







## A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Dear friends.

We read *The Light* in 2019 and its relevance has only continued to grow over time. Theatre requires the empathy that the audience directs to the characters on the stage, as well as the empathy of the actors who bring the story to life. The Light forces us to ask a significant question of empathy, namely, when do we become engaged with the injustice done to someone else?

When it comes to demonstrations of empathy, we do want to acknowledge our loyal audience. We have mounted five, and if you're reading this six, productions this year under some of the most difficult circumstances one could imagine. While we have not always been successful in having actors on our stage every night that we planned, we have done our best to treat artists and quests with care.

In return, audiences this year have been abundantly kind. You have shared your stories with us, taken us by the arm to tell us when a moment on stage moved you to tears, and have offered encouraging words even when the news we've had to share hasn't been good. You carried us through this year, and for that we will be forever grateful.

Not as grateful, though, as we'll be in the fall, when we get to do it all again.

Until then, although the tunnel has been at times dark, we continue to aim for the light.

With love.

Matt Chapuran **Executive Director**  Courtney O'Connor Artistic Director

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## The Lyric Stage Company of Boston

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



# LOY A. WEBB

## Directed by .IACNIII PARKFR

Scenic Design, Baron E. Pugh\*\* Costume Design, Jez Insalaco\*\* Lighting Design, Elmer Martinez Sound Design, Owen Meadows Props Artisan, Lauren Corcuera Production Stage Manager, Nerys Powell\* Assistant Stage Manager, Kylie Berry Intimacy Director, Ted Hewlett

Featuring: Dominic Carter\*, Yewande Odetoyinbo\*

Lyric Stage's 2021/22 Season sponsored by G. Lee & Diana Humphrey and Bank of America Production sponsored by **Don & Susan Casey** Director Jacqui Parker Sponsored by Amanda Eckhoff & Randall Hall

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

THE LIGHT was originally developed at The New Colony (Andrew Hobgood and Evan Linder, Co-Artistic Directors; Stephanie Shum, Managing Director) in Chicago, Illinois. The New Colony presented the world premiere at The Den Theatre in January 2018, director, Toma Langston.

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











**Five Dollar Fridays** offers another way for audiences to experience live theater at an affordable cost. 100 tickets for the first Friday of every production will be set aside to be sold for \$5.

Sponsored by Jan & Stuart Rose.



Lyric Stage promotes inclusivity & connection in an effort to integrate live theater into the lives of all residents of Greater Boston.

# Affordable Price Options include:

- \$30 Under 35
- \$25 Side Section Seats
- \$10 Student Tickets
- Senior Discount

View the full listing of participating organizations at lyricstage.com/tickets/lyric-for-all.



#### CAST

Dominc Carter*	Rashad
Yewande Odetoyinbo*	Genesis

#### RUNNING TIME

Approximately 70 minutes with no intermission

### A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



I am always thrilled when I have the opportunity to direct a universal play that includes the humor, banter, cultural music, and complexities of love. *The Light* is important because, like other well-written plays, it crosses the divides of race, religion, gender, and age. The relationship between Genesis and Rashad is filled with really cool banter that has a jazzy, soulful blues quality to it. The play has its secrets, but its foundation is love and having the courage to love—if only we could all be so brave.

This play, with this talented cast and team of designers, is my theater song. It haunts me day and night and changes from moment to moment. I will no doubt leave a piece of my soul on this sacred stage, one of my favorite places in the world.

Thank you Loy A. Webb and Lyric Stage Company.

-Jacqui Parker, Director of The Light

If you or someone you know has been affected by sexual violence, you are not alone. Help is available.

- National Sexual Assault Hotline: [800] 656-HOPE or to search for your local sexual assault service provider, please visit centers.rainn.org
- Boston Area Rape Crisis: (800) 841-8371
- Jane Doe Inc. Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence: (617) 248-0922
- Llámanos Statewide Spanish Rape Crisis Hotline: [800] 233-5001
- Victim Rights Center: [617] 399-6720

<sup>\*</sup>Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States



Dominic Carter\* (Rashad) - Lyric Stage: Twelfth Night (Sebastian). The Umbrella Stage Company: Fences [Gabriel]. Company One: The Greater Good [Michael]. SpeakEasy Stage Company: BLKS (Justin-Understudy). Hovey Players: Jesus Hopped The

A-Train (Angel), RACE (Henry Brown). Lexington Players: The Mountaintop (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr). Television/ Webseries: Unconditional Love [Seasons 2 & 3] and Love *Undone* (Season 1). Dominic is a graduate of The Atlantic Acting School and the winner of 2021 AACT National Theater Best Actor. Special thanks to friends and family for all their support! Instagram: @itsdomcarter | Website: dominicicarter.wixsite.com/dcarter



Yewande Odetoyinbo\* (Genesis) -Lyric Stage: Breath & Imagination with Front Porch Arts Collective (IRNE Award Winner), The Wiz, Little Shop of Horrors. SpeakEasy Stage Company: Once On This Island, The View Upstairs. Moonbox Productions: Passing Strange, Caroline,

or Change (Elliot Norton Nomination), Parade. American Repertory Theatre: Macbeth in Stride. New Repertory Theater: Hair. Reagle Music Theatre and Fiddlehead Theatre: Show Boat. Boston Theatre Company: Finish Line, The Gay Agenda. Wheelock Family Theatre: In the Heights, Seussical, Ragtime. Merrimack Repertory Theater: Fannie Lou Hamer: Speak On It!. Barnstormers Theatre: Waitress. Choreography: Wheelock Family Theatre: Once on This Island Jr. Moonbox Productions: Caroline, or Change. SpeakEasy Stage Company: Choir Boy [Elliot Norton Nomination]. Yewande, a native of Detroit, has a BFA in Musical Theater, Howard University and an MFA in Musical Theater, Boston Conservatory at Berklee. A huge thank you to Jacqui, Courtney, Matt, the stage management team, and trusted scene partner, Dominic, Also thanks to Mom, Dad, Yemisi, and her best friends for being her biggest supporters.

Loy A. Webb (Playwright) is a Chicago-born playwright, attorney, and theatre journalist. Her plays include The Light (MCC Theater 2018/2019, Outer Critics Circle Nomination for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Play; The New Colony, 2017/2018, Joseph Jefferson Award), and His Shadow (16th Street Theater 2019/2020). She was an inaugural Tutterow Fellow at Chicago Dramatists. As a theatre journalist, she is a member of the Association of Women of Journalist-Chicago, a past mentor with the AWJ-Chicago/Goodman Theatre's Cindy Bandle Young Critics Program, and a contributing theater critic for Newcity. Loy holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a JD from The John Marshall Law School. She is currently a writer on the AMC television series NOS4A2.

\* Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association

Jacqui Parker (Director) is thrilled to be directing this important play, The Light, at The Lyric Stage Company. Parker is a Boston-born actor, playwright, director, producer, and theater activist. She has won numerous awards including the Boston Theatre Hero Award, The Elliot Norton Award, several Independent Reviewer of New England Awards, as well as numerous community leadership awards, including the DRYLONGSO Award for her work in the struggle for racial equality. Ms. Parker directed six short plays in the Hibernian Hall New Play-Writing Lab in 2022. She is also directing Abria Smith's book of poetry, Somebody Soup. Her play A Crack in the Blue Wall received critical praise and was nominated for an IRNE Award. She has written and produced several shows and employed numerous actors, directors, designers, and playwrights of color. Ms. Parker has directed plays at Harvard University, Boston Conservatory, Emerson College, Brandeis University, and numerous Boston Theatre companies, and productions in New York and Los Angeles, California. "The stage is a sacred place and one of our greatest gifts." So glad to be back!

Baron E. Pugh\*\* (Scenic Designer) - Lyric Stage: Breath & Imagination, The Wiz. Huntington Theatre: The Bluest Eye (Associate Designer). Trinity Repertory Company: Tiny Beautiful Things, Radio Golf. TheatreSquared: The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity, School Girls. Umbrella Theater Company: The Colored Museum, The Old Man and the Old Moon. SpeakEasy Stage Company: Passover, Choir Boy, School Girls. Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival: How I Learned What I Learned. Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey: The Comedy of Errors, Snug. Baron received his MFA in Scenic Design from Boston University and is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. For upcoming productions, please visit BaronPughDesign.com. Follow @bpscenic on Instagram for behind the scenes content.

Jez Insalaco\*\* (Costume Design) - Lyric Stage: Debut. Boston Productions Inc: The Samuel Slater Experience, Dallas 1963. Northeastern University: This is Treatment. Greater Boston Stage Company: I Loved, I Lost, I Made Spaghetti. Boston Children's Theater: Anne Frank, Fancy Nancy, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. Film & Television: Spirited (BG Set Costumer), Don't Look Up (Costume Fitter), Christmas On Ice [Key Costumer], NOS4A2, Season 2 (Shopper), Honest Thief (Set Costumer). Jez Insalaco is a Boston-based Japanese-American costume designer and costumer, who is passionate about creating with color and designing work that is for and by people of color. She hopes to create images through her designs that are diverse and beautiful and to empower those who see themselves in her work. I.A.T.S.E Local 48. | Website: |ezdes.com

Elmer Martinez (Lighting Design) - Lyric Stage: Debut. Company One/American Repertory Theater: Black Super Hero Magic Mama. College Light Opera Company: A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline. Northeastern University: *The Bacchae*. Passion Fruit Dance Company: Trapped. Lakai Dance Theater: The Block: An Afro Musical. VLA Dance: In the Space Between. Urbanity: NeXt. Elmer is a Puerto Rican-Dominican American interdisciplinary-working theater artist. Born in Lowell, MA, he worked in the spoken word, theater, and street dance communities before completing his BFA in Theater Studies focused on Lighting Design with a minor in Dance in 2019. As a designer and community events producer, Elmer's work centers around bridging hip-hop culture and theater aesthetics. Elmer is hiphop faculty at Urbanity Dance and currently sits as the Collaborative Arts Coordinator at Moonbox Productions. | Instagram: @elmerm\_art

Owen Meadows (Sound Designer) – Lyric Stage: The Walking Plays. Huntington Theatre: Common Ground Revisited. Watertown Children's Theatre: The Phantom Tollbooth. Moonbox Productions: Parade (Assoc. Design). SpeakEasy Stage Company: Once on This Island (Asst. Design/A1). Regional Credits – Broadway: Mister Saturday Night (Assoc. Design). Berkeley Repertory Theatre: Swept Away (Assoc. Design). The Public Theater: Hercules (Asst. Design). Owen received his BFA from Emerson College. Extra thanks to Sarah for all her love and support. | Website: OwenMeadows.com

Nerys Powell\* (Production Stage Manager) – Lyric Stage: The Book of Will, The Last Five Years, Be Here Now, The Treasurer, Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express, Little Shop of Horrors (AEA Assistant Stage Manager). | Instagram: @nerysp

Kylie Berry (Assistant Stage Manager) – Lyric Stage: Debut. Emerson Stage: As You Like It, Baltimore, Going to California, Everybody, The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui, Augusta and Noble. Marin Shakespeare Company: A Midsummer Night's Dream, Spamalot!, Measure for Measure. Kylie recently completed their final year at Emerson College. Special thanks to Bean for keeping them sane [and for getting cat hair on all their clothing].

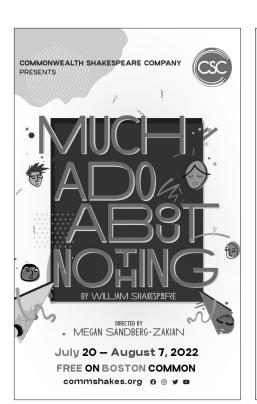
Lauren Corcuera (Props Artisan) – Lyric Stage: Breath & Imagination, Little Shop of Horrors, Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express, The Cake, The Treasurer, Be Here Now, the Last Five Years, Mr. Parent. Gloucester

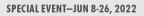
Stage Company: Barefoot in the Park, Tiny Beautiful Things, Seared. Emerson Stage: Stupid F\*\*\*ing Bird, Next to Normal, Into the Woods. Brandeis University: Circle Mirror Transformation. Lauren is currently the assistant prop director at Emerson College.

Ted Hewlett (Intimacy Director) - Lyric Stage: Pacific Overtures (Fight Director), The Cake and Be Here Now (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 (Washington, D.C.), Elm Shakespeare, Syracuse Stage, Kennedy Center, Fulton Opera House, Westchester Broadway Theatre, Birmingham Theatre (MI), Berkshire Theatre Festival, New York State Theatre Institute. Film/TV: Hook, Army of Darkness, Brush Up Your Shakespeare. Faculty: Emerson College; Shakespeare & Company. Ted has an MFA in Acting from Brandeis University.

Matt Chapuran (Executive Director) 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. 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. He currently teaches Arts Management at Emerson College. He lives in Roslindale with his wife and their three daughters.

Courtney O'Connor (Artistic Director) joined the fulltime 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, The Cake, Be Here Now, and The Book of Will. Courtney is a senior affiliated faculty member in Performing Arts at Emerson College. In addition to directing for theatres and universities, Courtney has





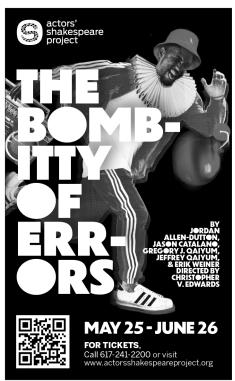
# **WOODY SEZ:** THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF **WOODY GUTHRIE**

Joyous, toe-tapping, and inspirational, Woody Sez brings to life the stories and songs of America's great troubadour. The four performers, playing more than 20 instruments, transport the audience through the praying into et data. 20 inst unlends, classport une adulence un long it the riveting and often controversial life of Woody Guthrie. Musical numbers include "This Land Is Your Land," "Pastures of Plenty," "Bound for Glory," "Hard Travelin," and "So Long, It's Been Good To Know Yuh." Recommended for ages 12 and older.

 $HOOTENANNIES!\ An informal hootenanny, or folk music jam session, will follow the Sunday matinees on June 12, 19, and 26. Local musicians and$ audience members are encouraged to perform along with the cast.

### www.mrt.org/woody





# **LYRIC STAGE**

### **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.





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 USA. 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 theater has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA is 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

Covid-19 Safety Officer, Emily Collins Production Assistant, Max Dupuis Head Electrician, Adlai Faigen Wardrobe Supervisor, Hannah Schurrman

### MUSIC CREDIT

"Natural High" from the EP *After Hours* Allyssa Jones feat. Apollo Payton

Produced by The Audio Outfit

Guitar: Wain Jones
Bass: James Gurrier

Written by Apollo Payton, Khalel Pritchard,

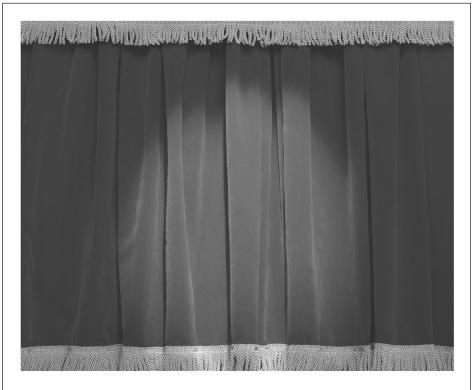
& Jahmal White

Arranged by Apollo Payton & Jahmal White Recorded by Apollo Payton at Levels Studio (Boston, MA)

Mixed by Andy Pinkham

(c) 2016 by Allyssa Jones for Grown A\$\$ Woman Records. All rights reserved.

Listen & download here: allyssajonesmusic.com



# Thanks for putting art in the heart of the community

Bank of America recognizes the Lyric Stage Company of Boston for its success in bringing the arts to performers and audiences throughout the community. We commend you on creating an opportunity for all to enjoy and share a cultural experience.

Visit us at bankofamerica.com/massachusetts.



### **SPOTLIGHT ON OUR ARTISTS**

# WARDROBE & WIGS: JOEY PISANO & KATHLEEN SHANAHAN



Kat Shanahan and Joey Pisano have been working backstage together for the past nine years, but *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* was their first opportunity to work together at Lyric Stage. Assisting the actors on *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* [including ELEVEN 45-second quick changes with Neil A. Casey] was an absolute joy!

They've also worked together at such companies as North Shore Music Theater, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Greater Boston Stage Company, Theatre By the Sea, and New England Conservatory

Separately, you may find them performing costume and wig changes at the Huntington Theatre, Moonbox Productions, Boston Ballet, Boston Baroque, or Norwegian Cruise Line. Their teamwork thrives when they're performing 30-second quick changes with rigged costumes, hidden zippers, and elastic-laced shoes. There is no better feeling than the first time a full costume change happens in under a minute!

Kat and Joey are vital teammates backstage, and when they leave the stage door, they have a friendship that rivals those of Mary & Rhoda or Lucy & Ethel.



MARKS HOWA

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By Lynn Nottage

From the penthouse to mom's house. A riches-to-rags story asking "can you ever really go home again?"

### SUBSCRIBE NOW!

**SEP 16 - OCT 9, 2022** | Success. Love. Fabulous wardrobe. Undine has it all. Until her husband steals her hard-earned fortune, sending her tumbling down the social ladder. Pregnant and penniless, with life unraveling at every turn, Undine is forced to return home to Brooklyn and the family she left behind, in a crude new reality.

# THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

By Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer & Henry Shields

It's so bad, it's good.

NOV 11 - DEC 4, 2022 | "Break a leg!" takes on a whole new meaning for the Cornley University Society's opening night performance of *The Murder at Haversham Manor*. An unconscious leading lady, a corpse who can't play dead, a ruffled detective, and a word-mangling butler (among others) must battle against technical gaffes, forgotten lines, and sabotaging scenery in a quest to arrive all in one piece at the final curtain call.

# **P**ELUDES

By Dave Malloy

"I just want to be remembered."

JAN 6 - 29, 2023 | A musical fantasia, Preludes unfolds in the hypnotized mind of composer and virtuoso pianist Sergei Rachmaninoff as he attempts to overcome his writer's block following a disastrous premiere of his Symphony No. 1 in D minor. Creativity is unlocked and ignited through Dave Malloy's (Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812) bewitching mashup of original compositions and Rachmaninoff's own work that takes us on a glorious journey on an artist's quest to secure a legacy and reclaim a voice.

# 2022/23 SEASON

FEB 24 - MAR 19, 2023 | It is 1989, San Francisco, and Manford Lum dominates the high school basketball courts. Facing an uncertain future, he convinces Saul, a cynical and crusty coach, to let him travel to Beijing for a "friendship" game in China. Waiting there is a Chinese national coach with unfinished business, both with Saul and with Manford. On the eve of historic demonstrations, all three men are challenged to define their pasts and their futures.



Every game is a second chance.

APR 7 - 30, 2023 | After witnessing a murder, free spirited, disco diva Deloris Van Cartier finds herself in protective custody at a convent. At odds with a rigid Mother Superior, Deloris finds divine intervention bringing the choir from dour to dazzling with her signature style. While Deloris is busy raising the roof, her cover is blown and her new found sisterhood rallies around her with a lot of love (and maybe a few sequins) in a tribute to the power of friendship.

Sisteract Music by Alan Menken Lyrics by Glenn Slater **Book by Bill & Cheryl Steinkellner** 

with additional material by **Douglas Carter Beane** And then there were nuns.

A divine, feel-good musical comedy.

JUN 2 - 25, 2023 | Emery Harris lives alone in a treehouse named Mabel surrounded by a dozen or so plants she researches, names, and talks to. Her overbearing sister Hazel is Emery's only connection to reality along with her YouTube channel, where she documents her studies that have garnered several thousand followers. When her calm and quiet is disrupted by an entourage of devotees chanting and singing to her—their botanical, new-age messiah—she is forced to look down from the branches and face the outside world.



By Deborah Zoe Laufer

When you find yourself up a tree, something is bound to take root. An offbeat comedy about connecting in a chaotic world.

### **SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SUPPORTERS:**

# AMANDA ECKHOFF & RANDALL HALL





## A Q&A with sponsors of The Light Director Jacqui Parker

# Q: What led you to sponsor Jacqui Parker, director of *The Light*?

A: We wanted to sponsor Jacqui because we were so excited that she was coming to the Lyric Stage to direct this show. We hadn't heard about the show before but we've definitely heard and known about Jacqui! We are so excited to see her perspective directing a show which asks the audience to consider what we really know about the people we love.

# Q: How long have you been subscribers to the Lyric Stage?

**A:** We've been subscribers for six years, but have been attending productions for many years.

# Q: What are some of your favorite Lyric Stage shows?

A: We've enjoyed all the shows we've seen but the ones that have really stood out to us are *Breath* &

*Imagination, The Book of Will,* and *Anna Christie*. We really enjoy stories about relationships and each of these plays had a strong relationship at its core.

### Q: What does it mean to you both to be part of the Lyric Stage family?

**A:** We've always enjoyed live theater. There's a special magic in watching something unfold on stage. The Lyric Stage is a special place, a unique and immersive three-dimensional theater experience. With the intimate venue, we feel like we are sitting in someone's living room, a classroom, or a cupcake shop watching the show unfold around us. We really appreciate how the theater brings new plays and people and stories to Boston. We are excited and happy to help support the Lyric Stage.

Alexandra Pollard &

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 May 6, 2022. For guestions, concerns, or details please contact Sarah@LyricStage.com.

#### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE (\$15.000+)

Anonymous (1) Bank of America Charitable Foundation Nina & Don Berk BPS Arts Expansion Fund at EdVestors The Donald E. Fulton Charitable Trust The Estate of Joan S. Greenberg Jo-An Rolfe Heileman Tim & Linda Holiner G. Lee & Diana Humphrey Paul Kastner Massachusetts Cultural Council Sharon & John Parisi The Shubert Foundation Yawkey Foundation Richard & Sally Zeckhauser

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# (\$5,000-\$9,999)

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# Our thanks to the others listed here who have helped us weather the most perilous storm in Lyric Stage history

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### **ABOUT YOUR THEATRICAL HOME:**

# 140 CLARENDON STREET



The Lyric Stage Company of Boston produces the majority of its work at 140 Clarendon Street, the historic YWCA Building, which resides on the land of the Massachusett and Pawtucket Peoples.

The Massachusett Peoples are the descendants of the original people that the English first encountered in what is now the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Pennacook tribe, sometimes called Pawtucket and Merrimack Indians, lived in northeastern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. The Nipmuc Peoples occupied the interior portion of what is now Massachusetts and parts of Rhode Island and Connecticut. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe has inhabited present day Massachusetts and Eastern Rhode Island for more than 12,000 years.

140 Clarendon Street is also the home of YW Boston, formerly known as the YWCA Boston, an organization that was at the forefront of many social movements throughout the history of the city of Boston. YWCA Boston was first established in 1866, and began operating out of 140 Clarendon Street in 1927. YWCA helped propel many programs and initiatives for young women across the country, such as sex education, women's suffrage advocacy, bilingual instruction for immigrant women, the International Conference of Women Physicians, and the Internacial Seminar. Today, YW Boston's work focuses on addressing racial and gender inequities through a variety of diversity, equity, and inclusion services, youth programming, advocacy, and more.

In 1991, the Lyric Stage moved to 140 Clarendon Street from its former home on Charles Street. The current theater and adjacent offices were constructed on the second floor of the building, and a fourth floor rehearsal hall was added in 2016.

In 2021, YW Boston and its investment partners sold the building to Beacon Communities, who began the process of rehabilitating approximately 50,000 square feet of existing hotel and residential spaces into affordable housing units, health and wellness amenities, and offices for building management staff which will be operated in partnership with the Pine Street Inn. The building will contain approximately 210 apartments (an increase of 92 housing units) all of which will be income-restricted to households with incomes at or below 60% of the Area Median Income.

As a part of the sale, Beacon Communities and Lyric Stage negotiated a new 19-year lease, ensuring that 140 Clarendon Street will be the Lyric Stage's forever home.

# **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 ten musicals over twenty 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.

#### LYRIC STAGE COMPANY OF BOSTON STAFF

Matt Chapuran, Executive Director Courtney O'Connor, Artistic Director

Kate Casner, Digital Marketing Associate
David D'Agostino, Production Manager
Heather Darrow, Director of Marketing
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

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Front of House Managers

Chandler David and Jocelyn Wadland, Box Office &
Front of House Assistants

Administrative Assistants: Emma Goldman, Artistic Emeline Shepard, Development Marieska Luzada, Ava Straccia, Marketing

Administrative Interns:

Gaby Nardella, Kaylee Ellis, Rachel O'Brien

Stage Managers 2021/22 Season:
Kylie Berry, Sarah Bord, Lucas Bryce Dixon\*,
T. Rick Jones\*, Rose Mancuso, Nerys Powell\*,
Elizabeth Yvette Ramirez\*, Pat-rice Rooney

#### Design:

The scenery for this production was constructed by Wooden Kiwi Productions, LLC.
Melissa Wagner-O'Malley, Graphic Design
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\*Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association

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