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NOV 12 - DEC 12

詳LAST YEARS

WRITTEN & COMPOSED BY JASON ROBERT BROWN DIRECTED BY LEIGH BARRETT MUSIC DIRECTOR, DAN RODRIGUEZ

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A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Has there ever been a moment in time where we more resembled Cathy and Jamie in *The Last Five Years*?

This is a musical about five years in the lives of two young people, one of them looking forward while the other laments what has come before. This certainly feels like all of us right now: peering out into the world once again, eager to embrace the best bits of the future, but doing so with the knowledge of our past shortcomings. Some might call this change, and certainly all of us have seen plenty of that in the last 20 months.

Here we are, staging our first musical since *Little Shop of Horrors* closed in October 2019, perhaps the first musical that Boston has produced locally in the last year. Here we are, welcoming back Leigh, Kira, Jared, and many others to once again practice their art while also welcoming new artists who are collaborating with us for the first time. But nothing is ever exactly like how it was before: Leigh joins us for this show not as a featured performer (with that voice that is so transcendent) but as a director–a role where she flourishes equally.

Look around the room. You're likely to see familiar, albeit masked, faces. At the same time, in the seat to your left, or to your right, there could be a new friend, a new neighbor, a new artistic collaborator–just awaiting your introduction.

In The Last Five Years, Cathy is lamenting an ending, while Jamie is celebrating a beginning.

We are doing both at once.

Matt Chapuran Executive Director

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Courtney O'Connor Artistic Director

LYRIC STAGE

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The Lyric Stage Company of Boston

Matt Chapuran Executive Director | Courtney O'Connor Artistic Director presents

呈IAS 'FARS

Written and Composed by JASON ROBERT BROWN

Directed by LEIGH BARRETT Music Director, DAN RODRIGUEZ

Scenic Design, Jenna McFarland-Lord Costume Design, David Lucey Lighting Design, Karen Perlow** Sound Design, Andrew Duncacn Will Assistant Director, Ryan Began Props Artisan, Lauren Corcuera Production Stage Manager, Nerys Powell* Assistant Stage Manager, Rose Mancuso

Featuring: Jared Troilo*, Kira Troilo*

Lyric Stage's 2021/22 Season sponsored by G. Lee & Diana Humphrey and Bank of America

Production sponsored by Nina and Don Berk

Director Leigh Barrett sponsored by Paul Kastner

Music Director Dan Rodriguez sponsored by Physicians Management Resources

THE LAST FIVE YEARS is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

> Originally Produced for the New York stage by Arielle Tepper and Marty Bell. Originally Produced by Northlight Theatre, Chicago, IL.

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 and Culture.

> *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











A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Though I'm usually seen on this stage as an actor, I am thrilled to be making my Lyric Stage directorial debut. I could ask for no better group of humans to welcome live theatre back, with Kira, Jared, Dan, Ryan, Jenna, Karen, David, Andrew, Lauren, Nerys, Rose, Courtney, Matt, the rest of the Lyric Stage family, and of course, you!

I describe *The Last Five Years* as "a beautiful, complicated mess." Honestly, isn't that what life often is? We could certainly describe the past year and a half that way. Though perhaps, more "complicated" than "beautiful." My own personal "beautiful, complicated mess" included discoveries about communication, awareness, acknowledgement, and the value of grace.

Let's face it, relationships are complicated no matter how beautiful they are. As we meet Cathy and Jamie in this song cycle, we get to participate in the real struggle of what it means to be in a relationship and witness their hopes, aspirations, and expectations, their missteps, miscommunication, and assumptions–hopefully see ourselves in their struggle.

Though this play starts at the end and (paradoxically) the beginning, we still root for this couple to find their way. There are no good or bad people. Just decisions made in the moment with the feelings and experiences of that moment. Decisions that produce an outcome.

Is this the end? Or, the beginning....

Enjoy, Leigh

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LYRIC STAGE

Remo Airaldi*, Dan Prior, Katrina Z Pavao, and Jeff Marcus* in *Little Shop of Horrors* (2019) *Member of Actors' Equity Association.

THE LAST FIVE YEARS 5

CAST

Jared Troilo*	Jamie
Kira Troilo*	Cathy

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

BAND

Dan Rodriguez, Piano Emily Dahl-Irons, Violin Javier Caballero, Kevin Crudder, Violoncellos Tom Young, Guitar Gregory Holt, Bass

RUNNING TIME

Approximately 90 minutes.

SPECIAL THANKS

Prescott Park Arts Festival | Boston College



First Rehearsal of The Last Five Years | Kira Troilo* and Jared Troilo* *Member of Actors' Equity Association

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 & click on Your Visit.





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Jared Troilo* [Jamie] Lyric Stage: My Fair Lady (Freddy), Murder for Two (Detective Marcus), Camelot (Lancelot). Jared has also appeared on the stages of SpeakEasy Stage Company, Wheelock Family Theatre, Palace Theatre, Moonbox Produc-

tions, Shadowland Stages, Reagle Music Theatre, Greater Boston Stage Company, The Barnstormers Theatre, and Fiddlehead Theatre Company. He is an IRNE award winner for Best Featured Actor in a Musical (*She Loves Me*). TV/Film:*Across The Pacific* (PBS), *Kevin can F*** Himself* (AMC), and the upcoming film *About Fate*. BFA The Boston Conservatory. Proud member of AEA. All my love to our Levi (and our babysitters!) and, of course, my brilliant wife and partner, Kira. JaredTroilo.com



Kira Troilo* [Cathy] Lyric Stage: Gypsy (Dainty June), Camelot (Lady). Wheelock Family Theatre: Little Women (Meg March), In the Heights (Carla). Moonbox Productions: Caroline, or Change (Emmie Thibodeaux). NextDoor Theater: Sister Act (Deloris

Van Cartier]. SpeakEasy Stage: *The Color Purple* (Olivia). Kira also frequently works as a choreographer and received an Elliott Norton nomination (*Parade*, Moonbox Productions) and an IRNE nomination (*Little Mermaid*, Fiddlehead Theatre) for her work. Kira is an avid writer, and shares her experiences, stories and perspective on her personal blog. Special thanks to her parents for their constant support, her son Levi for sharing both his Mama and Dada, and to the love of her life and real-life husband of 7 years (and counting), Jared. Instagram: @biracial_mom, @kikitroilo. Website: biracialmom.com

Jason Robert Brown [Composer] is the ultimate multi-hyphenate–an equally skilled composer, lyricist, conductor, arranger, orchestrator, director and performer best known for his dazzling scores to several of the most renowned musicals of our time. Works include *The Bridges of Madison County, Honeymoon In Vegas, The Last Five Years, 13, Parade*, and *Songs for a New World.* Jason conducted his orchestral adaptation of E.B. White's novel "The Trumpet of the Swan" with the National Symphony Orchestra, and recorded the score for PS Classics. Future projects include a new chamber musical called *The Connector;* an adaptation of Lilian Lee's *Farewell My Concubine*, and a collaboration with Billy Crystal, Amanda Green, Lowell Ganz, and Babaloo Mandel on a musical of *Mr. Saturday Night.* Jason is the winner of the 2018 Louis Auchincloss Prize, the 2002 Kleban Award for Outstanding Lyrics, and the 1996 Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Foundation Award for Musical Theatre. Jason studied composition at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY with Samuel Adler, Christopher Rouse, and Joseph Schwantner. Jason is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and the American Federation of Musicians Local 802. Visit him on the web at jasonrobertbrown.com.

Leigh Barrett (Director) Lyric Stage: Directorial Debut, Gypsy (Rose), Souvenir (Florence), Company (JoAnne), Grey Gardens (Little Edie), Follies (Sally), Sondheim On Sondheim, A Little Night Music (Charlotte), Big River [Ms. Watson/Sally Phelps], Animal Crackers [Mrs. Rittenhouse), Sunday In The Park With George (Frieda/ Betty), Mikado (Katisha), Nicholas Nickelby (Mrs. La Creevy, Gruden, Peq], Nuncrackers (Sr Hubert), City of Angels (Donna/Oolie). Directing credits include: Riverside Theatre Works: Hairspray. Northeastern University: Urinetown. New Repertory Theatre: Closer Than Ever. The proud recipient of the 2018 Elliot Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence and the 2018 Norton Award for Outstanding Actress in Gypsy and Souvenir (Lyric Stage). Coming up: North Shore Music Theatre: A Christmas Carol, and Carousel in Concert in Orlando. FL. Much Love to HB & the boys.

Dan Rodriguez (Music Director) Lyric Stage: Little Shop of Horrors, Kiss of the Spider Woman, Gypsy. Huntington Theatre Company: Sunday in the Park with George, A Little Night Music. Reagle Music Theater: La Cage aux Folles, The Sound of Music, Mame. Moonbox Productions: Caroline or Change, Cabaret, The Wild Party. Wheelock Family Theatre: Make Way for Ducklings (workshop). In the Heights, American Repertory Theatre: The Lily's Revenge, The Blue Flower. New Repertory Theater: Hair. SpeakEasy Stage: Jerry Springer: The Opera, The Mystery of Edwin Drood. A graduate of Oberlin College and Conservatory, Dan now works at the Boston Conservatory and has also worked at Emerson, Brandeis, and Northeastern, among other schools. His work has earned him five IRNE Awards for Best Music Direction.

Jenna McFarland Lord [Scenic Designer] Lyric Stage: Twelfth Night, Warrior Class, Groundswell, November, This Wonderful Life. SpeakEasy Stage Company: Shakespeare in Love, Men on Boats, Bootycandy, The Color Purple, The Drowsy Chaperone, The Great American Trailer Park Musical, The Mystery of Edwin Drood. Actors' Shakespeare Project: Hamlet, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Macbeth. Gloucester Stage Company: Over 50 shows from 2002 to the present including: *39 Steps, Cyrano, North Shore Fish, Driving Miss Daisy.* New Repertory Theatre: *Collected Stories, Cherry Docs.* Greater Boston Stage: *Calendar Girls, Distant Music, Something's Afoot, Guys on Ice, The Mousetrap.* Central Square Theatre: *Brundibar, The Convert.* Off-Broadway: La Mama: *Man in Snow* New York Playwrights Lab: *The Secret of Mme. Bonnard's Bath.* Ms. McFarland Lord is currently the set design teacher at the Boston Arts Academy, a public high school for the arts. Jennamcfarlandlord.com

David Lucey [Costume Design] Lyric Stage: debut. Huntington Theatre Company: Spamilton, Merrily We Roll Along. Moonbox Productions: The Rocky Horror Show, Caroline or Change, Cabaret, Barnum, Amadeus, The Wild Party. SpeakEasy Stage Company: The View Upstairs, Dogfight. F.U.D.G.E.: Assassins, Writings on the Wall. David is an IRNE nominated designer and has assisted on several award winning productions. He will be moving to LA this winter to pursue opportunities on the screen. He would like to dedicate his work to Marion Bertone, her guidance, talent and wit is sorely missed. Instagram: @daveluceyjr.

Karen Perlow (Lighting Design: USA 829) Lyric Stage favorites: Be Here Now, 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 and teaches ESOL. She is married to actor Dale Place. about the artists. com/artists/329435-karen-perlow

Andrew Duncan Will (Sound Design) previously designed Pacific Overtures, Gypsy, Murder for Two, Company, Sondheim on Sondheim, Dear Elizabeth, Sweeney Todd, Into the Woods, and One Man, Two Guvnors for the Lyric Stage. Recent local sound designs include productions for Boston Public Works, Stoneham Theatre, Fresh Ink, Hasty Pudding, Speak-Easy Stage, Bad Habit Productions, Flotsam Productions, Gloucester Stage, Puppet Showplace Theater, Company One, New Rep, Fresh Ink, Commonwealth Shakespeare, The Poets' Theatre, and the A.R.T. Institute. Andrew received an MFA in Sound Design from Boston University.

Ryan Began (Assistant Director) Lyric Stage: Animal Crackers. Huntington Theatre: Come Back, Little Sheba. SpeakEasy Stage Company: Carrie: The Musical, In the Heights, Clybourne Park, Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson. New Repertory Theatre: Closer Than Ever. Fiddlehead Theatre Company: Show Boat. Central Square Theatre Company: Car Talk: The Musical!. Northeastern University: Urinetown. Suffolk University: one state, two state, red state, blue state, These Seven Sicknesses. Boston Early Music Festival: Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria, L'incoronazione di Poppea, Orfeo, La serva padrona & Livietta e Trocollo, La Couronne de Fleurs & Orphée, Almira, Niobe: Regina de Tebe. Special thanks to his friends and family for their support, to Leigh, for this and every opportunity, and to his fiancé, lake, for his love and patience!

Lauren Corcuera [Props Artisan] Lyric Stage: Be Here Now, 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.

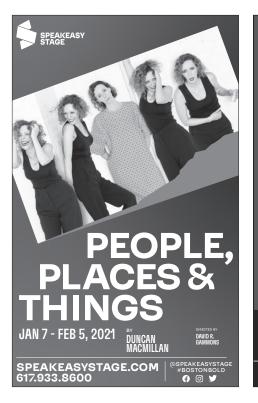
Nerys Powell* (Production Stage Manager) Lyric Stage: *Be Here Now, Little Shop of Horrors, Murder on the Orient Express, and The Treasurer*. Instagram: @nerysp

Rose Mancuso (Assistant Stage Manager) Lyric Stage: Be Here Now, Breath & Imagination and The Treasurer. Boston Midsummer Opera: Love, Italian Style, Barber of Sevile, 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.

Allison Strandberg (Assistant Lighting Designer) Lyric Stage: Debut. SpeakEasy Stage Company: Violet. Beau Jest Moving Theatre: Apt. 4D. Central Square Theater: Arabian Nights. Boston Midsummer Opera: The Merry Wives of Windsor. Lighting Design: Central Square Theater: Proof. Gloucester Stage: A Measure of Normalcy. Come On Over Ensemble Theater: The Shepherds' Singularity. MIT Dramashop: Witchhunt: The Beast Within. Boston University: Restricted. By day, Allison is a software engineer working on solar energy at Palmetto. 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 MBA program, as one half of the improv team The Angriest Show in the World, and as the director of Improvised History. He currently teaches Arts Management at Emerson College. He lives in Roslindale with his wife and their three daughters.

Courtney O'Connor (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 of live theatre as an essential component of our society. It represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers, and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the US. Members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession and upholding the highest artistic standards. AEA negotiates wages, working conditions, and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has



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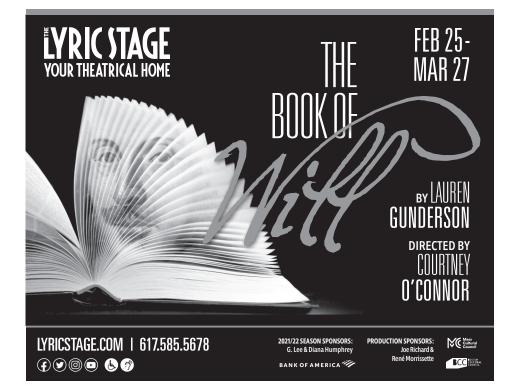
committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA's a member of the AFL-CIO and affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. actorsequity.org

****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

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Musical Contractor, Louis Toth Head Electrician, Adlai Faigen Wardrobe Supervisor, Cami Wright Sound Technicians: Valentin Frank, Owen Meadows

Electricians: Ryan Lemay, Brendan Marr, Jessica Moody, Mark Whipple Carpenters: Brendan Marr, Caleb Spivey, Mark Whipple



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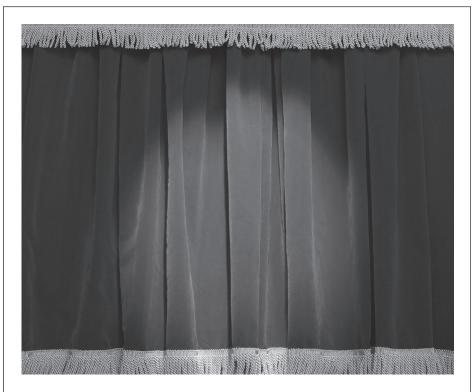
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"I love the Lyric Stage – they do such top-notch productions. The dramas, comedies, musicals ... they are all wonderful and they give me such joy. Including the Lyric Stage in my will is my way of showing my appreciation for all that they do."

- 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 & Randall Hall Mary K. Eliot Donald Fulton* Joan S. Greenberg* Bob Jolly* Mary Ellen Kiddle 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

"The intimacy of the Lyric Stage is unmatched. Unobstructed views of the action throughout and so close to the players you feel like you're part of the action. The offerings are varied and always of Broadway quality." – PAULW., SUBSCRIBER

GET IN ON THE ACT!

SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THIS SEASON. PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT FOR GREAT THEATER! We have artist, design, and production sponsorships available for the 2021/22 season — so now is the time to pledge your support for Great Theater!

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LYRIC STAGE

To make a sponsorship pledge or For more information, please contact Sarah Leaf-Herrmann, Director of Development: Sarah@LyricStage.com or 617.585.5683.

Barlow Adamson & Samantha Richert in *Be Here Now* (2021).

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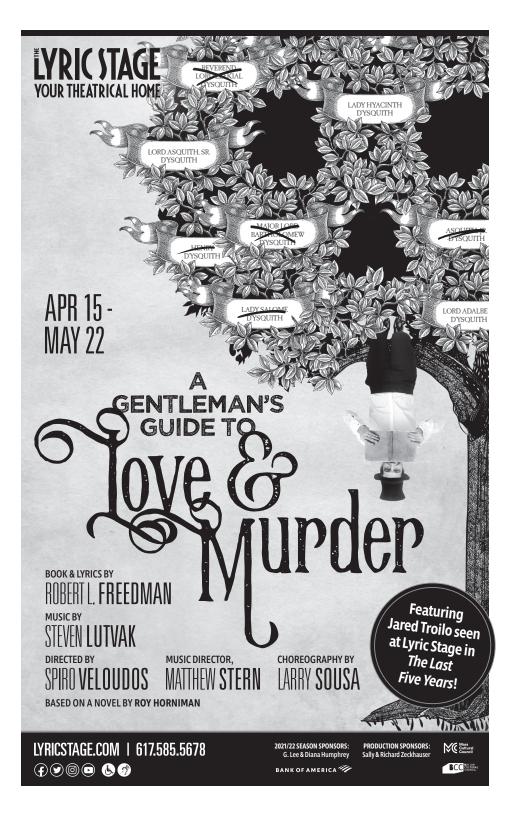


PRODUCTION SPOTLIGHT: LOUIS TOTH

On paper, Louis' job is to be a point person for all musician-related coordination that needs to occur. But equally important is his knowledge of the Boston musicians' community, and of the needs and capabilities of its musicians. Since his first gig in 1988, Louis has played in over 600 different Boston-area productions, each ranging in length from one show to hundreds. Although he is seen most often performing as a multi-woodwind player (flutes, clarinets, saxophones, oboes, and bassoon are typical instruments) Lyric Stage audiences have also heard Louis perform on keyboards (Adrift in Macao], percussion (Man of La Mancha), and even harmonicas (*Big River*) when the situation called for it. Louis owes a debt of gratitude for his two-decade long relationships with two other immensely talented artists familiar to the Lyric Stage, Jon Goldberg and Paul Perfetti. The three have spent many hours in discussions and arguments about the minutiae of orchestrating for small groups that ultimately served to ensure that every timbre heard in Lyric Stage's musicals was an intentional artistic choice, and the best possible representation of the original intent.

Louis has been the Lyric Stage's official musician contractor since 2011 and is proud to have helped facilitate Lyric Stage's agreement with the American Federation of Musicians to Boston Musicians' Association. Our commitment to hire union musicians guarantees the theater access to a top talent pool, but equally importantly, it serves as a guarantee to the musicians that the theater is treating them fairly. Louis is proud to have provided a few "first gigs" to people who are now established, talented Boston musicians, and

is proud to work with a talent pool with such depth. The orchestras now look very different than they used to! While audiences are entreated to make this theater a theatrical home, Louis is happy when the musicians also feel at home.



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.

This list has been updated to reflect gifts through October 13, 2021. For questions, concerns, or details please contact Sarah@LyricStage.com.

PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE (\$15,000+)

Anonymous [1] Bank of America Charitable Foundation Nina & Don Berk **BPS Arts Expansion Fund** at EdVestors Brookline Bank The Donald E. Fulton Charitable Trust The Estate of Joan S. Greenberg Io-An Rolfe Heileman Tim & Linda Holiner G. Lee & Diana Humphrev Massachusetts Cultural Council Massachusetts Development Finance Agency Sharon & John Parisi The Shubert Foundation Richard & Sally Zeckhauser

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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.

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. 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. Clarendon Hall is available at a subsidized rate to members of the Boston Dance Alliance and other arts organizations and individuals.

Theatre-based education has been a core of the Lyric Stage's mission since its founding days. In 2019, the Lyric Stage merged with City Stage Co. and its expanded education programs include performances at the Children's Museum of Boston, teaching artists working in classrooms in the Boston Public Schools, and the Lyric First Page playwriting festival for students.

Following Spiro's retirement in 2019, the board appointed **Matt Chapuran** as Executive Director, and shortly after, **Courtney O'Connor** was named Artistic Director. Their partnership centers Lyric Stage in Boston's theatrical community, introduces live theatre to new audiences, and promotes new theatrical voices in Boston and nationwide.

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Design:

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