



THE SPOTLIGHT



Editor: Pat Boera

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November 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

By Rosalind "Roz" Saunders

I am honored to be coming in as the Chair of the Lyric Board, working with Vice-Chair Shane McCormack, Treasurer Karen Sheedy, and Secretary Margaret Welch. I want to offer my deepest thanks to outgoing Chair Steve Kendall for his tremendous leadership of the Lyric Board. Steve has put in countless hours over many years, and I am very grateful for his continued service. The Board and I look forward to working with new Executive Director Jose Rincon, as we say goodbye and express our sincere appreciation to Syndi Zook for her boundless energy and enthusiasm as Lyric's ED, and the excellent legacy she leaves. Lyric Theatre is a wonderful organization with a rich history and an incredible volunteer tradition, and on behalf of the Board, we all look forward to supporting you in your work with Lyric. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything we can do to assist you in your efforts.

MESSAGE FROM THE PAST BOARD CHAIR

By Stephen Kendall

Last month's Lyric Annual Meeting marked the end of my term as a Board member and as Chair of the Board. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on Lyric's Board for 17 of the last 20 years. It has been an extremely fulfilling experience. I want to thank the membership, donors, Syndi, and the staff for their support, hard work and love of all things Lyric. I want to especially acknowledge those past and present Board members I have been fortunate enough to work with through the years. Their expertise, dedication and commitment to governing Lyric has been vital to Lyric's growth, evolution and success. Lyric is an extremely special organization for many reasons, but most importantly because of each of you. You make Lyric a family. As many of you have heard me say, when I look back on my major life events, Lyric members are always present at those events. Lyric members are there in the good times and those times of need. That's family! I am proud and thrilled to be a member of the Lyric family. With the hiring of Jose Rincon as Lyric's new Executive Director and the election of Roz Saunders as Board Chair, in their competent and capable hands, I could not be more excited for the Lyric family and Lyric's future! So long, farewell!

SAVE THE DATE: HOLIDAY CAROLING

By Christopher Brown

The Membership Committee invites you to bring family members, friends and your best voice for our Annual Holiday Caroling event on the Church Street Marketplace. Save the date—Sunday, December 10. Join the group for a post-caroling gathering with soup and cider hosted by the O'Connells.

GETTING TO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU

By Jose Rincon, Executive Director

The past few weeks have been thrilling and humbling. The energy of a production schedule in full swing, the emotion of rehearsing on the Flynn stage for the first time, the collaborative spirit that comes from working toward a shared goal—all of this before I figured out how to use the photocopier! I frankly could not have asked for a better introduction to life at Lyric Theatre Company—total immersion in the love, passion and dedication that has driven the organization for over four decades.

It's a particularly exciting time in Lyric's history to be coming on board, as this season's shows are the first to be produced in the Lyric Creative Space. I've already heard from several costumers and set decorators how the space is a game-changer for the work they do; and everyone is eager to see how else we can use our new home to offer opportunities for learning, growth and community engagement.

As we get ready for the holidays, and take time to reflect on gratitude, I find myself grateful for family in all its forms. I want to give major thanks to Rosalind Saunders, Steve Kendall and the Board of Directors for the warm welcome into the Lyric family, and a special thank you to Syndi Zook for being such a helpful partner in getting me up and running.

I very much look forward to introducing myself to more of the membership in the coming months, and if you are ever in the neighborhood, please come by 7 Green Tree Drive and say hello!



LYRIC PERFORMS AT BURLINGTON'S FIRST NIGHT

By Brent Garrow

Continuing a long-standing tradition, Lyric Theatre Company will once again be part of Burlington's First Night Celebration. Brent Garrow, Co-Assistant Director for *A Christmas Story, The Musical*, leads the team as Director. Joining him are Craig Hilliard as Music Director and Sue Bailey as Choreographer. The show's theme is "Classic Broadway." Save the date now and plan to attend one of the performances on New Year's Eve at the First United Methodist Church, or catch the performance at the 50+ and Boomer Expo in January.

PROMOTIONAL WEAR FOR

A CHRISTMAS STORY, THE MUSICAL

Karyn Dubie tells us that she still has short-sleeved, long-sleeve, V-neck shirts and sweatshirts in limited sizes, for anyone who has not yet purchased one. You can text Karyn at 802-578-7609. The shirts are bright green and feature the show logo designed by Jane Burchard.



SAVE THE DATE:

AUDITIONS FOR *DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS*

By Serena Magnan O'Connell

Auditions for *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, under the artistic direction of Andrea Cronan, music direction by Martin Hain, and choreography by Kate Whalen, will be held Wednesday through Friday, January 3 through 5, 2018, with callbacks on January 6. Auditions will be held at Hampton Direct, Inc. warehouse, 291 Hurricane Drive in Williston.

The *DRS* team is happy to announce our beloved Charlie Church as Co-chair of Set Construction alongside Tim Henderson. Apologies to Charlie who was left off the Production Team announcement which appeared in last month's issue!

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

LAWRENCE JAMESON – Male (age 40-60)

A British experienced con artist who is sophisticated, suave, and smart. Although he cons wealthy women out of their money, he has moral character. Falls for Christine. Looking for a strong actor with good comedic timing, who sings well, and can dance/move with distinguished, cultured physical style. Needs to be able to speak/sing with British and German/Austrian dialects (also plays the part of Dr. Shuffhausen). **G2 - Bb4 (Tenor)**

FREDDY BENSON – Male (age 25-45)

A younger, rougher, small-time con artist. Dimwit with no moral character, who doesn't like to lose. This actor also plays the part of a wheelchair confined vet and Lawrence's crazy younger brother Ruprecht. Has a romance with Christine. Looking for a high energy, physically active, actor with great comedic timing, who can sing and dance/move well. **A2 - B4 (Tenor)**

ANDRE THIBAUT - Male (age 35-50)

The Chief of Police and Lawrence's French assistant. Official and mostly serious, he has a light-hearted nature and a dry sense of humor. Has a heated romance with Muriel. Looking for an actor who can speak a French dialect, sing well and can dance/move with a distinguished, businesslike persona. **F2 - F4 (Baritenor)**

CHRISTINE COLGATE – Female (age 25-35)

The "American Soap Queen" from Cincinnati, Ohio, vacationing on the French Riviera and the target of Lawrence and Freddy's bet. Naive and clueless at first, she becomes cunning and mischievous and eventually another character altogether. Has a romance with Freddy and a moment with Lawrence. Looking for a good actor and a strong singer who can dance/move with a sweet innocent look and appeal.

A3 - F#5 (Mezzo-Soprano)

MURIEL EUBANKS - Female (age 35-50)

A wealthy and attractive American socialite from Nebraska, she one of Lawrence's victims and Andre's subsequent love interest. Gullible yet sincere. Looking for a strong actor with good comedic timing, who sings well, and can dance/move well. **E3 - C5 (Alto)**

JOLENE OAKES - Female (age 30-45)

An American heiress from Oklahoma and the "Princess of Petroleum," she is very eager, optimistic, and energetic. Blend of a southern firecracker and a southern belle who doesn't take no for an answer. Looking for an actor who can speak a Midwestern dialect, sings well and can dance/move.

A3 - D5 (Alto)

** Jolene is featured in ACT 1 only. She will be part of the Ensemble in ACT 2 unless the actor cast prefers a smaller featured only role.

ENSEMBLE – (Age 18-70)

8-12 Men and 8-12 Women, various ages, vocal ranges, and dialects. Will be playing multiple roles, such as con artist victims (Lenore, Sophia, Renee, Usherette), tourists/citizens, maids/butlers/wait staff, business roles (Croupier, Conductor, Hotel Manager, Porter, Accordion Player), sailors, nuns and atmospheric individuals. There are **multiple opportunities** for featured/solo singing, dance, and dialogue moments.

NOTE: The ages for the characters listed represent the general age of the actor can "play" on stage. (For example, a man is 35, but can pass for 45 or vice versa.)



THE PERFECT GIFT

What gift is just right...no matter the occasion? A gift of live theatre, of course!

For that challenging-to-buy-for person in your life, consider a gift certificate for tickets to a Lyric Theatre Company production or LyricKids' camp. Perhaps you can recall the first time you sat in the audience for a live theatre production—the flurry of conversations as patrons entered the hall; reading your program; sensing the excitement as the house lights dimmed; hearing the first notes of the overture; being awed by sets, costumes, hair, make-up, and lighting; and perhaps even waiting after the show to meet your favorite actor or actress. Everyone should have this experience! You can make it happen. Contact the Lyric Office for more info—802-658-1484.

MEMBER BENEFITS: NOVEMBER 3-12, 2017

Thank you to the following businesses for participating in Lyric's Backstage Benefits! Your Lyric Theatre membership card will get you discounts at the following establishments during the production period of *A Christmas Story, The Musical*. Please frequent them and be sure to express your appreciation for their generosity to Lyric! New businesses and restaurants are being added all the time. Check the Lyric website to see additional benefits.

Restaurants

Leunig's 115 Church St, Burlington	20% Discount on food only and non-bistro meals
Kountry Kart Deli 155 Main St, Burlington	Free can of soda with sub/sandwich purchase
A Single Pebble 133 Bank St, Burlington	10% Discount on food only
Manhattan Pizza & Pub 167 Main St, Burlington	15% Discount on food and non-alcoholic beverages
Pizzeria Verità 156 St. Paul St, Burlington	15% Discount on food only
Sweetwaters 140 Church St, Burlington	15% Discount on food only
Revolution Kitchen 9 Center St, Burlington	15% Discount on food and non-alcoholic beverages
Big Daddy's Pizza 177 Church St, Burlington	2 Slices + 1 Soda for \$5
St. Paul Street Gastrogrub St. Paul & Maple St, Burlington	20% Discount on food only

Services

Stella Mae 96 Church St, Burlington	20% Discount off one item
Kathy & Company 221 Colchester Ave, Burlington	10% Discount
O'M Salon 171 St. Paul St, Burlington	\$10 off haircut with Don, Ron or Robert booked during show week
Dostie Brothers Framing 308 Pine St, Burlington	20% off Custom Framing
Fully Present Fullypresentwithyou.com Gerianntv@gmail.com	\$15 off any service when scheduled during show week
Stephen and Burns 116 Church St, Burlington	\$15 off any massage booked during show week

SPOTLIGHT SHOUT-OUT By Christopher Brown

This month, we send a big shout-out to Travis Hathaway, cast member of ACS and Membership Committee member, for organizing our recent Bowling Night. We had a great turnout of folks in the current cast and crews as well as many folks from the larger membership. Thanks, Travis, for putting together such a fun night!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PROPOSE?

By Sean Leach

... for Lyric's Spring 2019 show! The Show Selection and Evaluation Committee is seeking proposals for spring 2019 and would like a show that would be very popular with our Lyric audiences—ideally one with six performances. This show, coupled with our about-to-be-announced fall 2018 show, will provide Lyric with a blockbuster season to help support our new building. The deadline for show proposals is December 15, 2017. Guidelines are stated below. Contact Sean Leach, chair of Lyric's Show Selection and Evaluation Committee, at leachs@aol.com or 363-4599 for more info. Main Stage Show Proposal Criteria:

- Has not been produced by Lyric in the past ten years
- Has broad-based audience appeal
- Is appropriate for directors, cast and crew available to Lyric
- Has potential for substantial ticket sales
- Has artistic value

Written proposals should include:

- Names and qualifications of the Producer, Director, Choreographer and Music Director
- Synopsis of show
- History of the show (where and when it has been performed)
- General vision including cast size and mix, special talent needs and why it should be produced by Lyric Theatre Company
- A preliminary budget (past show budgets are available from the Lyric Office)
- Some general marketing ideas to promote the show

ON OTHER STAGES

★ Burlington High School presents *The Drowsy Chaperone*, November 16-18, in the BHS Auditorium. Tickets/info: facebook.com/burlington.high.school.drama

★ South Burlington High School presents *The Addams Family*, November 16-18, in the SBHS Auditorium. Info: sbschools.net

★ UVM Department of Theatre presents *Sense and Sensibility*, November 8-12. Performances are held at the Royall Tyler Theatre. Tickets/info: uvm.edu/cas/theatre/

★ Shelburne Players present *I Hate Hamlet* at Shelburne Town Center November 10-18. Tickets/info: shelburneplayers.com

★ Lamoille County Players present *Murder Inn*, November 10-19. Performances are held at the Hyde Park Opera House. Tickets/info: lcplayers.com

★ Essex Community Players present *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, December 1-10. Performances are held at Memorial Hall. Tickets/info: essexplayers.com

★ *Broadway Neat, with a Twist*, directed by Erin Evarts with Nate Venet as Music Director, will be presented one day only—December 2—at ArtsRiot on Pine Street, with shows at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Tickets/info: artsriot.com/events/broadwayneat

★ The Flynn Center's Broadway series includes *Kinky Boots*, December 5; *Cinderella*, February 7; and *Cabaret*, May 14. Tickets/info: flynncenter.org



P.O. Box 1688
Williston, VT 05495



Tickets to *A Christmas Story, The Musical*
and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* make great gifts!

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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 December issue: November 28, 2017

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AT YOUR SERVICE—LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY BOARD & STAFF

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MEETING TIMES FOR LYRIC'S STANDING COMMITTEES
Board (Chair: Rosalind Saunders): 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Lyric Office, 7 Green Tree Dr., South Burlington
Facilities (Chair: Doug Viehmann): 1st Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office, 7 Green Tree Dr., South Burlington
PR/Development (Chair: Annie Ode): 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office, 7 Green Tree Dr., South Burlington
Education (Chair: MaryBeth Nuovo): Meeting details TBA
Finance (Chair: Karen Sheedy): Meeting details TBA
Membership (Chair: Christopher Brown): 4th Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., home of the O'Connell's, Burlington
Show Selection (Chair: Margaret Welch): Monthly, Time TBA, Location varies

**A CELEBRATION AND RIBBON CUTTING
FOR OUR NEW CREATIVE SPACE!**

By Syndi Zook

Please save December 16 from 12 noon to 3 p.m. to visit our new Lyric Creative Space at 7 Green Tree Drive in South Burlington and see the amazing renovation that has taken place! We want to thank everyone who has donated to the Capital Campaign to make this Lyric Dream a reality. Remarks at 12:30 p.m., followed by tours, talk and tea-time buffet. More information to come! Please e-mail Syndi Zook at syndi@lyrictheatrevt.org with any questions.



**November 9-12, 2017
MainStage
Flynn Center for the
Performing Arts**