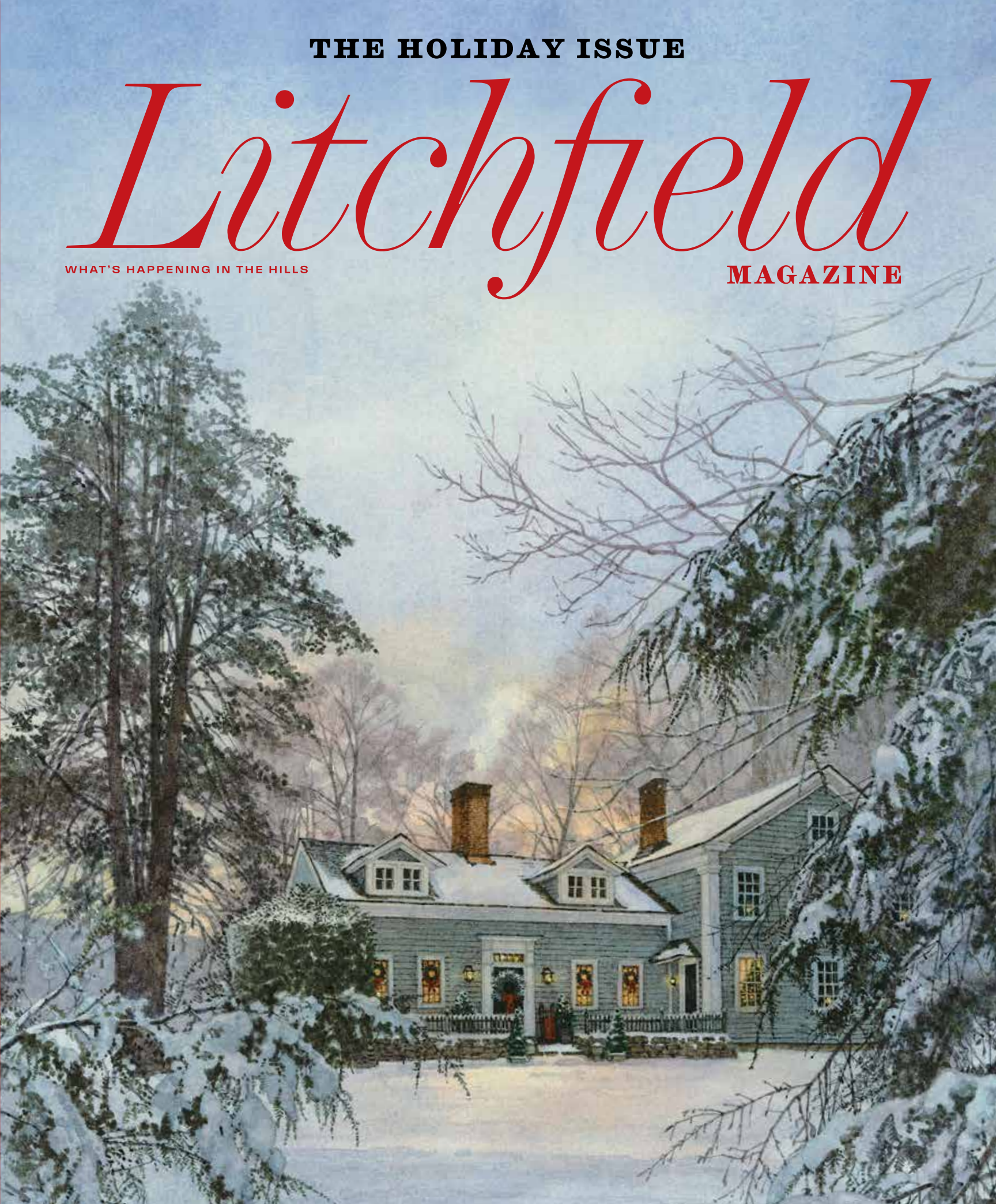
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MAGAZINE



Her Next Act

Emmy Winner Dorothy Lyman Takes TheatreWorks' Artistic Helm **BY FRANCES CHAMBERLAIN**



DOROTHY LYMAN has earned her title of artistic director at TheatreWorks in New Milford many times over. Despite her vast experience in TV and live theater, she is clearly excited to assume her new role at nearly 80 years old.

"I like to make people sit in the dark and listen, and laugh or cry," she says of live theater. "I told them I'd do it for one year and see how they like it," she adds. She takes over in February 2027 and has already planned a season devoted to Connecticut playwrights past and present, including Arthur Miller, A.R. Gurney, and Tom Dulack.

Last season TheatreWorks produced Lyman's own play, *Upstate*, in May 2026. She has written several other plays, including one produced at the Edinburgh Festival. Player Workshop in Mexico developed and produced her plays *Enemy*, *A Rage in Tenure*, and *Soft Landing*. She was also literary manager at Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, where she was nominated for Tony Awards.

> "Human interaction is an endangered species, I fear."

TheatreWorks has a significant place in the community. There are excellent children's programs throughout the year, says Lyman, and this winter's after-school program builds toward a January production of *Cinderella*.

"I started in community theater, in high school, in Minneapolis, so it is close to my heart. I found my life's work in the basement of our church, doing Thornton Wilder, George Bernard Shaw, and Shakespeare. Live theater is more important than ever now that we are all spending so much time in front of our various screens. Human interaction is an endangered species, I fear. Live theater offers us a chance to see ourselves reflected in language and action and hopefully take away a greater understanding of what makes us all tick," says Lyman.

Lyman has had a long career in TV as an actress, producer, and director on "Another World," "All My Children," "Generations," and "Mama's Family." She won two Emmys for her work on "All My Children" and directed 75 episodes of "The Nanny."

She lived in Roxbury during the early part of her career, then moved to New York City and Los Angeles. When COVID hit, she retreated to Washington Depot and moved into a house next to her son Sebastian and his family. "We have a kind of family compound here," she notes.

Lyman is now busy with TheatreWorks and writing, but she still auditions and occasionally lands parts on shows like "Blue Bloods" and "FBI." "I'm playing the grandmother or lady in the nursing home, but I just want to be in the business," she says.

Her writing also extends to memoir. A cookbook she has been working on for the past year has turned into a sort of memoir, and she recently began teaching memoir-writing workshops through the Washington Art Association.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY RYAN LAVINE