



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

*By Erin Evarts*

The rapidly warming weather and lush green of Green Tree Drive are sure signs that it's almost time for one of Lyric's favorite (and newest) traditions! I hope you will be there when we present our third annual Theatre for Young Audiences production later this month with *Elephant & Piggie's We Are In A Play*. We are so grateful to be partnering once again with the Shelburne Museum and the public libraries in South Burlington, Williston, and Burlington to bring this story to audiences across the region, free of charge. This is only possible because of the generosity of our donors and community partners, especially our show sponsor, Mascoma Bank. Make sure you visit our website for detailed information and reservations.

While we are prepping for *The Prom* to properly kick off later in the summer, there are still plenty of opportunities to volunteer with Lyric. If you would like to lend a hand with our TYA show, summer camps, or with the planning for our upcoming big anniversary celebrations, make sure you are checking our weekly email blasts, website, and social media platforms. We can't do it without you!

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

*By Serena Magnan O'Connell*

As the final pieces of *Shrek* are being tucked away at the Creative Space, I would like to extend my congratulations to the cast, crews, and Artistic Team for their immensely successful weekend at the Flynn last month. The show proved not only to be a creative and financial success, but also managed to continue honoring the spirit of Lyric and our incredible capacity to collaborate, bringing together an impressive number of passionate individuals to make art happen. This phenomenon never ceases to amaze me and should not be overlooked as one of the most valuable pieces of what Lyric is all about.

As we look forward to celebrating our 50th season, starting with the adorable *Elephant & Piggie* this month, whose cast and team are already deep into the creative process, let us embrace that same sense of collaboration through all that Lyric has to offer. Our productions, MainStage or Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA), our events, fancy fundraising or casual in nature, our community programs, educational camps and workshops, our membership activities, our committees and crews – they are all in need of your volunteerism, talents and support to make Lyric an ongoing success. We

are an ever-evolving organization working towards two shows a year at the Flynn *and* year-round programming, but we can't do it without supporting one another and coming together in our mission: to bring musicals and other performing arts to our community, committing to cultivating diversity, inclusion and belonging.

Whilst we work towards finalizing our Strategic Plan that the Board has been diligently working on, let us embrace the fact that we are a growing organization whose history should be respected and considered in all that we strive to do. As we look to the future and expand, let us also acknowledge that our deep roots of tradition and process are an important part of who we are. Should we stand together in these realities, staying true to that spirit of collaboration and volunteerism, I have no doubt that the next 50 years will be rich with creativity.



**IT'S ALMOST TIME –  
GET YOUR FREE TICKETS**  
*By Sabrina Sydnor*

Hello all my Lyric Loves! I can't believe we are on the BRINK of Summer *and* the brink of another Theatre for Young Audiences show run. Here on the scene at *Elephant & Piggie's We Are In A Play!*, the cast and team are having a ball, and we can't wait to bring you all into the fun at the FOUR different locations we will be performing at this June. It truly felt like we just got started and now June is knocking on the door being like "Hello!?! Time to do a musical!?" The process for this zany show has been such a blast, and I am blown away by everyone's willingness onstage and off to dive right in and give it their all creatively and energetically.

One element of the show I was downright nervous about was having to build a mobile ice cream cart that could not only move on grass but fit into our cars to be driven from location to location. Wouldn't you know that Todd Hanley had already built one for *Mary Poppins*, cones and all, and once we found it, he even cleaned it up with some fresh paint out of the kindness of his heart. I am always so grateful for our community approach to getting all the elements of a show on its feet.

Last week was our *choreography-extravaganza* and my eyes teared up watching our own Kaitie Bessette shine in this new role for her as choreographer. Don't be afraid to try on a new theater hat, folks! You know more than you think you do!

One element of our rehearsal process is that we have the actors and present team members do a "game" of

sorts at the top of each rehearsal to get us in a playful, childlike mindset. What's your favorite theater game from childhood? Send ideas my way! Games like "Would You Rather" have revealed a lot about the actors behind the characters and facilitated some intense bonding moments (lol). So, if you hear the team maniacally laughing during rehearsals, you can bet that is being brought to you by FRIENDSHIP. Which is the absolute CHERRY on the top of this show.

I went into this process with some of my dear friends to do a show about best friendship and will emerge with more friends than ever before. So, grab a blanket, grab your bestie, and join us for Elephant and Piggie this June. We will be SO LUCKY DUCKY to see you! Xoxo

### **Performance Info:**

June 17, 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., South Burlington Public Library Auditorium

June 18, 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Shelburne Museum Circus Lawn

June 24, 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Dorothy Alling Library

June 25, 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Fletcher Free Library

### **To reserve your free tickets:**

<https://lyrictheatre.vt.wufoo.com/forms/q1unwddj1wxvf66/>

## **JUNE SPOTLIGHT SHOUT-OUT**

*By Kerry Farrell*

This month the Membership Committee would like to give a shout-out to Jane Harissis. Jane is a woman of many talents, and she shares them all with our community. She designed the set for *Into the Woods* that transported us to a beautiful fairytale land and has been behind the scenes for many other shows helping to create the visual elements that tell the story of theater. Jane also spearheaded our *ReCrewt* event last August which was a big success toward increasing our technical volunteer membership. And last, but certainly not least, Jane led the charge and worked tirelessly on revamping our Production Manual. The hours she has put in toward all of these projects and shows is a true example of a dedicated Lyric volunteer. Thank you, Jane.

## **VOLUNTEER FOR THE PROM!**

*By Lauren Genta*

We are so thrilled to be bringing *The Prom* to the Flynn MainStage in November 2023 for Lyric's 50th season and the anticipation is building!

As your summer calendar fills up, we hope you'll save the date and join us for our informational Kick-Off on Wednesday, August 23. Kick-Off provides our greater community with the opportunity to hear more from our team, learn about the audition process and rehearsal expectations, join a crew, and connect with one another. Auditions and callbacks for *The Prom* will be held Sunday, August 27-Friday, September 1. Keep an eye on the Lyric website for more information on audition guidelines.

As we continue to build our team, we know that in an organization as expansive as Lyric there are boundless

ways to be involved and opportunities to expand your skill set or discover a new one. Whether you've played a role off-stage before or have always wanted to volunteer in a new way, we invite you to join us. If interested in joining the team, chairing a crew or working with someone to explore a different skill, contact Lauren Genta, Production Supervisor at [laurendoesashow@gmail.com](mailto:laurendoesashow@gmail.com).



## **CLICK YOUR HEELS**

*By Pam Carter*

Click your heels and repeat three times, "There's no place like Lyric!" Please join us as we traverse the yellow brick road!!!

Some "Save-the-Date" info to share: *The Wizard of Oz*, part of Lyric's 50th Anniversary Celebration, runs April 11-14, 2024, for six performances on the Flynn MainStage. The Kick-off/Informational Meeting is planned for Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Auditions are planned for Sunday December 3, 2023 (for ages 8-14) and Monday through Thursday evenings, December 4-7, 2023 (ages 15 on up to "infinity"). Info meeting and auditions will be at Lyric's Creative Space.

Many "techie" opportunities will also be available. More information to follow in the coming months; contact Linda Whalen ([whalen153@aol.com](mailto:whalen153@aol.com)) or Pam Carter ([pamela.carter@uvm.edu](mailto:pamela.carter@uvm.edu)).



## **HISTORY OF THE TONY AWARDS**

Source: <https://www.tonyawards.com/history/our-history/>  
An Award for Excellence

"The American Theatre Wing's Tony Awards® got their start in 1947 when the Wing established an awards program to celebrate excellence in the theatre. Named for Antoinette Perry, an actress, director, producer, and the dynamic wartime leader of the American Theatre Wing who had recently passed away, the Tony Awards made their official debut at a dinner in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria hotel on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1947. Vera Allen, Perry's successor as chairwoman of the Wing, presided over an evening that included dining, dancing, and a program of entertainment. The dress code was black tie optional, and the performers who took to the stage included Mickey Rooney, Herb Shriner, Ethel Waters, and David Wayne.

Eleven Tonys were presented in seven categories, and there were eight special awards, including one for Vincent Sardi, proprietor of the eponymous eatery on West 44th Street. Big winners that night included José Ferrer, Arthur Miller, Helen Hayes, Ingrid Bergman, Patricia Neal, Elia Kazan and Agnes de Mille.”

### The Early Years

“The Broadway community embraced the Tonys from the beginning. While the awards ceremony in its early years was smaller than it is today, the annual gala dinner quickly became one of the highlights of the New York theatre season. More than 1,000 guests attended the first Tony dinner in 1947.

In the 18 years that followed, the dinner and Tony Awards presentations took place in ballrooms of such hotels as the Plaza, the Waldorf Astoria, and the Astor. WOR and the Mutual network broadcast the awards ceremonies over the radio, and television coverage began in 1956 when Du Mont’s Channel 5 telecast them locally for the first time.

Entertainment was provided by such Broadway favorites and talented then-newcomers as Katherine Cornell, Guthrie McClintic, Ralph Bellamy, Joan Crawford, Alfred de Liagre, Jr., Gilbert Miller, Shirley Booth, Carol Channing, Joan Fontaine, Paul Newman, Geraldine Page, Anne Bancroft, Sidney Poitier, Fredric March, Robert Goulet, Gig Young, Anna Maria Alberghetti, Henry Fonda, and many others.

In spite of the untimely death of Helen Menken, then chairwoman of the Wing, the 1966 Tony Awards were presented at the Rainbow Room. The ceremony was subdued and, for the first and only time, held in the afternoon without entertainment. The following year the Tony ceremony was once again a gala affair, but with a key difference. With Isabelle Stevenson as its new president, the Wing invited The Broadway League—then known as the League of New York Theatres—to co-present the Tonys in 1967, just in time for the ceremony’s inaugural broadcast on network television. For the first time, a national audience could watch the presentation of Tony Awards.”

### The Television Era

“CBS began carrying the awards ceremony in 1978, and has broadcast the Tonys nationally every year since. For six years beginning with the 51st annual awards presentation in 1997, the Tony Awards program aired under a unique partnership between CBS and PBS. A one-hour PBS special covered 10 awards, followed immediately by the CBS broadcast. However, beginning in 2003, CBS devoted an entire three-hour time slot to the Tonys. The result has been a seamless awards and entertainment program broadcast on that network. The Tony program has received numerous Emmy Awards during the CBS era, and is broadcast each June in many countries across the globe.

The Tonys celebrated a milestone in 1997 when the awards ceremony moved away from Broadway for the

first time in three decades. For all but one of the years between 1997 and 2010, Tony night took place each June at New York’s celebrated Radio City Music Hall. Since 2011, the ceremony has been held either at Radio City or at the Beacon Theatre on Manhattan’s Upper West Side.”

### In the 21st Century

“The Tony Awards continues to grow and expand its reach globally. In 2000, TonyAwards.com launched and immediately became the definitive resource for information about the awards. Today the Tony Awards online social media presence includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat, and other platforms. In addition to the CBS telecast, fans can watch the show online via CBS All Access, and purchase individual performance segments and the entire show on iTunes and Amazon. The telecast is now broadcast on six continents as Broadway fans worldwide join the Tony Awards in celebrating theatrical excellence.”

Tune in to this year’s broadcast on June 11, 2023.

### ON OTHER STAGES

- ★ Lost Nation Theater presents ***My Mother’s Three Mothers***, May 25-June 11, at Montpelier’s City Hall. Tickets/info: [lostnationtheater.org](http://lostnationtheater.org)
- ★ Full Circle Theater Collaborative presents ***An Evening at the Tonys***, a Fundraiser Cabaret and Dinner, June 9, at Isham Family Farm. Tickets/info: [fullcircletheater.com](http://fullcircletheater.com)
- ★ Vermont Stage presents ***The Bake Off: True West***, June 14-18, at the Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center. Tickets/info: [vermontstage.org](http://vermontstage.org)
- ★ Northern Stage presents ***Sense and Sensibility***, June 14-July 9, at the Barrette Center for the Arts. Tickets/info: [northernstage.org](http://northernstage.org)
- ★ Middlebury Community Players present ***Red***, June 22-25; ***Slow Food***, July 20-23; and ***Wally’s Café***, August 17-20, at the Vergennes Opera House. Tickets at the door. Info: [middleburycommunityplayers.org](http://middleburycommunityplayers.org)
- ★ Williston Community Theatre presents ***Little Shop of Horrors***, June 22-24, at Isham Family Farm Barn. Tickets info: [willistoncommunitytheatre.com](http://willistoncommunitytheatre.com)
- ★ Saint Michael’s Playhouse presents ***Almost Heaven***, June 28-July 8; ***Popcorn Falls***, July 12-22; and ***Over the River and Through the Woods***, July 26-August 5. Tickets/info: [saintmichaelsplayhouse.org](http://saintmichaelsplayhouse.org)
- ★ Valley Players present ***Ronald Dahl’s Willy Wonka***, June 29-July 16. Tickets/info: [valleyplayers.com](http://valleyplayers.com)
- ★ Full Circle Theater presents ***Spring Awakening***, July 14-16, and July 21-23, at Isham Family Farm Barn. Tickets/info: [fullcircletheater.com](http://fullcircletheater.com)
- ★ Lamoille County Players’ present ***Let It Be: A Musical Celebration of the Beatles***, July 20-30; and ***The Haunting of Hill House***, October 6-15; at Hyde Park Opera House. Tickets/info: [lcplayers.com](http://lcplayers.com)
- ★ Girls Nite Out Productions presents ***Suite Surrender***, November 9-19, at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center. Info: [girlsniteoutvt.com](http://girlsniteoutvt.com)



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It's time to get your **FREE** tickets!

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

**Board (Chair: Serena Magnan O'Connell):** 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: Kylie Halpin):** 1st Wednesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Creative Space  
**Education (Chair: Vonnie Murad):** 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: Kerry Farrell):** 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., home of Kerry Farrell, 19 Pheasant Way, South Burlington  
**Production Selection (Chair: Jennifer Warwick):** 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., Lyric Creative Space  
**Outreach & Inclusivity (Chair: Howard Kalfus):** 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m., virtually on Google Meet using this link: <https://meet.google.com/sst-xjej-kfo>



**November 9-12, 2023**  
**Flynn Center MainStage**  
**Burlington, VT**  
*Kick-Off*  
**August 23, 2023**  
*Auditions*  
**August 27-September 1, 2023**

**MIDDLEBURY FESTIVAL ON-THE-GREEN**

Your humble editor would like to remind you that it's almost time for the *Middlebury Summer Festival on-the-Green*. Enjoy a week of free outdoor performances under the big white tent on the Middlebury Village Green during the week of July 9 through 15, 2023. To see the full lineup, visit [festivalonthegreen.org](http://festivalonthegreen.org).