

“A LIGHT TOO LOVELY FOR WORDS” EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

By Erin Evarts

September brings with it school, crisp evenings, and this year, a return to our fall Main Stage show! *Into the Woods* is now fully into their rehearsals and it is very exciting to have the space humming with the sounds of Sondheim. Tickets are now on sale for Lyric members for our 49th Season; go to FLYNNVT.org to get your tickets today, then tell friends and family to grab their seats starting September 6.

A huge thank you to everyone who came out to support our beautiful production of *Ivy + Bean*, helping to make our second annual Theater for Young Audiences (TYA) production such a huge success. Innovation like this is how we make the arts accessible for more members of our community and continue to grow as an organization. Thank you to our incredible team, sponsors, and partners who made it possible for the community to attend, free-of-charge!

In addition to our Lyric productions, we held a wildly successful volunteer recruitment event on Saturday, August 27. Thank you, Jane Harissis and Rachel Bruce Drew, for spearheading reCREWt and helping Lyric reach so many new and interested volunteers.

With a number of upcoming events on the horizon, I hope you take some time to pencil these dates into your calendar!

- Season 49 tickets on sale to the public: September 6
- Mystery Movie Night: September 17
- Annual Meeting: October 9

Looking forward to seeing many of you in the coming months!

INAUGURAL reCREWt! EVENT – A GREAT SUCCESS By Rachel Drew

On Saturday, August 27, Lyric held its first “reCREWt” volunteer opportunity fair. Despite competition from the Champlain Valley Fair and the gorgeous August day, we welcomed 26 brand-new-to-Lyric folks through our doors. They were able to speak with our knowledgeable Lyric veteran volunteers, view demonstrations, and tour the Creative Space. Almost everyone who attended the event signed up for one or more of our crews, which means that our Lyric community will be welcoming new members. Due to the success of the event, we hope to make it an annual occurrence. On behalf of the Lyric community, we send our thanks to the volunteers who once again gave their time, expertise, and enthusiasm to help continue telling the Lyric story.



ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

By Serena Magnan O’Connell

Save the date for Lyric’s Annual Meeting – Sunday, October 9, 2022, at the St. John’s Club in Burlington. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Come vote on our new Board members, do the business of Lyric, and celebrate another fantastic year! Invitation to follow.



OPTIONS FOR SPRING 2024

BLOCKBUSTER SHOW EXPANDED!

By Jane Harissis, Production Selection Chair

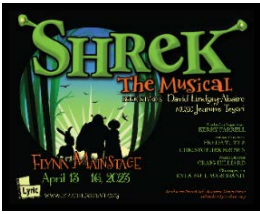
We are fast approaching Lyric’s 50th season and the Production Selection Committee is looking for a blockbuster show for Spring 2024! The list of blockbusters that we would like to see in this slot are chosen by Lyric members, audiences, and the Production Selection Committee. They are the following: *The Wizard of Oz*, *Beauty and the Beast*, or *The Sound of Music*.

Not enough for you? We have now expanded the list to include *Kinky Boots*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Cinderella*, *Grease*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *West Side Story*, or *Singin’ in the Rain*.

We are seeking core team members initially (Production Supervisor, Director, Musical Director, and Choreographer, noting that the Production Supervisor and Director should have mainstage team experience or the equivalent). Contact Jane Harissis, vitsivan@aol.com or 802-249-2039, or Erin Evarts, erin@lyrictheatrevt.org, for guidance and information. We can help you through the entire process. Deadline for the Spring 2024 proposal submissions will be this November 2022. Let us show Vermont how theater is done!

CORRECTING AN OOPS IN THE AUGUST ISSUE

The Lighting Designer for *Shrek* is Roya Millard – not Roya Miller.



MORE MUSINGS FROM THE SWAMP

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

This month we're happy to share some team member highlights from a few of the people who help make sure the show looks incredible! These creative and colorful characters will transform the black-and-brick stage at the Flynn into the swamps, forests, towers, and castles of Duloc and beyond. They'll transform our human cast into ogres, donkeys, mice, fairies, cookies, and more fairytale creatures through the magic of prosthetics and costumes. They'll craft books, swords, flowers, musical instruments, and more props – but don't touch them unless they're assigned to you!

I'd also like to introduce the Promotions Co-chairs, Alex Venet and myself, Hannah Normandeau. We're going to help make sure that everyone in the state knows about this incredible production, and comes out to audition, to volunteer, and to buy out all the seats at the Flynn!

Lesley Graham: Props

Lesley joined Lyric on the prop team for *Titanic* in 2012. She says: Why take part in a Lyric production? Why take part in *Shrek the Musical*? The "why" is it makes my heart sing. What sets it humming is listening to the many characters who populate our swamp: the light-managing ones who know about gels and intensities, the technical ones who know just how many pipes are in the fly space of the Flynn and what can be hung on them without causing mayhem, the make-up ones who can alter and heighten the looks of the actors, the costumers who can make their vision come to life with yards of fabric, the artistic team who take what's on the page and bring it to life, or the set-designers who have to be able to build sets that are both amazing to look at but can get on and off stage as the director wants them to move. I have my place in this swamp while I make "stuff out of stuff" with my wonderful fellow prop people.

Just like the evicted fairytale creatures, we come together with our varied knowledge and strengths, and what we present to the audiences amazes me every time. What really sends my heart into showstopping belting diva levels is the Monday or Tuesday night of production week when crews are starting to get in the groove and mesh with the cast who've been working so hard in rehearsals. Like the fairytale creatures banding together to demand their rights and representation, we band together to bring joy to our audiences! And like the fairytale creatures we do it together and draw strength from one another! That 'whiz-bang wow' is why I participate time and time again. I love working on all our parts, collaborating, and bringing it together for audiences and being able to say "yes, I was a part of that."

Kelley Lane: Prosthetics

Kelley joined the Lyric family in 1995 on the make-up crew. There are many themes to *Shrek*, but I would have to choose friendship. I like the unlikely friendships that grow throughout the story. We see the characters change and grow through humility, humor, integrity, and kindness. I like the way this fairytale challenges us to think outside of the box when it comes to our own expectations. The journey is what you make of it, and you should never "judge a book by its cover."

This reminds me of why I joined the Lyric family – the inclusivity and longtime friendships acquired throughout the years are very rewarding. I look forward to meeting new members and continued friendships. Meet you at "The Swamp!"

Leah Burke: Costume Design

I first began doing a little sewing for *The Producers* in 2014. I did a bit of sewing for *White Christmas*, and more for *A Christmas Story*, and then took over the Sewing Construction Chair position for *Addams Family*, *Matilda*, and now *Into the Woods*. It will be my first time as a Costume Designer for *Shrek*.

There are so many wonderful themes in *Shrek* — the importance of friendship, the problems with judging a person by their appearance, and the wonderful part of being different. I think for me, the theatre has always been a place where differences are more encouraged than in other areas of life. Theatre certainly helped me feel accepted when I was in high school and gave me a place to express myself and be in the spotlight. Then as a mother, I could contribute to my daughter's experiences by sewing costumes, which gave me a creative outlet while I was still working in a demanding profession. I love the inclusiveness of Lyric and the way that roles can change for people over time. I know some of the costume crew who have been with Lyric for many years started off on the stage, and now continue to contribute by doing the work they do backstage. For me, it has given me a wonderful creative focus for my retirement years. (I retired as a physician and professor in December of 2020.)

Ann Vivian: Co-Set Design & Colorist

I started with Lyric as a Prop Parent backstage in 1996, making sure our 11-year-old son didn't trip up any *Oklahoma* actors! The first Lyric set I co-designed with husband Doug Viehmann was *Guys and Dolls* (and since we had designed drops with lots of painted windows, somebody wrangled us into set painting as well! NYC is tall buildings which do have lots and lots of windows!) The audible collective gasp of the audience when the curtain went up on our version of Broadway was totally unexpected, and something I'll never forget! I was hooked! Designs for a number of shows and other pre-production roles have followed, with lots of wonderful memories of building and painting crews, load-ins, and strikes...and many lasting friendships forged along the way.

Shrek is continuous motion ... there's certainly not any standing around in this show! I love the gag sketches that pop up throughout, the parodies of nursery rhymes and characters, the gentle nod to politics. Some themes that resonate: There's usually more to things and people than there seems. That it is human to be human. Life isn't just a journey, but also the experiences and surprises that shape us along the way. That the 'grown up in the room' is often not grown up at all.

I'm just in awe of the magic that is Lyric! The spirit of collaboration, the energy, the 'can-do' attitude, always ready to embrace the new; and the quality, talent, skill, and everything that brings a show to life! Lyric Theatre is one of the very best things about living in or near Burlington!

Alex Venet: Promotions Co-Chair

I started with Lyric as a costume shop volunteer for *Tommy* in 2016. I love the themes of not judging a book by its cover and being yourself – we could all use a little more of that these days!

Lyric has been a great community not only for learning new skills and being involved with theater, but for getting to know all kinds of different people – just like the unlikely friendships in *Shrek*!

Hannah Normandeau: Promotions Co-Chair

I grew up watching and loving Lyric shows at the Flynn! My first Lyric experience was on stage in *Les Misérables* in 2014. In *Shrek*, I love the theme of being your true self. There's enough stress out there in the world (out there in the woods? Wrong show ...) and letting yourself be unapologetically YOU is not only freeing, but also a great way to help others who might feel scared, ashamed or like they need to hide. You are you, and that's not only enough, it's perfect!

Lyric has given me so much, including lifelong friends, incredible music and theater experiences, lots of lessons, and a large poster of myself in a hot pink suit that I'm still not exactly sure what to do with. I'm so happy to play a role – any role, for real, from center stage to a singing skunk to stuffing envelopes at Green Tree Drive – with this absolutely marvelous organization.

PROPS, SET CONSTRUCTION, AND SET DECORATION FOR INTO THE WOODS

Props: Disembodied parts, a witch's staff, greenery, baked goods galore, and so much more! Come work with the Props and Set Dressing Committee for *Into the Woods*. Our kick-off meeting is Thursday, September 2, starting at 6:45 and then we'll meet Thursdays at starting at 6:45 and Sundays starting at 10:00. Please reach out to committee chief Lesley Graham: lagprops@outlook.com or 413-884-4371.

Set Construction: Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-Noon; Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Chair: Bruce Cowan, cowanbm@ieee.org

Set Decoration: Thursdays and Fridays, 6:00-9:00 p.m., and Sundays, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Co-Chair: Cathie Covey, cath_717@yahoo.com

All three crews do their work at Lyric's Creative Space, 7 Green Tree Drive, South Burlington. Park around the back of the building and enter through the red door. No experience required, and you are not expected to be at every work session – just the days that are convenient for you. We hope you can volunteer to help.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REQUEST By Rob Parzych

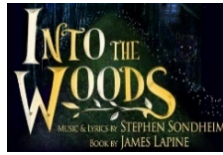
Greetings friends. If you would like to share a milestone, I'd like to hear from you. The Sunshine Committee (me) would like to highlight life events. In addition to sending sympathy cards, I'd like to know about the following: birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, moving, graduation, promotion – all are good occasions to highlight and report to our membership. Please email me: r_p67@yahoo.com I look forward to hearing from you!

THREE LYRIC ALUMNI INVOLVED IN SHOW HEADED TO BROADWAY: THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

Based on the novel and film of the same name, this musical follows young Andy as she gets a career-starting job as an assistant to the high-powered and highly difficult Miranda Priestly, editor in chief of fashion magazine *Runway*. With a book by Paul Rudnick and Kate Wetherhead (Lyric alumna), and a score with lyrics by Shaina Taub (Lyric alumna) and music by Elton John, with a cast that includes Liana Hunt (Lyric alumna). The Broadway-aimed musical premiered in Chicago in July.

ON OTHER STAGES

- ★ Support a good cause by attending *Dancing with the Burlington Stars*, Sunday, September 11, 6:30 p.m. Tickets/info: flynnvt.org
- ★ Lost Nation Theater presents Maura O'Brien in *Both Eyes Open: The Annie Oakley Story*, September 8-18; and *Sondheim Musical Review*, October 6-23. Tickets/info: lostnationtheater.org
- ★ Vermont Stage presents *The Pitmen Painters*, September 28-October 16. Tickets/info: vermontstage.org
- ★ Stowe Theatre Guild presents *A Little Night Music*, September 29-October 15. Tickets/info: stowetheatre.com
- ★ Lamoille County Players' presents *Blue Window*, September 30-October 2, and October 7-9. Tickets/info: lcplayers.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
- ★ Girls Nite Out Productions presents *Vanya and Sonia and Masha & Spike*, November 9-13 and 16-19. Tickets/info: girlsniteoutvt.com



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 October issue: September 28, 2022

Tickets are on sale for member NOW for Lyric's 49th season!

AT YOUR SERVICE—LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY BOARD & STAFF

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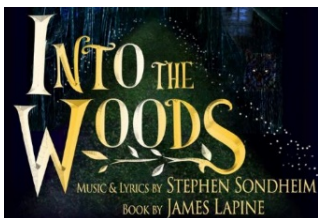
Lyric Office Address: 7 Green Tree Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403

MEETING TIMES FOR LYRIC'S STANDING COMMITTEES

Board (Chair: Nate Venet): 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Lyric Creative Space
Facilities (Chair: Cheri Forsythe): 1st Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Creative Space
PR/Development (Chair: Rachel Bruce Drew): 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Creative Space
Education (Chair: MaryBeth Nuovo): 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Creative Space
Finance (Chair: Stephen Kendall): 2nd Friday of the month, 12:00 p.m., Lyric Creative Space
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 Creative Space
Outreach & Inclusivity (Chair: Howard Kalfus): 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Creative Space

ORDER YOUR SEASON TICKETS

Tickets are on sale now for Lyric's 49th season! Visit www.flynnvt.org as a Lyric or Flynn member and use the code Lyric49 to get your tickets for *Into the Woods* and *Shrek*. Tickets go on sale to the public on September 6. Show dates: *Into the Woods*, November 10-13, 2022; *Shrek*, April 13-16, 2023. Be sure to get your tickets today and we'll see you at the Flynn!



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

*Made possible with
generous support from
Trust Company of Vermont*