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A couple finds theater and love at the Opera House Players

The Reilly-Thomas family from Cromwell, Connecticut, has a distinctive tale. What makes their story unique is how they found each other and their commitment to family—their own family and their OHP theater family in Enfield, CT.

Like many parents, they have a busy schedule. They work, juggle child care, and try to find time to do everything they love.

Both Tim and Lindsay have full-time careers. Tim is a legal assistant at Susman, Duffy & Segaloff, P.C., in New Haven, and Lindsay works remotely for META as a privacy program manager. They have a two-year-old daughter, Maeve.

“The love of theater and music drew us to the Opera House Players (OHP), but the OHP team is why we keep coming back as actors. OHP collaborates with the community to produce high-quality performances with artists.”

—Lindsay Ryan Thomas

“We are thrilled about OHP’s goal to build a forever home here in Enfield. We have high-caliber, dedicated talent and need a theater with high-quality technical equipment. The OHP Capital Campaign support will help meet this challenge.”

—Tim Reilly



Throughout the interview, Maeve was engaged, giggling, and happy to be with mom and dad. A relay race begins as they start their bedtime routine. They didn’t miss a beat, taking turns with her evening bath, putting on pajamas, and having a bedtime snack.

A burning love for music and theater wins her heart

Lindsay grew up in Old Lyme, Connecticut, and moved to Norwich, CT in high school. Both of her parents were classical musicians who were also involved in musical theater. Lindsay felt that music and theater were the family business.

In middle and high school, she performed in several musical theater productions. She began her college career at SUNY, majoring in vocal performance. She transferred to UMASS Amherst in her sophomore year and later switched her major to legal studies.

"I got a part-time job as a legal assistant for a firm in Springfield, Massachusetts. One thing led to another, and I ended up working full-time and attending law school at night," said Lindsay.

While she never stopped singing, between her hectic school schedule and a few years as a new lawyer in private practice, it took a long time for her to do a show again.

After a decade away from the stage, she found OHP. She was excited to hear about a community theater in Northern Connecticut. Her first audition was in 2014 for a role in *Les Misérables*. She didn't get the part but was eager to learn about future productions.



Professional theater was all he knew

Tim grew up in Merriam, Kansas, and studied theater at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Like Lindsay, he grew up in a musical family. In 2005, he moved to Connecticut.

In 2010, Tim took a break from working in professional theater. He worked full-time during the day and then auditioned for a part in the Tony Award-winning musical thriller *Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, at OHP.

Tim was honored as the best-featured actor in 2015 at the Massachusetts Critics Circle Awards, one of several awards earned for OHP's production of Monty Python's *Spamalot*.

OHP and theater bring the two actors together

In 2016, Tim and Lindsay's worlds collided when they were both cast in OHP's production of *Into the Woods*.

They were cast in several OHP musicals over the next two years. Tim was the wealthy and lucky planter, Clement Musgrove, and Lindsay was his greedy, evil second wife, Salome, in *The Robber Bridegroom*. They were also cast in *Parade* in 2018, OHP's final production at the Broad Brook Opera House.

A pandemic, marriage, a baby, and more theater!

At OHP, Tim and Lindsay shared intense experiences and a lot of emotional and physical energy with other performers.

“This makes it possible to give powerful performances to our audiences. We all take on different roles to make the shows successful—from acting, designing a set, making costumes, to endless hours practicing together,” said Lindsay.

At OHP, Lindsay and Tim began to form many new relationships.

“The love of theater and music drew us to the Opera House Players (OHP), but the OHP team is why we keep coming back as actors. OHP collaborates with the community to produce high-quality performances with artists,” said Lindsay.

Now that Maeve is here, they limit their time on the stage. However, when Lindsay was pregnant, her mom promised to cover babysitting for a performance once a year. They finally had the opportunity to accept that generous offer when they were cast as the leads in OHP’s upcoming *Bridges of Madison County* production, opening this February.

“They are dream roles! As soon as I heard *Bridges* was in OHP’s season lineup, I put my mom on notice,” said Lindsay.



Support of the OHP Capital Campaign

Tim and Lindsay are excited about the OHP Capital Campaign to renovate 100 High Street as a permanent home. Many renovations are planned, and a new sound system is essential for future OHP performances.

“We are thrilled about OHP’s goal to build a forever home here in Enfield. We have high-caliber, dedicated talent and need a theater with high-quality technical equipment. The OHP Capital Campaign support will help meet this challenge,” said Tim.

Claire C. Hall, the owner of CCH Consulting, is a freelance content copywriter in Longmeadow, Massachusetts. She is a volunteer with the Opera House Players in Enfield, CT.

