

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Erin Evarts

There is nothing quite like the energy and enthusiasm of summer camp, and we have been treated to two weeks of it here on Green Tree Drive. A huge thank you to our phenomenal staff, campers, families, volunteers, and sponsors who made our LyricKids 2023 camps such a success! *Aristocats Jr.* and *Raise Your Voice!* had incredible performances on the stage in the Marjorie R. Howe Rehearsal Space, which goes up and comes down so seamlessly thanks to our Facilities Committee. We look forward to welcoming two more groups of campers this month with our half-day MixTape Musical Dance Camp sessions. There are still spots available in both age groups, so I encourage you to register on our website now if you are interested!

I hope to see many of you in a few weeks at our celebratory Kick-off Meeting on August 23 for *The Prom*, and I know that everyone will be keeping a close watch toward the end of the month when tickets for our entire 50th Anniversary Season will go on sale. Make sure you're tuned into your email and Lyric's social media accounts so that you can nab your preferred seats as soon as they become available. I can't wait to celebrate the first half-century of Lyric's story with you! – *Erin*

LYRIC BOARD: ANNOUNCING THE NOMINEES

By Mary M. Lee

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the names of the new slate of Board members to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. The nominees for this year are:

- Kyla Paul Marchand
- Tomomi Ueda
- Christine Evert
- Kim Steinfeld

AUGUST SPOTLIGHT SHOUT-OUT

By Kerry Farrell

This month the Membership Committee would like to give a shout-out to Celeste Piette, Arianna Belfield, and Jamie Rebekah Roberts for their amazing work at our LyricKids Camps in July. These talented and committed Lyric members put up two spectacular shows with 50 campers in just two weeks. Thank you so much for making our camps and theater education such an important part of what Lyric shares with the community.

SEEKING FLYNN MAIN STAGE BLOCKBUSTERS FOR SPRING 2025!

By Jennifer Warwick

The Production Selection and Evaluation Committee is now seeking proposals for our Spring 2025 production. We are looking to produce one of the following blockbusters: *Beauty and the Beast*, *Kinky Boots*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Seussical the Musical*, *Singin' in the Rain*, or *Cinderella*. The deadline for written proposals is November 30, 2023. For more information contact Production Selection Chair, Jennifer Warwick, jenw.sokol@gmail.com, or Erin Evarts, erin@lyrictheatrevt.org.



SAVE THE DATE FOR A BIG PARTY

We are overjoyed for the opportunity to mark the success of our first half-century with the people who have made it all possible. Mark your calendars for **September 23, 2023**, for Lyric's 50th Anniversary Gala at the UVM Alumni House in Burlington. Join us for an evening of celebration filled with food, dancing, music, and lots of memories. Stay tuned for formal invitations with complete details and ticketing information.

LYRIC ALUMNI BACK ON BROADWAY

By Pat Boera



Lyric alumni Liana Hunt and Merritt David Janes are back on Broadway in the cast of *Back to the Future* which opens on August 3 at the Winter Garden. Liana portrays Lorraine and Merritt portrays Strickland/Ensemble. See if you can spot them in this cast photo.



KICK-OFF, AUDITIONS, AND CASTING INFO

By Lauren Genta

**INFORMATIONAL KICK-OFF MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**

AUDITIONS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

- 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. OR
- 2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Registration begins at 2:00 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 28

- 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29

- 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

- 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

CALLBACKS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31

- Timing TBD

Auditions are in-person only and will be held at the Lyric Creative Space in South Burlington. *The Prom* auditions will consist of a Dance Workshop/Audition, as well as a Traditional Audition, which includes a Vocal Audition and the performance of the Audition Monologue.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged and can be completed on the Lyric website starting August 23. You only need to attend one night of auditions.

Should the team need them, callback auditions will be held Thursday, August 31. If you are needed for a callback audition, you will be called on Thursday, August 31, between 9 a.m. and noon.

Please note that all those auditioning must be at least 15 years old by August 27, 2023.

For much more detailed information about *The Prom* auditions, rehearsals, performances, and the Lyric process, click here: <https://lyrictheatre.org/the-prom/>

A NOTE ABOUT CASTING

Auditioning can be anxiety-producing for anyone, regardless of skill or experience level. We strive to work in collaboration *with* our performers, and to do that effectively we only ask that you bring your most authentic self into the room with you. We want to tell this story with folks who share some of the lived experiences

of the characters in *The Prom*, which means we are seeking a cast that reflects the incredible diversity of communities like Edgewater, Indiana, and our own. All body types, expressions of gender identity, backgrounds, and orientations will be needed to accomplish this. Along these lines, please note that listed stage ages are only a starting point in the casting process, but it is important that we have an authentically intergenerational cast. Not every role will require a performer to have every skill required to tell this story, as there are roles more geared toward strong dancers, some that lean more toward musical skill sets, and some that require comedy chops. We look forward to meeting you!

– *The Prom* Artistic Team

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

EMMA NOLAN (Female presenting, 16-18) Teenager in Indiana. A reluctant poster child for LGBTQ+ youth. Very smart. A bit of a tomboy quality. Wears their heart on their sleeve. Not your typical leading lady.

ALYSSA GREENE (Female presenting, 16-18) A cheerleader and top student. Secretly Emma's girlfriend. Faces constant pressure from her mother and friends. Tries desperately to fit in. Afraid to stand up to her mother.

MRS. GREENE (Female presenting – 40s) Alyssa's intimidating, conservative, single mother. The head of the PTA. Knows deep down that her daughter Alyssa is struggling with her identity. She is too afraid to face the reality because she fears her daughter will face a hard life.

DEE DEE ALLEN (Female identifying, 40-59) Broadway diva. A huge ego to match her huge talent. Hilariously self-involved but yearns to do something good for someone other than herself. Known for her strong Broadway belt vocals and large stage presence. Jaded with relationships, does not believe in true love until she meets Mr. Hawkins.

TRENT OLIVER (Male identifying, 30-40) Pretentious Juilliard graduate recently cast in the non-Equity tour of *Godspell*. Handsome, charming, funny and loves to hear himself speak.

ANGIE DICKINSON (Female presenting, 40-59) A long running ensemble member in the Broadway production of *Chicago* (20 years!). Jaded Fosse girl with a heart of gold.

BARRY GLICKMAN (Male identifying, 40-59) Flamboyant Broadway star. Completely politically incorrect and doesn't know it. Impulsive and loves to make a scene everywhere he goes. Longs to give Emma the prom he was unable to have as a teen.

MARION HAWKINS (Male identifying, 40s) A small town principal. Easily flustered. Straight-laced. A Broadway enthusiast.

SHELDON or "SHELLY" SAPERSTEIN (Male presenting – 30-49) A charismatic press agent who works for both Dee Dee and Barry. Dry wit a must.

SHELBY/ENSEMBLE (Female presenting, 16-18) Popular cheerleader at school. Kaylee's second in command, and Kevin's girlfriend. Bullies, but eventually learns to accept Emma.

KAYLEE/ENSEMBLE (Female presenting, 16-18) Head cheerleader and lead mean girl. Nick's girlfriend. Every girl wants to be her, and every guy wants to date her. Bullies, but eventually learns to accept Emma.

NICK/ENSEMBLE (Male presenting, 16-18) Popular jock at school. Kaylee's boyfriend. Incredibly handsome - every guy wants to be him, and every girl wants to be with him. Bullies, but eventually learns to accept Emma.

KEVIN/ENSEMBLE (Male presenting, 16-18) Jock at school and Shelby's boyfriend. Nick's right hand and the class clown. Bullies, but eventually learns to accept Emma.

OLIVIA KEATING: Broadway reporter.

Hilarious and versatile character actors who will be playing the ensemble parts and building the world of our show. Strong actors and dancers. (Stage Age 16+)
Opening Night Party Attendee
High School Student
Cast Member of the Non-Equity Tour of *Godspell*
Monster Truck Rally Announcer and Attendees



Once again, Lyric Theatre Company was named "Best Local Theatre Company" by readers of *Seven Days*. Thank you to all who voted to help us earn this accolade.

Lyric member Kaitie Bessette, who has also performed with Saints and Poets Productions and The University of Vermont Department of Theatre, earned "Best Actor" title.

The Flynn – home for our Main Stage performances in April and November – was named "Best Performing Arts Venue."

Congratulations to all!

Answer to the Broadway rebus: *Hamilton*



**THE SOUND OF MUSIC: IN CONCERT IN COLLABORATION
WITH THE VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA &
THE TRAPP FAMILY LODGE - JUNE 2024**

By Jennifer Warwick

An incredibly special event, celebrating the momentous legacy of Lyric Theatre's 50th Anniversary, VSO's 90th Anniversary, the 75th Anniversary of *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*, and the 65th Anniversary of the musical's Broadway premiere.

The Production Selection and Evaluation Committee is seeking resumes and letters of intent for Music Directors and Artistic Directors or a combination of for *The Sound of Music: In Concert* to take place at the Trapp Family Lodge in conjunction with the VSO in June of 2024. Resumes and letters are due by September 5 and interviews for the position/s will take place on September 12.

This production will be similar in scope to *Burlington Does Broadway*. For more information please contact Production Selection Chair, Jennifer Warwick, jenw.sokol@gmail.com, or Erin Evarts, erin@lyrictheatrevt.org.

ON OTHER STAGES

- ★ Saint Michael's Playhouse presents ***Over the River and Through the Woods***, July 26-August 5, McCarthy Arts Center. Tickets/info: saintmichaelsplayhouse.org
- ★ Vermont Stage presents ***Talley's Folley***, July 26-August 6, Isham Family Farm. Tickets/info: vermontstage.org
- ★ Northern Stage presents ***Twelfth Night***, August 1-6, Barrette Center for the Arts. Tickets/info: northernstage.org
- ★ Full Circle Theater presents ***James and the Giant Peach***, August 4-6, Island Arts Center. Tickets/info: fullcircletheater.com
- ★ Valley Players present ***Ten Fest***, a festival of 10-minute plays, August 10-20. Tickets/info: valleyplayers.com
- ★ Middlebury Community Players present ***Wally's Café***, August 17-20, Vergennes Opera House. Tickets at the door. Info: middleburycommunityplayers.org
- ★ Lost Nation Theater presents ***Sam and Jim in Hell***, October 5-22, Montpelier City Hall. Tickets/info: lostnationtheater.org
- ★ Lamoille County Players' present ***The Haunting of Hill House***, October 6-15, Hyde Park Opera House. Tickets/info: lcplayers.com
- ★ Girls Nite Out Productions presents ***Suite Surrender***, November 9-19, Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center. Info: girlsniteoutvt.com
- ★ Shelburne Players present ***Circle Mirror Transformation***, November 10-17, Shelburne Town Hall. Tickets/info: shelburneplayers.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 September issue: August 28, 2023

Hope to see you at Kick-off and Auditions!

AT YOUR SERVICE—LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY BOARD & STAFF

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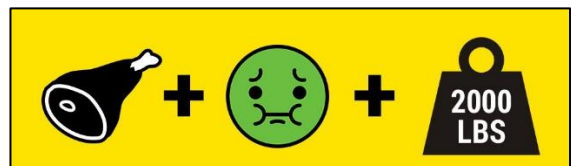
Lyric Office Address: 7 Green Tree Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403

MEETING TIMES FOR LYRIC'S STANDING COMMITTEES

Board (Chair: 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 Main Stage
Burlington, VT
Kick-Off
August 23, 2023
Auditions
August 27-September 1, 2023



Tease your brain with this Broadway rebus! (Answer elsewhere in this issue.) Want more? Visit <https://playbill.com/article/its-a-puzzlement-tease-your-brain-with-broadway-rebuses>