

## RIGHT BACK INTO THE FRAY (WOODS)

By Erin Evarts, Executive Director

Finally seeing *Matilda* on stage was such a wonderful moment! A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make that possible. I hope you had an opportunity to enjoy what a huge success it was for our organization, and for so many of us personally. After the last two years of uncertainty and challenges it was certainly joyous to be with so many of you to celebrate Lyric's return to Main Stage productions.

Without missing a beat, we are headed right back into auditions for our upcoming productions. I hope to see you at *Into the Woods* kick-off and auditions in early May, and then *Ivy & Bean* auditions later in the month. Stay tuned to Lyric's website to keep up to date on everything that is going on.

Lastly, you'll notice in the coming weeks our Spring Appeal letters will be sent out. Please consider taking a moment and supporting Lyric financially. Not having Main Stage shows for the last two years has been a challenge, but we hope that with your support we can end the year strong. There are many ways to give, and they are all appreciated.

See you soon!

## A TRADITION CONTINUES: DELANO-NULTY AWARD

This year, Lyric Theatre Company is once again offering 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. We encourage all Lyric members to talk about this opportunity with the young performers in their lives, to help spread the word. Registrations are now live, and all application materials are available on our website at

<https://lyrictheatrevt.org/education/delano-nulty-award/>.

## LYRICKIDS REGISTRATIONS

Registrations for summer camp have been coming in steadily via our website—

<https://lyrictheatrevt.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.



## KICK-OFF AND AUDITIONS FOR INTO THE WOODS

The journey *Into the Woods* is about to begin! Please join us at our informational kick-off meeting for Lyric's upcoming production of *Into the Woods* on Wednesday, May 4. Kick-off serves as an opportunity to hear all about auditions and rehearsal expectations, as well as a chance to sign up for volunteer opportunities on our technical crews, and to mingle with Lyric members new and old!

Auditions for *Into the Woods* begin May 9-11 with callbacks on May 12-13 at the Lyric Creative Space. Check out Lyric's website for more information.

We hope to see you there!

—Serena Magnan O'Connell, Production Supervisor

## MATILDA ... FINAL THANKS

By Rob Parzych, Production Supervisor

As we wrap up the final details for *Matilda*, I would like to thank the membership for their fervent support and encouragement. We turned out a fantastic show, and it was terrific to see so many of our Lyric family in attendance!

I will be ever grateful to the entire team. The creativity and spectacle created were of a magnitude that will set the Lyric bar at a new height, yet again. We are REALLY good at this! Thank you!

It was truly a magical show week. See you soon!

—Rob

## LYRIC'S GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

We have some big plans in the works to celebrate and honor the extraordinary *half-century* of Lyric Theatre Company next year. If you would like to join in the discussions around planning Lyric's upcoming 50th Anniversary Season, please write to [office@lyrictheatrevt.org](mailto:office@lyrictheatrevt.org) to take part!

## SPOTLIGHT SHOUT-OUT

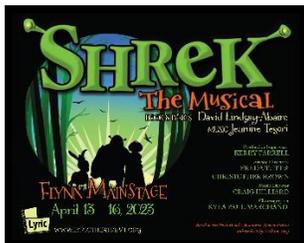
### By Serena Magnan O'Connell

This month the Membership Committee would like to give Kim Steinfeld and her crew of dressers for *Matilda* a Spotlight shout-out. Kim stepped into the role when the original head dresser was unable to continue for *Matilda* 2.0 and she didn't miss a beat. As soon as *Matilda* 2.0 was cast, Kim went right to work reviewing the old head dresser notes and creating a plan for ensuring that the cast was on stage, on time, and in the right costume! She spent hours watching rehearsals, reviewing the script, and preparing. She started recruiting dressers early in February and discovered it was not an easy task to find dressers. But this didn't stop her. Kim thought outside the box by enlisting people who have never volunteered with Lyric before or have never dressed but she knew would be great in the role.

As the show approached Kim was met with a few challenges. One of them was devastating to not only the costume team but also Lyric as a whole. Janet Bessmer was slated to be Matilda's dresser for the run of the show, but she suddenly died a week before move-in to the Flynn. The costume goddesses and Kim, while mourning the loss of a friend, were faced with filling her shoes. Kim had to reassign and reconfigure her dressing plots.

Margaret Spivack stepped right into the role of dresser for Matilda and the rest of the crew adjusted. Kim never wavered from her job and always had a smile on her face. She was a constant for both cast and crew to come to with questions and concerns. And that is why the Membership Committee is shining the light on Kim and her crew for their professionalism, attention to detail, adaptability, and commitment to *Matilda* and Lyric.

Dressing crew members (listed alphabetically): Leah Burke, Moira Daly, Laurie Dana, Dawn Dudley, Kerry Farrell, Maureen Frasier, Lauren Genta, Alison Hopkins, Sharon Patno, Anna Rossi, and Candice Wakling. And thanks to the make-up/hair crew for playing backup!



## ANNOUNCING SHREK THE MUSICAL: SPRING 2023

### By Kerry Farrell

Now that the Ogre is out of the swamp, the Shrek Artistic Team wants to introduce themselves and share some important dates and information!

For those that are not familiar with the show, *Shrek the Musical* is a one-of-a-kind, hilarious fairy tale in which curses are reversed, monsters get the girls, donkeys and dragons find love, and princesses are beautiful in all shapes and sizes. Irreverently fun for the whole family, Shrek proves that beauty is truly in the eye of the ogre. It offers options for a large cast (40+) ranging in age from 8

to 80+, with seven leads, and many featured and ensemble opportunities.

The artistic team is a mixture of veterans and people new to their roles but not new to Lyric. Let's meet them!

**Production Supervisor, Kerry Farrell:** That is me! This is my first time producing a Lyric Main Stage production and I could not be more delighted and nervous. I joined Lyric in 2010 and typically I can be found in the costume shop designing and I produced *Lyric's 18 Below: Legends in the Making* this past summer. It was a good introduction to the role of producer. I will work hard with my fantastic team to bring *Shrek* and his fairy tale friends to life on the main stage.

**Co-Artistic Director, Freda Tutt:** Freda has been a member of Lyric since 1998 and in that time has performed on stage with Lyric, has stage managed, co-produced and has worked on every crew except hair. Assistant directing with notable Lyric directors led her to co-direct *Addams Family* and *Lyric's 18 Below* with Christopher Brown. *Matilda* marked Freda's retirement from stage management, and she is ready to jump back into the director's chair!

**Co-Artistic Director, Christopher Brown:** Christopher began his love affair with Lyric in 1998, sitting in the audience for *The Wizard of Oz*, thinking to himself "I HAVE to get up there someday!" Someday finally came in 2006 when cast in *Seussical, the Musical*. Since then, he has been on stage for several shows, worked promotions, sound, and make-up crews, directed several First Night showcases, assistant choreographed *9 to 5*, co-directed *The Addams Family* and *Lyric's 18 Below: Legends in the Making*. Most recently Christopher performed as a big kid in *Matilda*. While he enjoyed acting like a child, he is eager to start the journey of directing *Shrek*.

**Music Director, Craig Hilliard:** Craig is a long-time member of Lyric. He began in 1990 when he played in the orchestra for *Guys and Dolls*. He has music directed nine main stage shows for Lyric. The first show he music directed was the *Fantasticks* in 1994 and his most recent was *Mamma Mia* in 2019. When Craig is not behind a piano you can find him working as a Systems Analyst for an aerospace and defense company based in Maryland or cheering on the Red Sox. He has been known to listen to a game while conducting a rehearsal!

**Choreographer, Kyla Paul Marchand:** Kyla grew up in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont and began dancing at the age of four. Kyla has performed with many companies around Burlington. Her most notable on-stage roles were Judy Haynes in *Lyric's White Christmas* (2015), and principal dancer in *Farm to Ballet* (2015-2017). Her choreography credits include Neat with a Twist's *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at the Vermont Comedy Club, *Burlington Does Broadway 2019*, and *Lyric's Songs for a New World, 2020*. When Kyla is not dancing around town, she is a project manager at Champlain College in the Marketing Department.

**Assistant Choreographer, Ellie Wallace:** Ellie is our newest member of Lyric, joining last fall, but don't let that fool you. She has over 25 years of dance experience and is a teacher at Spotlight on Dance. She currently works in marketing as a brand specialist. Ellie is jubilant to join the green team and looking forward to working with Kyla.

**Stage Manager, Sarah Crowley:** Sarah's first show was 2011 when she was a member of the make-up team and since then has worked on 12 productions. She was assistant stage manager for *Mamma Mia* and stage manager for *The Addams Family* and is excited to reunite with some of her Addams Family. When she is not volunteering, she travels all over New England providing hair and make-up services to bridal parties.

**Assistant Stage Manager, Sarah Wright:** Sarah joined Lyric in 2015 when she was a cast member in *White Christmas*. She has also performed in *The Who's Tommy*, *9-5*, and *Mamma Mia*. After stage managing *Moonlight in Vermont* this summer, she found herself very interested in learning the role for the main stage. She is delighted to work with Sarah Crowley and venture into this role.

### Important Dates

Kick-off: January 4, 2023

Auditions and Callbacks: January 8-13, 2023

First Rehearsal: January 16, 2023

Stay tuned for more information over the summer!

### ON OTHER STAGES

★ Vermont Stage presents *Annapurna* at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, May 4-15. Tickets/info: [vermontstage.org](http://vermontstage.org)

★ Neat, with a Twist presents *Pride & Prejudice*, May 5-8, at Isham Family Farm in Williston. Tickets/info: [ishamfamilyfarm.com/firstearth-summer-series/](http://ishamfamilyfarm.com/firstearth-summer-series/)

★ 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)

★ The Flynn Center's Broadway lineup continues with *Jersey Boys*, May 31. Tickets/info: [flynnvt.org](http://flynnvt.org)

★ 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](http://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: [lostonationtheater.org](http://lostonationtheater.org)

★ Thinking ahead to fall, Shelburne Players present *Almost, Maine* by John Cariani. Dates TBD. Info: [shelburneplayers.com](http://shelburneplayers.com)

★ For complete statewide listings of live performances, visit [theaterengine.com](http://theaterengine.com)

## 5 FACTS WE LEARNED ABOUT *INTO THE WOODS* DURING THE ORIGINAL-CAST REUNION

By David Gordon

Excerpts included here. To read the full story and see photos, go to [https://www.theatermania.com/broadway/news/5-facts-we-learned-into-the-woods-reunion\\_73309.html](https://www.theatermania.com/broadway/news/5-facts-we-learned-into-the-woods-reunion_73309.html)

### 1. The origin story of "I'm in the Wrong Story."

Stephen Sondheim admitted that the first and "only" line he ever stole from an actor is "I'm in the wrong story." The "Any Moment" lyric came out of a conversation he was having with Joanna Gleason, as they tried to parse out the Baker's Wife's seduction at the hands of Cinderella's Prince.

### 2. Cinderella and Cinderella's Prince are actually married in real life.

When Robert Westenberg, who played the Wolf and Cinderella's Prince, walked into the first day of rehearsals, he surveyed the room and got a little apprehensive. Then he spotted a beautiful woman. When he asked Tom Aldredge, the original Narrator and Mysterious Man, who she was, Aldredge replied, "That's your wife." Of course, what he meant was that Kim Crosby was playing Cinderella. Four years later, Westenberg and Crosby were married in real life, and they currently live with their children in Springfield, Missouri.

### 3. What "No One Is Alone" actually means.

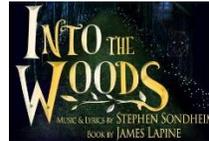
While many believe that "No One Is Alone" means that no person is actually alone in this world, Sondheim noted that his intentions for the song was to show that "every action you take has a reaction, and everything you do affects everything around you."

### 4. The Witch's transformation is revealed.

James Lapine spilled the beans on the Witch's split-second first-act transformation, in which she goes from evil old hag to beautiful, statuesque model. They used a body double, a figure who acted the part and could lip-sync dialogue that Bernadette Peters pre-recorded, while Peters made a lightning-fast quick change below the stage. Kim Crosby recalled that, as Peters had several dressers tearing off parts of her Witch costume, all Peters had to do was apply lipstick.

### 5. *Into the Woods* was almost a television show.

According to Sondheim and Lapine, *Into the Woods* came about because Sondheim wanted to write a "quest" musical (where the characters went on a journey to find something, like in *The Wizard of Oz*), and Lapine had the desire to write a fairytale. But the idea of doing a fairytale mash-up was inspired by a TV show the pair pitched to Norman Lear, which brought the characters from shows like *Doctor Kildare* and *Father Knows Best* and *I Love Lucy* into the central location of a hospital (sort of like the current TV show *Once Upon a Time*). Lear loved the idea, but wanted a screenplay from the writers, who declined to write one and moved on to *Into the Woods*.



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Distribution questions? Call 802-658-1484.

**Deadline for June issue: May 28, 2022**

**Hope to see you at kick-off and auditions!**

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**MEETING TIMES FOR LYRIC'S STANDING COMMITTEES**

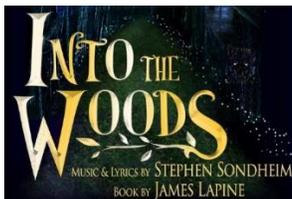
**MEETING VIRTUALLY FOR NOW**

**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

**SAVE THE DATE: LYRIC OPEN HOUSE EVENT**

**By Rachel Bruce Drew**

Save the date! On Saturday, August 27, we will be hosting our first ever Lyric Open House event. Are you a Lyric fan who has been dreaming of getting more involved, but not sure where to start? Are you a current Lyric member interested in learning about new roles you could step into? Join us at the Lyric Creative Space to talk with Lyric veterans and explore all the different ways you can be more involved in the Lyric community. More details to come!



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

**Sponsor information  
coming soon!**