and team members. Please contact Jane Harissis at vitsivan@aol.com or Rachel Drew at Rachelbdrew@gmail.com to volunteer or for more information. Of course, if you already know you'd like to be part of a crew or team, contact us immediately and we will get you involved! No experience is necessary – just an interest.

***Jane Harissis, Production Selection Chair
and Rachel Drew, PR/Development Chair***



Cast

Baker	Connor Kendall
Baker's Wife	Stefanie Weigand*
Witch	Laura Wolfsen*
Cinderella	Merrill Cameron
Jack	Connor Eaton*
Little Red Riding Hood	Anneka Shepherd
Narrator/Mysterious Man	Eamon Lynch*
Jack's Mother	Brit Flynn
Cinderella's Prince/Wolf	Owen Leavey*
Rapunzel's Prince	Johnny Viel
Rapunzel	Stephanie June*
Cinderella's Stepmother	Suzanna Miller
Florinda	Lianna Roque*
Lucinda	Sabrina Sydnor
Cinderella's Father	Peter Carlile
Steward	James Stanton
Cinderella's Mother/ Granny/Giant	Betsy Whyte
Milky White	Alyssa Cahill*
Sleeping Beauty/Wood Nymph	Holly Ray Sherrer*
Snow White/Wood Nymph	Caitlin Balón*

*Denotes first time in a Lyric MainStage Production

ON OTHER STAGES

- ★ Vermont Stage presents *Lifespan of a Fact* at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, June 1-19. Tickets/info: vermontstage.org
- ★ Lamoille County Players' summer season includes *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 *Tru*, July 1-2; *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
- ★ Lost Nation Theater presents Abby Paige and her *Les Filles du Quoi?*, July 16-26; Maura O'Brien in *Both Eyes Open: The Annie Oakley Story*, September 8-18; and *Stephen Sondheim Review*, October 6-23. Tickets/info: lostnationtheater.org
- ★ Thinking ahead to fall, Shelburne Players present *Almost, Maine* by John Cariani. Dates TBD. Info: shelburneplayers.com
- ★ The Flynn Center's Broadway lineup for the upcoming season includes *Chicago*, October 6; *Anastasia*, January 22 and 23; *The Book of Mormon*, February 28, March 1 and 2; *Legally Blonde the Musical*, November 30; and *Stomp*, April 23. Tickets/info: flynnvt.org

ANSWERS TO REBUSES: *Hamilton*; *Dear Evan Hansen*



Cast List

Bean: Rachel Solomon*

Ivy: Rachel Durante

Nancy: Jamie Roberts

Mom: Meg Clary

Dad: Ryan Poulin*

Leo: Brendan Rice*

Zuzu: Nuala Dougherty*

Sophie W: Abby Lord

* Denotes first time in a Lyric Production

Production Supervisor: Julianne Nickerson
 Director: Becky Millard
 Music Director: Cameron Brownell
 Choreographer: Carlyne Sandoval
 Stage Manager: Vanessa George



ivy + BEAN

THE MUSICAL

You're invited to FREE outdoor performances of *Ivy + Bean* on August 6, Dorothy Alling Library; August 13, Fletcher Free Library; and August 20, Shelburne Museum.



**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 August issue: July 28, 2022

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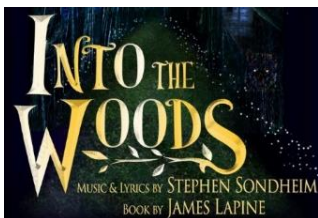
Lyric Office Address: 7 Green Tree Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403

**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: 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: Howard Kalfus): 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office

LYRIC SPOTLIGHT TAKES A VACATION IN JULY

The *Spotlight* takes a vacation in July so your editor can "play" with another group of volunteers. Looking for a delightful way to spend a summer afternoon or evening? Venture along historic Route 7 to Middlebury for the **43rd Annual Middlebury Summer Festival on-the-Green**. This year's Festival will be held under the big white tent on the Village Green in the heart of Addison County's Shire Town during the week of July 10-16, 2022. This free music series is supported by community donations. For info, visit www.festivalonthegreen.org.



**November 10-13, 2022
Flynn Center MainStage
Burlington, VT**

**Sponsor information
coming soon!**