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A quirky romantic comedy about a professor of nihilism who experiences joy for the first time in her life.

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HERE

NOW

BY DEBORAH ZOE LAUFER

DIRECTED BY COURTNEY O'CONNOR



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# A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Dear friends,

Welcome back to surprise.

Welcome back to not being able to pause the action on stage.

Welcome back to eating out before the show and having coffee afterwards to discuss what you've seen.

Welcome back to palpably feeling the energy between the actors.

Welcome back to sharing a laugh with someone across the aisle.

Welcome back to wondering how a costume change happened.

Welcome back to watching an actor discover something new.

Welcome back to holding your breath for the moment the actor finally reveals their character's soul.

You're not home tonight. You're in your theatrical home.

Welcome back to the Lyric Stage.

Yours,

Matt & Courtney

Matt Chapuran  
Executive Director

Courtney O'Connor  
Artistic Director

## THE LYRIC STAGE

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The Lyric Stage Company of Boston  
Matt Chapuran Executive Director | Courtney O'Connor Artistic Director  
*presents*

# BE HERE NOW

by  
**DEBORAH ZOE LAUFER**

Directed by  
**COURTNEY O'CONNOR** °

Scenic Design, **Janie E. Howland\*\***  
Costume Design, **Rachel Padula Shufelt**  
Lighting Design, **Karen Perlow\*\***  
Sound Design, **Dewey Dellay**  
Assistant Director, **Alexandra Smith**  
Intimacy Director, **Ted Hewlett**  
Props Artisan, **Lauren Corcuera**  
Production Stage Manager, **Nerys Powell\***  
Assistant Stage Manager, **Rose Mancuso**

Featuring: **Barlow Adamson\***, **Shani Farrell**, **Samantha Richert\***, **Katherine C. Shaver**

Lyric Stage's 2021/22 Season sponsored by  
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Production sponsored by  
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BE HERE NOW is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals  
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. | [concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com)

Originally Commissioned and Produced by Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park  
Blake Robinson, Artistic Director | Buzz Ward, Managing Director

The Lyric Stage Company of Boston operates under the NEAT Agreement with Actors' Equity Association and  
is a member of NEAT [The Producers' Association of New England Area Theaters], and StageSource.

The Lyric Stage Company of Boston is supported in part by a grant from The Massachusetts Cultural Council,  
a state agency, and The Boston Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by The Massachusetts Cultural Council,  
administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts, Tourism, and Special Events.

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

\*\*Represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE

°Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society



## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF *BE HERE NOW*

My mentor, Maureen Shea, once told me how stories have a way of finding you at just the right moment. And that as directors, we choose to work on plays that reflect what's happening in our lives, whether we know it or not. When I first read *Be Here Now* in the summer of 2019, I knew it was quirky and fun, but there was no way I could have known how deeply this story, and in particular, Bari would soon begin to resonate with my life.

As a professor of nihilism, Bari begins the story believing that nothing matters—and over the past 18 months, there were many days where I could have easily written her dissertation. But during our read-thru of the script in the first rehearsal—534 days after our company shut down—it wasn't just Bari who experienced a profound moment of joy and connection. Though the room may not have quite changed colors, my world brightened and glowed anew with beauty, love, and possibility. It turns out that *Be Here Now* truly found me at the right moment. And as we journey into this fall season of changes and challenges, I hope your story [and possibly a moment of profound joy, catharsis, or whatever you need] finds you at the right moment too.

*Courtney*  
Courtney

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THE  
**LYRIC STAGE**

Remo Airal di\*, Dan Prior, Katrina Z Pavao,  
and Jeff Marcus\* in *Little Shop of Horrors* (2019)

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association.

CAST

Samantha Richert\* ..... Bari  
 Barlow Adamson\* ..... Mike Cooper  
 Shani Farrell ..... Patty Cooper  
 Katherine C. Shaver ..... Luanne Cooper

*\*Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association*

RUNNING TIME

Approximately 90 minutes.

SPECIAL THANKS

Firehouse Center for the Arts  
SpeakEasy Stage Company



First Rehearsal of *Be Here Now* | Top row: Alexandra Smith, Courtney O'Connor\*, Barlow Adamson\*, Rose Mancuso, Katherine C. Shaver, Samantha Richert\*, Dewey Dellay  
Bottom row: Nerys Powell\*, David D'Agostino (on screen), Janie E. Howland\*\*, Shani Farrell, Rachel Padula Shufelt

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association | \*\*Represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE | \*Member of Stage Directors and Choreography Society

**ABOUT YOUR LYRIC STAGE COMPANY OF BOSTON VISIT**

For more on how to contact us, Box Office hours, ticketing & performance policies, and other FAQs go to [lyricstage.com](http://lyricstage.com) & click on Your Visit.





**Samantha Richert\*** (Bari) Lyric Stage: *Twelfth Night* (Olivia), *Hold These Truths* (Kurogo), *City of Angels* (Alaura/Carla), *Becky's New Car* (Kenni). Huntington Theatre: *Ryan Landry's 'M'* (Olga). Gloucester Stage Company: *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Rose). Actors'

Shakespeare Project: *The Tempest* (Ariel). New Repertory Theatre: *Ripe Frenzy* (Felicia). Boston Playwrights' Theatre: *Elemeno Pea* (Michaela). Wheelock Family Theatre: *Gooney Bird Greene* (Mom). Greater Boston Stage Company: *Lucky Stiff* (Landlady). Nora Theatre Company: *The How and the Why* (Rachel). Gold Dust Orphans: *Jesus Christ, It's Christmas!* (Gootch). Berkshire Theatre Group: *Moonchildren* (Shelly), *A Christmas Carol* (Ghost of Christmas Past), *Babes in Arms* (Bunny Byron). Film and Television: *Castle Rock*, *Seduction Theory*, *God Only Knows*. Samantha is an Assistant Teaching Professor at Northeastern University and received her MFA from Brandeis University. samantharichert.com



**Barlow Adamson\*** (Mike Cooper) Lyric Stage Company: *The Thanksgiving Play*, *Chinglish*, *Time Stands Still*, *The Scene*, *Private Lives*, *Red Herring*, *Noises Off*, *Arms and the Man*. Merrimack Repertory Theatre: *The Villains' Supper Club*. Huntington Theatre: *The Maiden's*

*Prayer*, *A Month in the Country*. SpeakEasy Stage Company: *Small Mouth Sounds* (Elliot Norton Award, Outstanding Ensemble), *Kurt Vonnegut's Make Up Your Mind*, *Reckless*, *Almost Maine*, *Fuddy Meers*, *An American Daughter*. Nora Theatre Company: *Photograph 51*, *Marjorie Prime*, *Operation Epsilon*, *On The Verge*, *The Swan*. Underground Railway Theater: *Paradise*, *Yesterday Happened: Remembering H.M.* Boston Playwrights' Theatre: *ElemenoPea* (Elliot Norton Award, Outstanding Actor), *The Honey Trap*, *Reconsidering Hanna/h*, *Matters Familias*. Bridge Rep: *Sixty Miles to Silver Lake*. Gloucester Stage Company: *The Norman Conquests*, *Dinner With Friends*.



**Shani Farrell** (Patty Cooper) Lyric Stage: *The Walking Plays* Landmark Series, Episodes 3-6 (Sojourner), *The Walking Plays* Greenway Series, Episodes 2 & 3 (Anne Frances). Stageloft Repertory Theater: *Boeing Boeing* (Gloria). Pilgrim Soul Productions: *Vanya*

*Sonya Masha Spike* (Cassandra). Mainstage Theater Company: *Noises Off* (Mrs. Clackett). The Umbrella Stage Company: *Fences* (Rose), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Yitzhak). Worcester County Light Opera Club: *Chicago* (Velma Kelly). Theater at the Mount: *Sister Act The Musical* (Dolores Van Cartier). Mainstage Theater

Company: *Into the Woods* (The Witch). Clark University Musical Theater Club: *Avenue Q* (Gary Coleman). Shani is a graduate of Fitchburg State University with a bachelor's degree in Communications/Theater. She currently attends Emerson College obtaining her MFA in theater education/applied theater. She has been nominated for EMACT DASH award for best supporting actress in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Smitty), and was an IRENE RYAN nominee/semi-finalist in the 2015 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Special thanks to the ones whose support never waivers!



**Katherine C. Shaver** (Luanne Cooper) Lyric Stage debut. Boston Theater Company: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia). Emerson College: *What Remains Hidden (Is Still Known)* a devised play with Rinde Eckert, *Who Donut* (Lexie), *Hamlet* (Claudius). Kath-

erine serves as the Special Projects Manager here at the Lyric and feels blessed to be on both sides of the stage! She is a West Virginia native and owes it all, always, to her mom and dad. KatherineCShaver.com

**Deborah Zoe Laufer** (Playwright) Other plays include *Informed Consent*, *Leveling Up*, *Out of Sterno*, *The Last Schwartz*, *Sirens*, *Meta*, *The Gulf of Westchester*, *Miniatures*, *Fortune*, and *Window Treatment*. A recipient of the Helen Merrill Playwriting Award, the Lilly Award, and grants and commissions from The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, The Edgerton Foundation, The National New Play Network, the NEA, and the LeCompte du Nouy grant from the Lincoln Center Foundation. She is a graduate of Juilliard, an alumna of the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop, and a member of The Dramatists Guild.

**Janie E. Howland\*\*** (Scenic Design) Lyric Stage: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Anna Christie*, *Pacific Overtures*. Abilities Dance Boston: *Firebird*. Gloucester Stage Company: *Baskerville*. PPAF: *Charlie Brown*. NYCDanceAlliance, Lynn Redgrave Theatre (NY), Tennessee Williams Festival (Provincetown), Harvard University, Actors' Shakespeare Project, Moonbox Productions, Odyssey Opera, New Repertory Theater, Weston Playhouse (VT), Boston Children's Theatre, North Shore Music Theatre, Central Square Theatre, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Ohio Star Theatre, A.R.T. Institute, Boston Conservatory, Company One, Greater Boston Stage Company, Seacoast Repertory, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, New Jersey Shakespeare Festival (NJ), Huntington Theatre Studio 210. Four-time Elliot Norton Award winner, Four-time IRNE Award winner; adjunct faculty at Emerson College, Wellesley College. USA Local 829. Stage Source Board Member. janiehowland.com

**Rachel Padula-Shufelt** [Costume Design] Lyric Stage: *Thanksgiving Play*. Greater Boston Stage Company: *39 Steps*. SpeakEasy Stage Company: *The Children*, *Choir Boy*, *Once*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Men on Boats*. Central Square Theatre: *Frankenstein*. New Repertory Theatre: *Oliver, 1776*. Actors' Shakespeare Project: *Macbeth*, *Edward III* (Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Design). American Repertory Theatre: *Charlotte's Web*. Harvard TDM: *s.i.n.s.o.f.u.s.*, *The Owl Answers*. Boston Playwrights Theatre: *Rosenbergs*, *Lost Tempo*, *The River Was Whiskey*, *Mortal Terror*, *Legally Dead*, *Windowmen* (Elliot Norton Award Nominee for Outstanding Design), *Chosen Child*, *Reconsidering Hanna/h*. Gloucester Stage Company: *Barefoot in the Park*, *Trad*, *Crimes of the Heart*. Rachel is a graduate of Emerson College.

**Karen Perlow\*\*** [Lighting Design: USA 829] Lyric Stage favorites: *Anna Christie*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Hold These Truths*, *The Wolves*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Miss Witherspoon*. SpeakEasy Stage Company: *Once*, *History Boys*, *Admissions*, *Violet*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Fun Home*. Merrimack Repertory Theater: *The Royale*, *Native Gardens*. Actors' Shakespeare Project: *Macbeth*, *School for Scandal*. New Repertory Theater: *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Cherry Docs*. Odyssey Opera: *La Belle Helene*. Underground Railway Theater: *Arabian Nights*. Gloucester Stage Company: *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Jacques Brel*. Karen is proud to serve as the treasurer of the Theater Community Benevolent Fund [tcbf.org](http://tcbf.org) and teaches ESOL. She is married to actor Dale Place. [aboutheartists.com/artists/329435-karen-perlow](http://aboutheartists.com/artists/329435-karen-perlow)

**Dewey Dellay** [Composer/Sound Designer] Lyric Stage: *Murder on the Orient Express* and *The Little Foxes*. New Repertory Theater: *Cardboard Piano*, *The Bakelite Masterpiece*. Actors' Shakespeare Project: *Nat Turner in Jerusalem*. Underground Railway Theater: *Constellations*. SpeakEasy Stage Company: *Admissions*. Brandeis University: *The Bacchae*. Hanover Theatre: *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*. In past years he has received an Elliot Norton award for Outstanding Design and an IRNE for Best Sound Design. His television credits include original music for Emmy nominated National Geographic's *China's Mystery Mummies*, Discovery Channel's *Miami Jail*, and he has composed music for five seasons of *Our America with Lisa Ling* (OWN Channel). Dewey is presently composing music for digital children's books produced by Live Oak Media. [Deweydellay.com](http://Deweydellay.com)

**Nerys Powell\*** [Production Stage Manager] Lyric Stage: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, and *The Treasurer*. Instagram: @nerysp

**Rose Mancuso** [Assistant Stage Manager] Lyric Stage: *Breath & Imagination* and *The Treasurer*. Boston Midsummer Opera: *Love*, *Italian Style*, *Barber of Seville*, and *Melange Operatique*. Moonbox Productions: *Lost at Sea* and *Parade*. New Repertory Theatre: *Nixon's Nixon*. Berkshire Theatre Group: *The Goat, Or Who Is Sylvia?*, *Shrek: The Musical*, and *What We May Be*. Rose is a graduate of Northeastern University.

**Ted Hewlett** [Intimacy Director] Lyric Stage: *Pacific Overtures* [Fight Director], *The Cake* [Intimacy Director]. New York: *Shōgun* [original Broadway cast], *Bill W. and Dr. Bob* [Off-Broadway Fight Director], Pan Asian Repertory, Mettawee River Company, Lincoln Center Institute. Boston: Huntington Theatre, SITI Company, ArtsEmerson, Actors' Shakespeare Project, SpeakEasy Stage Company, New Repertory Theatre, Boston Theatre Works, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Wellesley Repertory Theatre, Gloucester Stage, North Shore Music Theatre, Shakespeare Now!, Boston Ballet, Boston Lyric Opera. Regional: Shakespeare & Company, Shakespeare Theatre [D.C.], Elm Shakespeare, Syracuse Stage, Kennedy Center, Fulton Opera House, Westchester Broadway Theatre, Birmingham Theatre [MI], Berkshire Theatre

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**Lauren Corcuera** (Props Artisan) Lyric Stage: *Breath and Imagination*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *The Cake*, *the Treasurer*. Gloucester Stage Company: *Barefoot in the Park*, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Seared*. Emerson Stage: *Stupid F\*\*\*ing Bird*. Brandeis University: *Circle Mirror Transformation*. Lauren is currently the assistant prop director at Emerson College.

**Alexandra Smith** [Assistant Director/Voice of Yoga Instructor] Also Known As Theatre: *Extremities* and *A Good Death*. Hartford Stage Education: *Anonfymous*. Emerson College Graduate Studies: *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*. National Women's Theatre Festival: *Bella Luna*. Huntington Theatre Company: *Sweat*. Wheelock Family Theatre: *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*. Open Theatre Project: *Persephone, a new myth for a hotter world* and *Prudence*. Company Member at Open Theatre Project, Core Collaborator at The Big Times Project, Artistic Director at Deana's Educational Theater, and Board Member for the Theatre Community Benevolent Fund. Teaching Artist for Actors' Shakespeare Project, American Repertory Theater, Boston Shakespeare Project, and Company One, and graduate of Emerson College and Rhode Island College. alexsmith784.wixsite.com/alexsmith

**PJ Strachman** (Assistant Lighting Design) Lyric Stage debut. L.A.B.: *A Story Beyond*, *Yellow Bird Chase*. Flat Earth: *King of Shadows*, *Delicate Particle Logic*, *Antigone*, *A Bright Room Called Day*, *Silent Sky*. Blue Spruce: *Pandora* (Lyricist and Lighting Designer), *The OK Diaries*. Gloucester Stage: *My Station in Life*, *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*. Boston Public Works: *Los Meadows*. PJ also designs and lectures at several colleges and high schools in the area. pjelex.com

**Matt Chapuran** (Executive Director) Matt was Managing Director of the Lyric Stage from 2014 to 2018. He was previously Managing Director of Stoneham Theatre, where he ran the 2010 Boston Marathon with Producing Artistic Director Weylin Symes in support of Stoneham Theatre's educational mission. Matt has also served as Director of Development for Conservatory Lab Charter School and managed institutional giving for the Huntington Theatre Company. At the Nora Theatre Company, Matt was Managing Director during the inception of a capital campaign that ultimately led to the construction of the Central Square Theater. Matt has performed, taught, and directed improvisation for two decades, including as a part of Babson College's M.B.A. program, as one half of the improv team *The Angriest Show in the World*,

and as the director of *Improvvised History*. He currently teaches Arts Management at Emerson College. He lives in Roslindale with his wife and their three daughters.

**Courtney O'Connor** ° [Director/Artistic Director] Courtney joined the full-time staff of the Lyric Stage in 2018 and was named Artistic Director in 2020. She has directed several pieces for the Lyric Stage, including *Stones in His Pockets*, *Red Hot Patriot*, and *The Cake*. Courtney is a senior affiliated faculty member in Performing Arts at Emerson College. In addition to directing for theatres and universities, Courtney has directed multiple site-specific productions at locations including Mount Auburn Cemetery and Boston's Old State House. Through her work with the Coyote Theatre Project, she oversaw the creation of more than 200 new 10-minute plays written by youths from Boston. Courtney has received the Elliot Norton award for her work as the Associate Director on the Lyric Stage's production of *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby* and the Alan L. Stanzler Award for Excellence in Teaching.

\***Actors' Equity Association** (AEA) was founded in 1913. The first of the American actor unions, its mission is to advance, promote and foster the art

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**\*\*United Scenic Artists (USA-Local 829)** is a labor union representing designers and artists in the entertainment industry. Membership includes the security of working under a collective bargaining agreement, better working conditions and wages, and access to health insurance, a pension plan, an annuity plan, and a 401(K). Members are artists and craftspeople working in film, theatre, opera, ballet, television, industrial shows, commercials, and exhibitions. [usa829.org](http://usa829.org)

**°Stage Directors & Choreographers Society (SDC)** is the theatrical union that unites, empowers, and protects professional Stage Directors and Choreographers throughout the United States. Our mission is to foster a national community of professional stage Directors and Choreographers by protecting the rights, health and livelihoods of all our Members; to facilitate the exchange of ideas, information and opportunities, while educating the current and future generations about the role of Directors and Choreographers; and to provide effective administrative, negotiating and contractual support. [sdweb.org](http://sdweb.org)

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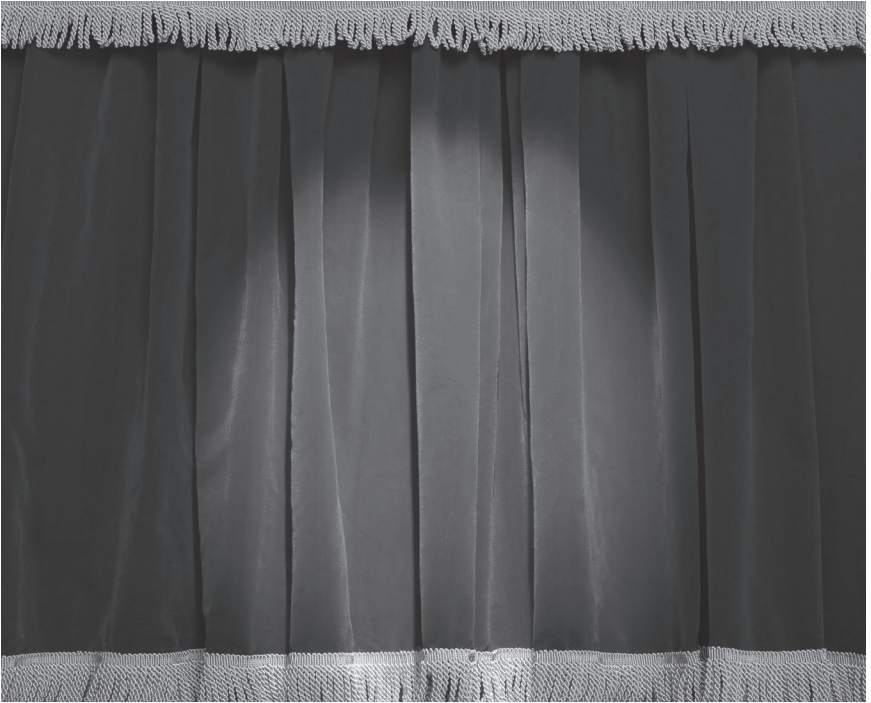
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The cast of *Camelot* (2017).



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Karen MacDonald in  
*The Cake* (2020).

THE  
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New Yorkers who fall in and out of  
love over the course of five years.

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*"I love the Lyric Stage – they do such top-notch productions. The dramas, comedies, musicals ... they are all wonderful and they give me such joy. Including the Lyric Stage in my will is my way of showing my appreciation for all that they do."*

- MARY ELLEN KIDDLE, THEATER-LOVER & VOLUNTEER

The Founders' Society – Lyric Stage Company of Boston is grateful to the following individuals who have included the Lyric Stage Company in their wills and estate plans.

Amanda Eckhoff &  
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Joe Richard &  
René Morrissette  
Anita Springer  
Robert Volante  
Kerry Weiss &  
Gustavo Pena

*\*denotes members who  
have passed away*

## THE FOUNDERS' SOCIETY

In 1974 the Lyric Stage Company of Boston was founded to celebrate a deep love of theater and a commitment to support the members of the local theater community. Today we honor this love and commitment through the **Founders' Society**.

For the past five decades, this commitment has guided the Lyric Stage to become a Boston institution, producing award-winning theater while nurturing and supporting some of the most amazing talent in the area.

This vision of what theater can be led the Lyric Stage to reach out to Boston's younger citizens with programs and opportunities to experience and benefit from the power of live theater. Today, Lyric Stage Company's suite of educational programs annually reaches over 65,000 children and families.

Award-winning theater and educational programs do not happen in a vacuum – they happen because people share the love that first inspired our founders.

The Founders' Society members, by making a legacy gift through their will or estate plans, are helping to ensure that the Lyric Stage will continue enriching the Boston community for generations to come.

If you are interested in learning more, or have already included the Lyric Stage in your planned giving, please contact Director of Development Sarah Leaf-Herrmann. Sarah@LyricStage.com | 617.585.5683

Generous friends like you advance our mission to produce and present live theatre in Greater Boston with an intimate approach that promotes inclusivity and connection. The Lyric Stage leads an effort to integrate live theater and theater education into the lives of all residents of greater Boston. On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Advisory Council, the staff, and our company of Boston-based theatre artists at the Lyric Stage Company of Boston, we extend our sincere thanks to those who make our work possible. Thank you for giving to YOUR theatrical home.

For questions, concerns, or details please contact Sarah@LyricStage.com.

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 Brett & Julia Miwa  
 Glen & Ilyse Mohr  
 Michael J. Moran, *In Memory of  
 Francis D. & Marcella A. Moran*  
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 Catherine Moritz  
 Patty Morrison  
 Robert Morrisette  
 Shelby Morss  
 Austen Moye  
 John S. Moynihan  
 Lisa Mullins  
 Beth Munn Griffin  
 Elizabeth Murray  
 Roberta Myers &  
 Steven R. Baturin  
 Judith Myerson  
 Nael Nacer  
 Liz Nania  
 Greg Nash  
 Erin Merceruio Nelson  
 Ryan Newberry &  
 Deirdre Callahan  
 Charlie & Christine Nichols  
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 Atheline W. Nixon  
 Anne Noble & Valerie J. Grande  
 Susanna Noon  
 Cathy Nowak  
 Louis & Deidre O'Brien Pepi  
 Katherine O'Connor  
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 Deji Odetoynbo  
 Elaine Odetoynbo  
 Olusegun Odetoynbo  
 Oluwole Odetoynbo  
 Rolake Odetoynbo  
 Cassandra Spratling  
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 William Lee Roberts  
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 Leslie Rosenberg  
 Joan Rosenberg  
 Judith Rosenberg  
 Mary Rosenfield  
 Carol & Wally Rowe  
 Ryan Ruopp  
 Donna L. Ryan  
 Mary Douglass Ryan  
 Alycia Nicole Sacco  
 Richard Sacks  
 Dean & Joy Salpini  
 Kirsten Salpini  
 Arlene Sampson  
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 Ms. Mary C. Savini  
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 Doris Schannen  
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# THE LYRIC STAGE

THE LYRIC STAGE COMPANY OF BOSTON produces and presents live theatre in Greater Boston with an intimate approach that promotes inclusivity and connection. The Lyric Stage leads an effort to integrate live theater and theater education into the lives of all residents of greater Boston. Its six-show season ranges in theatrical genres that include classic Broadway-style musicals, new plays, and established classics. The Lyric Stage is the recipient of 40 Elliot Norton Awards and 69 Independent Reviewers of New England (IRNE) Awards and was invited to present work at the 1986 World Theatre Festival.

Founded in 1974 by **Ron Ritchell** and **Polly Hogan**, the Lyric Stage is Boston's oldest resident theatre company. After establishing a loyal following on Charles Street, Ron and Polly led a successful 1991 campaign to create the Lyric Stage's current home on Clarendon Street, a 244-seat three-quarter thrust theatre that is Boston's most intimate venue. Polly was the chief negotiator for the NEAT (New England Area Theatres) contract, which made it easier for local producers to hire members of Actors Equity Association, the union for actors and stage managers.

In 1998, **Spiro Veloudos** was appointed Producing Artistic Director. During his tenure, he continued Ron and Polly's commitment to local artists; with few exceptions, the theatrical artists that work at the Lyric Stage live in the Greater Boston area. Spiro also established a reputation for staging large musicals in the Lyric Stage's modest playing space, including a signature Sondheim Initiative, which covered 10 musicals over 20 years.

In 2016, the Lyric Stage opened Clarendon Hall, a year-round rehearsal space, where its productions spend their first two weeks of creation. When not in use by its professional productions or Fresh Ink Theatre, the Lyric Stage provides Clarendon Hall at a subsidized rate to members of the Boston Dance Alliance and other arts organizations and individuals.

From the Teen Neighborhood Theatre during Ron and Polly's era, to Lyric First Stage during Spiro's tenure, theatre-based education has been a core of the Lyric Stage's mission. In 2019, the Lyric Stage merged with City Stage Co. and now reaches students and families each year with its educational performances and workshops, including performances at the Children's Museum of Boston, with teaching artists working in classrooms in the Boston Public Schools.

Following Spiro's retirement in 2019, the board appointed former Managing Director **Matt Chapuran** as Executive Director, and shortly after, Associate Artistic Director **Courtney O'Connor** was promoted to Artistic Director. Their partnership promises to continue to make the Lyric Stage central to Boston's theatre community, introduce live theatre to new audiences, and promote new theatrical voices in Boston and nationwide.

## LYRIC STAGE COMPANY OF BOSTON STAFF

**Matt Chapuran**, Executive Director

**Courtney O'Connor**, Artistic Director

**Kate Casner**, Digital Marketing Associate

**Heather Darrow**, Director of Marketing

**David D'Agostino**, Production Manager

**Sarah Leaf-Herrmann**, Director of Development

**Chandra Pieragostini**, Associate Director of Education

**Michele Proude**, KidStage Manager

**Katherine C. Shaver**, Special Projects Manager

**Spiro Veloudos**, Producing Artistic Director Emeritus

### Box Office & Front of House:

**Josh Veilleux**, Box Office Manager

**Katherine Shaver**, Assistant Box Office Manager

**Sivan Amir, Elizabeth Carsley, Maia Cataldo, Rachel Greene,**

**Megan Jepsen, David Kaus, Sara Kenney, Tori Loubert,**

**Kat O'Connor**, Box Office & Front of House Managers

**Elizabeth Albahary, Sarah Bord, Meagan Dobyne,**

**Michelle Garcia, Alyssa Lara, Leo Lukaszevich,**

**Linda Shewokis, Braelyn Spitzer**, Box Office & Front

of House Assistants

### Administrative Assistants:

**Emma Goldman, Kandyce Whittingham**, Artistic

**Chandler David, Emeline Shepard**, Development

**Marieska Luzada, Michael Rocco, Ava Straccia,**

**Julia Thorn**, Marketing

### Stage Managers 2021/22 Season:

**Rose Mancuso, Betsy Pierce, Nerys Powell\*,**

**Elizabeth Yvette Ramirez\***

### Design:

The scenery for this production was constructed by

**Wooden Kiwi Productions, LLC.**

**Melissa Wagner-O'Malley**, Graphic Design

\*Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association

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