

Welcome Yule

a midwinter celebration



December 13th, 14th and 15th, 2013

The Shea Theater

Turners Falls, Massachusetts

PERFORMERS

ADULT CHORUS

Hattie Archbald
 Montserrat Archbald
 Margaret Christie
 Laurie Davidson
 Laura DeCesare
 Bob Drinkwater
 Karro Frost
 David Jackson
 Jolianna Lobrose
 Saralinda Lobrose
 Jinny Mason
 Alan McArdle

Eloise Michael
 Fred Momaney
 Loril MoonDream
 David Nixon
 Andrea Rogers
 Geoff Rogers
 Rachel Roy
 Tom Shattuck
 Ed smith
 Liz Smith
 John Thompson
 LorelleWilson

Matt Wilson

CHILDREN'S AND TEEN'S CHORUS

Calla Jones
 Larkin Christie
 Alexander Davidson Carroll
 Solena Davidson Carroll
 Elijah Jackson
 Rose Jackson
 Morgan Lobrose
 Lucia Mason

Granger Massa-Smith
 Gillis MacDougall
 Fedya Michael
 Miette Muller
 Fiona Rogers
 Max Shapiro
 Lizzie Wilson
 Lana Vilcinskas

MUSICIANS



Montserrat Archbald
 Rose Jackson
 Jolianna Lobrose
 Morgan Lobrose

Loril MoonDream
 Michael Pattavina
 Geoff Rogers
 Ed Smith



ADDITIONAL PERFORMERS

Juggler Meadow Morris Men

STAFF

Producers: Tom Shattuck and Rachel Roy
 Producer Emeritus: Alan McArdle
 Artistic Director: Rachel Roy
 Stage Director: Rachel Roy
 Stage Manager: Daniel Sweetser
 Chorus Director: Kathryn Aubry-McAvoy
 Instrumental Director: Geoff Rogers
 Children's Chorus Director: Hattie Love Archbald
 Vocal Arrangements: Bill Venman
 Mummer's Play Author: Eloise Michael
 Mummer's Play Director: Hattie Love Archbald
 Dance Captains: Andrea Rogers, Saralinda Lobrose
 Technical Director: Rachel Roy
 Costumers: Karro Frost, Jinny Mason
 Lighting Design: Mike Friedman
 Set Design: Rachel Roy

Lighting, Set and Stage Crew: Mike Friedman, David Nixon,
 Phyllis Roy, Rachel Roy, Tom Shattuck, Dan Sweetser, John Thompson
 Light Board Operator: Phyllis Stone
 Rehearsal Accompanist: Laura DeCesare
 Child Care: Owen Baines
 Poster Design and Illustration: Karen Gaudette
 Poster and Program Layout: Joan Deely
 House Manager: Jed Proujansky
 Publicity: Margaret Christie, Louise Doud, Fred Momaney,
 Mik Muller, Rachel Roy

Produced by Welcome Yule, Inc.

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The Shea Theater

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Act I



Rag Dance Song: Saralinda, with Morgan, Hattie, Liz, Jinny, Joli, Ed, John, Bob, and Loril

This rousing French song, also known as La Guignolee, is a call and response song, which we encourage you to sing along with us.

Somerset Wassail: Alex, Solena, Laurie, Tom, Fred, Gillis, Fedya, Margaret, Matt, Lana, Eloise, DJ, Lizzie, Lorelle and Karro

The singers toast the wassail bowl, the apple tree and the residents of the house, and they ask for money for their songs.

The Shortest Day: Ed

This poem was written by Susan Cooper, and is used with permission of Revels, Inc. Please join us in echoing back "Welcome, Yule!" at the end.

Furry Day: Chorus

A traditional English wassailing carol, and a long-time favorite of Welcome Yule. We invite you to join in the chorus— words included.

Schottische: Music by David Kaynor

This partnered country dance, similar to a Polka, originated in Germany and spread throughout Europe.

Come and I Will Sing You: Jinny, Joli, Hattie, Bob and Margaret, Chorus

Welcome Yule always includes a counting song, - this year is no exception!

People Look East (Carol of the Advent): Children's Chorus

The children's chorus lead the full cast into this English Carol, which was written by Eleanor Farjeon.

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella: Chorus

Originally from the Provence region of France, this lullaby is sung by the adults while the children light their candles and decorate the Christmas tree.



Mummers Play: Lizzie, Granger, Alan, Jinny, David and Hattie

Mumming is one of many midwinter customs wherein performers disguise themselves and go house to house, singing and spreading good cheer. They hope to be thanked for their efforts with food and drink.

Gloucestershire Wassail: Chorus

Another annual favorite in which we toast cows, horses, maids and butlers. Join us for the refrain. Words included!



Intermission (15 minutes)



Act II

Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening: Children's Chorus

The children lead us into the forest with this much loved poem by Robert Frost, set to music by Brattleboro musician Peter Amidon.

The Story of the First Snowdrop: Fred and Elijah

Our stroytellers share this story with the children; from the *Book of Nature Myths*.

Abbots Bromley Horn Dance: This ancient ritual dance was first chronicled in Staffordshire, England over 600 years ago. It is performed for us every year by Juggler Meadow Morris Men.

The Snowdrop Story: Loril and Larkin.

We have adapted this version from a story by Hans Christian Andersen.

Musical Interlude: Loril

A medley of tunes played on the harp lulls the children to sleep.

Lo, How a Rose: Larkin, Calla, Rose, Miette, Laura, Lucia, Andrea, David, Geoff, Granger, Loril, Morgan and Fred
A German hymn from the late 16th century.



Personent Hodie: Liz, Saralinda, David, Ed, Morgan, Jinny, Andrea, Fred

A Latin carol accompanies a dance originally created for and performed in Welcome Yule in 2005.

Santa Lucia: Rose, Miette, Granger, Alan, and Montserrat, Chorus

This beautiful song originated in Italy. We present it in Swedish and English.

Sound, Sound Your Instruments of Joy: Geoff, Chorus This English Anthem is likely from the mid-18th century. Our version borrows from an arrangement by The Watsons.

Hail Smiling Morn: Chorus

Composed in 1810 by Reginald Spofforth, this glee has become a favorite for both cast and audience.

The King: Chorus

We cannot go a year without singing this Welsh ode to the Wren, the King of all the birds, that celebrates the ancient custom of wrenning.

Lord of the Dance: Chorus

Please join the cast in dancing in the aisles as we repeat the chorus of this song. Words are in the program.



Much of the music in the show was arranged by, or adapted from arrangements by, Bill Venman and Thomas W. Hutcheson

All songs traditional except as noted above.

www.welcomeyule.org

WORDS TO THE SONGS



RAG DANCE SONG (Chorus)

Good evening Master and Good Mistress,
and all the good folks who live here
We've come to ask for mistletoe
on this last day of the old year

FURRY DAY CAROL (Chorus)

With hal and toe, sing merry-o,
With hal and toe sing merry!
With hal and toe sing merry-o,
With hal and toe sing merry!

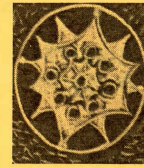
GLOUCESTERSHIRE WASSAIL (Chorus)

Drink to thee! Drink to thee!
With a wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee!

LORD OF THE DANCE

Dance, dance, wherever you may be,
For I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
For I am the Lord of the dance, said he.





NOTES from the ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

It was just after noon, five years ago. The cast was in the Green Room, preparing for the Sunday matinee of Welcome Yule. As normal, everyone was rushing around, searching for a bit of free space to get into costume, or to put on makeup, or to practice that tricky section of a song one last time; noise came from every area of the room. Then the lights went out, and the hallway door opened. In came Miette and Lucia, all in white, wreaths and candles in their hair, singing "Santa Lucia". They carried trays of food to offer us. I've always found this to be a beautiful image and tradition, but had never witnessed it in person. After this impromptu performance, I knew I wanted to bring it to the audience of Welcome Yule someday.

Sharing traditions – that's my vision for this year's show. Sharing the Swedish Santa Lucia and the English solstice traditions, each celebrating light and hope in the darkest time of the year. But also sharing rituals that are unique to each family. There are stories that are told each year, as a special milestone passes. There are songs that we sing and play, without which the holiday spirit will not come. There are gatherings in the kitchen, as mother and child roll out dough together. There are trips to special places that we hold dear - a favorite grandparent's house, a holy ground, or a snow-covered hill where friends gather to sled. The collection of these moments and the happy memories of them are what bring us through the dark, cold, snowy winter. They remind us that the light is slowly coming back.

This is my 9th year with Welcome Yule. I started as the lighting designer, then joined the cast, and eventually directed and wrote the show. Being a part of it has become a tradition with a special place in my family. I can't imagine my holidays without it. To those of you who have been coming to the show for years, thank you for allowing us to be a part of your annual celebrations, and to those of you who are experiencing it for the first time, welcome to our little world.

Wassail and Welcome Yule!

Rachel Roy

Artistic Director, 2013

