



## 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



# 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  
Lorelle Wilson

Matt Wilson

### CHILDREN'S AND

Calla Jones  
Larkin Christie  
Alexander Davidon 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

## 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.





## 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, and 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 storytellers 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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-18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.welcomeyule.org)

## 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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