



# THE SPOTLIGHT



Editor: Pat Boera

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October 2023

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

*By Erin Evarts*

The mood is celebratory on Green Tree Drive in the afterglow of our 50th Anniversary Gala and 2023 Annual Meeting. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the success of these events, which showcased so much of what the Lyric community is about.

We are so pleased to welcome our fantastic new slate of Board members, and we are endlessly grateful for the service of our outgoing members, who helped guide this organization through the worst of the pandemic. Joining the Board are Christine Everitt, Kyla Paul Marchand, Kim Steinfeld, and Tomomi Ueda. Jennifer Warwick, Rebecca Raskin, and Steve Kendall will stay on for second terms. We say farewell, with gratitude, to Howie Kalfus, Mary M. Lee, and Andy Pearson.

We were also honored to present our Stanley Greenberg Volunteer of the Year Award to Todd Hanley, who is responsible for the beautiful gardens and landscaping at the Creative Space, among all the other roles he takes on at Lyric. Volunteerism has been the driving force behind our organization for our first 50 years, and the work and dedication that Todd exemplifies is a prime example of why we have been able to flourish, and how we will continue to do so.

We also extended a Lifetime Membership to Diantha Howard, who has been a volunteer for nearly 20 years, serving in a number of roles including as Costume Designer for shows like *A Chorus Line*, *Titanic*, and *Mary Poppins*. Congratulations, Todd and Diantha!

Remember that celebrations in honor of our 50th Anniversary will continue all year long, especially at *The Prom* in November and *The Wizard of Oz* next spring. Make sure you get your tickets now, and as always, we will see you at the theater! –Erin

## OCTOBER SPOTLIGHT SHOUT-OUT

*By Kerry Farrell*

Every day there is a new reason to shout out Ryan Addario, literally. Today (it is 9/28), for example, when I arrived at Green Tree Drive, I found him out front saving a hurt bird! Seriously, Ryan's dedication, commitment, and willingness to always go the extra mile has been on full display the last few weeks for anyone who has been in the Lyric Creative Space. He was an integral part of the planning for our 50th anniversary, including the Gala. When the emcee for the gala was unable to attend due to illness, Ryan stepped up. He didn't miss a beat, came prepared, kept the evening light and fun, and did it all while looking and sounding good! On a daily basis Ryan

juggles many aspects of the business of show business, from writing newsletters to coordinating sponsors and donations to managing Lyric's social media and so much more. He is quick to say yes when asked to help and always goes above and beyond. Ryan will be stepping down as our Communication and Development Coordinator soon. He will be greatly missed in that role, but Ryan will always be a treasured member of our community!



## NEWS FROM THE PROM

*By Lauren Genta*

### Tickets Now On Sale!

We can't wait to have you join us at the Flynn next month! Tickets for *The Prom* and Lyric's historic 50th Anniversary Season are now on sale for the general public and can be purchased [here](#).

### Volunteer Opportunities

The Lyric Creative Space is abuzz with volunteers – be it in rehearsal or working on a crew – and we'd love to have you join us! To learn more about current work times please visit [our page](#) on the Lyric website and stay tuned for the many opportunities to arise next month for load-in at the Flynn and during show week. Crews do not necessarily meet during every single listed timeframe, but rarely outside of them. You will find contact info for the Chairs in the Volunteer Opportunities document on the page via the link above.

### Crew Work Times

COSTUMES | Chairs: Hayley Ryan and Sharon Patno

- Tuesdays | 9:00 a.m. to noon
- Wednesdays | 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Sundays | 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

PROPS | Chair: Arianna Soloway

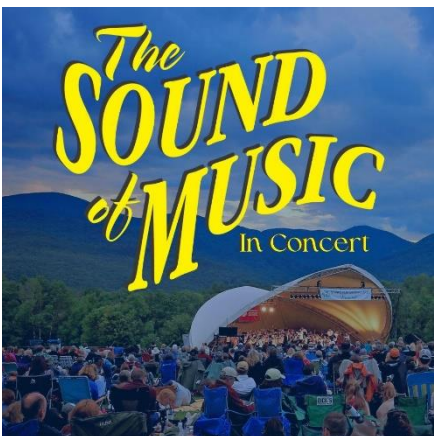
- Mondays | noon to 3:00 p.m.
- Thursdays | 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Sundays | 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

SET CONSTRUCTION (ages 16+) | Chairs: Bruce Cowan and Tim Henderson

- Tuesdays | 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays | 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Thursdays | 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Saturdays | 9:00 a.m. to noon

SET DECORATION | Chairs: Cathie Covey and Kyla Marchand

- Mondays | 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Fridays | 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Sundays | 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.



JUNE 20, 21, AND 22 | 7:30 P.M.

ON SALE TO FLYNN, LYRIC, VSO, STOWE PERFORMING ARTS, AND TRAPP MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS ON OCTOBER 2 AT 10:00 A.M.

PUBLIC SALE BEGINS OCTOBER 6.

As we celebrate the birthday of Dame Julie Andrews on October 1 – the iconic singer and star of the 1965 film *The Sound of Music* – Lyric Theatre Company, the Vermont Symphony Orchestra (VSO), Stowe Performing Arts, and the Flynn are thrilled to announce *The Sound of Music: In Concert* at Trapp Family Lodge. This is the first time that the songs from this beloved musical have been performed live at the von Trapp family's Vermont home.

Conducted by Andrew Crust, Music Director for VSO, with vocal direction by Stefanie Weigand, and hosted by the talented Kerstin Anderson, a Vermont native and luminary of the acclaimed 2015 *The Sound of Music* national tour, this event promises an unparalleled experience for attendees, with a full orchestra, chorus, and soloists. The occasion also celebrates the 75th anniversary of the original book *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers* as well as the 65th anniversary of the musical's legendary Broadway debut. Plus, this amazing event caps Lyric Theatre Company's 50th season and kicks off the VSO's 90th anniversary.

In the event of inclement weather, performances will be relocated to the Flynn in Burlington.

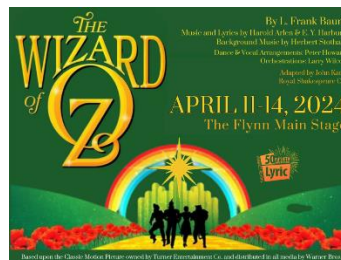
Click [here](#) for more information and tickets, available with the promo code: **FAVORITETHING**



## 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](mailto:jenw.sokol@gmail.com), or Erin Evarts, [erin@lyrictheatrevt.org](mailto:erin@lyrictheatrevt.org).



WIZARD OF OZ TEAM LOOKING TO WOW AUDIENCES WITH TECHNICAL HELP FROM CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE STUDENTS

By Jane Harissis, WOZ Director of Art

The *Wizard of Oz* Technical Team has been off and running since January. A collaborative team has been put together to create and edit projections and animations for the show. Two of the members of the team are Game Art major seniors from Champlain College – Wisdom Edwards and Kay Williams. They will be creating 3D environments for some green screened actors, animated Wizard Heads and animated effects for the Twister. All of this will be projected onto a full stage LED screen. Lyric is currently working with the college to potentially create internships for these and other students interested in working on Lyric shows. We are excited to have the help and try new technologies such as 3D Camera work and Motion Capture. This will be a show not to be missed!

## Hawkes and Handsaws: A Multi-Media Shakespeare Event (1623-2023)

Where: Off-Center for the Dramatic Arts

When: Friday and Saturday, October 20 and 21, 7:00 p.m.

[Buy Tickets](#)

Join us in a celebration of Shakespeare's First Folio, exactly 400 years after its first publication! In this extravagant multi-media performance, we will feature excerpts from all the 18 of Shakespeare's plays from this collection, including live performances from shows like *Twelfth Night*, *Hamlet*, *As You Like It*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Macbeth*, and more. Join in on some exciting Shakespeare trivia, raffle prizes, and a chance to win our grand prize – a hardcover copy of the Norton Facsimile of Shakespeare's First Folio.

This fundraiser supports Vermont Repertory Theatre as we move into our second season and beyond. Expect

fun and don't be afraid that you might learn something along the way! For tickets, visit [vermontrep.com/hawkes-and-handsaws](http://vermontrep.com/hawkes-and-handsaws).

### Audition Call: *The Tempest* at Main Street Landing

Show Dates: February 29-March 2, 2024

Auditions: October 22-25, 2023

[More Info](#)

Vermont Repertory Theatre is seeking actors and volunteers for its winter production of *The Tempest*, by William Shakespeare. Leaning into the magical realism aspects of the show, this production will explore how we use power and what it does to those who wield it. Auditions are open to newcomers and experienced performers alike!

Visit <https://www.vermontrep.com/the-tempest> to learn more and schedule an audition slot.

### ON OTHER STAGES

★ Vermont Stage presents *Cadillac Crew*, September 27-October 15, Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center. Tickets/info: [vermontstage.org](http://vermontstage.org)

★ Valley Players present *The Glass Menagerie*, September 29-October 15. Tickets/info: [valleyplayers.com](http://valleyplayers.com)

★ Essex Community Players present *Murder in the Studio*, September 29-October 8, Memorial Hall, Tickets/info: [essexplayers.com](http://essexplayers.com)

★ Middlebury Community Players present *Second Sight*, October 19-22, Town Hall Theater. Tickets/info: [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org)

★ Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center presents National Theatre Live *King Lear* (film), October 26, and *Othello* (film), November 16. Tickets/info: [sprucepeakarts.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket/#/](http://sprucepeakarts.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket/#/)

★ Northern Stage presents *Selling Kabul*, October 11-29, Barrette Center for the Arts. Tickets/info: [northernstage.org](http://northernstage.org)

★ Lost Nation Theater presents *Sam and Jim in Hell*, October 5-22, Montpelier City Hall. Tickets/info: [lostonationtheater.org](http://lostonationtheater.org)

★ Lamoille County Players' present *The Haunting of Hill House*, October 6-15, Hyde Park Opera House. Tickets/info: [lcplayers.com](http://lcplayers.com)

★ Vermont Repertory Theatre presents *The Comedy of Errors: The Motion Picture*, October 13; and *Hawkes and Handsaws 1623 to 2023*, October 20-21, Off Center for the Dramatic Arts. Tickets/info: [theaterengine.com](http://theaterengine.com)

★ Middlebury Community Players present *Second Sight*, October 19-22, Town Hall Theater. Tickets/info: [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org)

★ Girls Nite Out Productions presents *Suite Surrender*, November 9-19, Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center. Info: [girlsniteoutvt.com](http://girlsniteoutvt.com)

★ Shelburne Players present *Circle Mirror Trans-formation*, November 10 and 11, 7:00 p.m.; November 12, 2:00 p.m.; November 17, 7:00 p.m.; November 18, 2:00 and 7:00 p.m., Shelburne Town Hall. Tickets/info: [shelburneplayers.com](http://shelburneplayers.com)

★ Full Circle Theater presents *Fall 2023 Show Choir*, December 1 and 2, Contois Auditorium. Tickets/info: [fullcircletheater.com](http://fullcircletheater.com)

★ The Flynn's Broadway season includes *Come From Away*, January 10 and 11; *The Cher Show*, March 12 and 13; *The Kite Runner*, April 29 and 30; and *Mean Girls*, May 7 and 8. Tickets/info: [flynnvt.org](http://flynnvt.org)

### HISTORY OF THE FLYNN (PART ONE)

Source: <https://www.flynnvt.org/About-Us/History>

Floodlights danced above Burlington to herald the arrival of Vermont's newest and largest "entertainment palace" on Wednesday, November 26, 1930. The event marked the arrival of a state-of-the-art facility in which to enjoy both touring stars of vaudeville and motion pictures. The new entertainment complex—built at a cost of \$500,000—was the brainchild of entrepreneur (and theater namesake) John J. Flynn and his investors in the Queen City Realty Company. A little over a decade later, the Flynn was firmly established, well-loved, and highly attended by the community. The Flynn was a major gathering place for the community during the war years, as Vermonters stayed current on the war effort through newsreels and sought respite from worries about loved ones fighting overseas through Golden Age Hollywood films.

But in the postwar years, American culture and entertainment was changing rapidly, hitting many theaters hard. By the '70s, the majesty of the Flynn had faded and the venue was derelict. Many larger theaters similar to the Flynn, no longer able to function economically, were either converted or demolished. Thanks to a visionary group of Burlington community leaders, the Flynn was saved from that fate. In 1972, the Flynn was acquired by Merrill Jarvis of the Merrill Theater Corporation, a longtime Vermont company that operates the Roxy and Ethan Allen cinema complexes in Burlington. Less than two years after Jarvis took over the Flynn, live performances returned to the theater for the first time in many years.

Around the same time, the Lyric Theatre Company was founded by a group of about 30 Burlington area residents interested in the production of live musical theater, predominantly classic Broadway fare. Lyric's debut production of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* was performed at the Flynn in 1974. Before long, Lyric Theatre Company would play a key role in the next era of the Flynn.

Led by Lyric Theatre, a non-profit corporation called the Flynn Theatre for the Performing Arts, Ltd. was formed in 1980. The group's first act was to forge a purchase agreement with Jarvis, including a \$5,000 down payment. Meanwhile, Lyric was joined by volunteers in a community-wide fundraising effort coordinated by founding Executive Director Andrea Rogers, who retired in June 2010.

(Look for Part Two in the next issue.)





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South Burlington, VT 05403

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**Deadline for November issue: October 28, 2023**

**Get your tickets! Don't miss this show!**

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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: Kyla Marchand):** 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**

*Made possible by our show sponsors*



**SPECIAL SHOUT-OUT**

Your humble editor would like to give a special shout-out to Membership Chair Kerry Farrell, who was recently named the 2023 Vermont School Nurse of the Year by the Vermont State School Nurses' Association. You can read the full article in the September 21 issue of [The Other Paper](#). Congratulations, Kerry!