



DLO e-stage

Volume 2, Issue 3

April 2010

Danville Light Opera 2009-2010
Our 55th Season!
A Season of Hope concludes!



April 23, 24 & 25, 2010

The Bremer Theater

Danville Area Community College

Greg Williams, Director ♦ Belinda Smith, Music Director
Jesse Pierce, Choreographer ♦ Suzy Smalley, Producer

BOX OFFICE HOURS

Season subscribers only:

Saturday, April 3, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

(Closed Easter, April 4)

Monday, April 5, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

General public:

Sunday, April 11, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Monday, April 12, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 18, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Monday, April 19, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 20, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 21, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Tickets will also be available beginning Tuesday, April 6, at First Savings Bank, 6 W. Williams St., during regular business hours.

Danville Light Opera
Announces an exciting
56th Season!

Hello, Dolly!

October 23 & 24, 2010

Danville High School Auditorium

A...My Name is Alice

February 18, 19 & 20, 2011

Dinner Theatre

DACC Bremer Auditorium

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

May 6, 7 & 8, 2011

DACC Bremer Auditorium

**SEASON TICKETS WILL BE ON
SALE AT PERFORMANCES OF
*THE SECRET GARDEN!***

We Have But Faith

By Greg Williams
Director of **THE SECRET GARDEN**

The poets know a thing or two about grief.

Like Robert Frost, “I have been one acquainted with the night.” My darkness set in four years ago when I lost my granddaughter. She was my “Sunshine.” My life has never been quite the same.

As an English teacher, I regularly search for words of comfort. Some words bring additional tears; some manage to bring peace. They all remind me that I am not alone in the feelings that well up inside.

In “Stop All the Clocks,” W. H. Auden wrote: “The stars are not wanted now: put out every one;/Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun;/Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood./For nothing now can ever come to any good.” That’s about as despondent a lament as they come, but I know how Auden feels.

Emily Dickinson peruses the faces of those who suffer loss: “I measure every Grief I meet/With narrow, probing, Eyes—/I wonder if It weighs like Mine—/Or has an Easier size./I wonder if it hurts to live—/And if they have to try—/And whether—could They choose between—It would not be—to die—”

In “In Memoriam,” Alfred, Lord Tennyson is a little more hopeful: “We have but faith: we cannot know;/For knowledge is of things we see;/And yet we trust it comes from thee,/A beam in darkness: let it grow.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson contends: “It is the secret of the world that all things subsist and do not die, but only retire a little from sight and afterwards will return again.”

Billy Joel seems to agree with the great transcendentalist when, in his song “Lullaby,” Joel offers a parent’s soothing words to a child: “I promised I would never leave you,/And you should always know/Wherever you may go, no matter where you are/I never will be far away.”

Playwright Marsha Norman has written a stirring libretto for *The Secret Garden*. Her dialogue and lyrics contain talk of despondency, observations, nature’s cycles, and sweet, bedtime lullabies. The grieving Archibald Craven is often despondent, both physically and emotionally distant. His brother, Dr. Neville Craven, analyzes Archibald’s loss as well as his own painful regrets. The young gardener Dickon sings about “Wick,” a mystical life force in the ground: “When a thing is wick, it has a light around it./Maybe not a light that you can see./But hiding down below a spark’s asleep inside it,/Waiting for the right time to be seen.” And Lily, Archibald’s wife and a spirit in this haunted house on a hill, assures her son, Colin: “Come to my garden./Rest there in my arms./There I’ll see you/Safely grown and on your way.”

The Secret Garden is about loss and grief—a husband for a wife, a child for a parent, the displaced for a home—but, rest assured, it is also about finding a door to paradise and peace. If you can hold on, survive the frost, and weather the storm, angels will hover nearby.

Perhaps Kahlil Gibran, in his book *The Prophet*, provides the most fitting words: “In the depth of your hopes and desires lies your silent knowledge of the beyond; and like seeds dreaming beneath the snow, your heart dreams of spring. Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity.”

Yes, the poets know a thing or two.



From left: (in mirror) Cast members David Zych, Libby Mueller, Patrick Strader, Chris Dunn, Bailey Williams; (at table) Lisa Richter, Stage Manager, and Greg Williams, Director; (in mirror) Mary Lou Mauck, Pianist. Photo credit: Suzy Smalley.

DLO OPPORTUNITIES!

Danville Light Opera embraces community involvement! Whether your *passion* is on stage or off, center stage or behind the scenes, our *success* is the result of dedicated volunteers. The work can be challenging, but the *rewards* are great and extend far beyond show dates. Personally, my dearest friendships (back in Boston and here in Danville) have their roots in relationships built in the community theatre groups with which I've been involved. Please contact us at danvillelightopera@hotmail.com if you'd like to be a part of DLO!

Jeanne Dunn

On behalf of Danville Light Opera Board of Directors

Current opportunities for involvement include:

DIRECTORS:

At this time, we are welcoming candidates to direct the musical *A...MY NAME IS ALICE*, which will be the upcoming season's dinner theatre production (February 2011). A cast of 5 women, simple sets and costume needs, witty and wonderful music, and a lot of room for creative license will make this a wonderful experience for the director who loves an intimate, yet dynamic (and often hysterical), show.

We encourage other potential directors to submit proposals for upcoming seasons. Is there a show about which you are passionate? Don't be shy! We want to learn more about you, and the show (or shows) you are interested in directing! Please contact us at danvillelightopera@hotmail.com, and our director selection committee chair will be in touch with you.

MUSIC DIRECTORS:

See note above! The same information applies. We are seeking a Music Director for *A...MY NAME IS ALICE*. We would also love to hear from those who have shows they would be interested in music directing for future seasons. Just drop us a note at danvillelightopera@hotmail.com, and we'll work with you from there!

CREATIVE AND LOGISTICAL TEAM MEMBERS:

Are you a fan and/or proponent of the performing arts in our schools and communities? Do you love to sew? Are you an organizer? Have a flair for writing/desktop publishing? Do you have experience with grant writing? Or love getting out in the community? Is putting together a special event your idea of fun? Would you like to put your interior design skills to work as a set dresser? Are you skilled at working with your hands? Embrace the challenge of finding or creating unique items? We have many committees that would welcome members-at-large, as well as a need for set designers/builders, costumers and prop people, stage managers, producers and more. First timer? No worries! Our Board members and production teams on each show are there to help and encourage you. Let us know what you'd like to do, and we will find a way to get you involved! danvillelightopera@hotmail.com.

SEASON MEMBERSHIPS, ADS, AND SPONSORSHIPS:

Significant cuts to state funding have hurt all fine arts organizations. The support of businesses and individuals in our community make it possible for DLO to continue providing entertainment and wonderful opportunities for involvement and experience to people of all ages. Purchasing season memberships, taking out ads in our programs, and sponsoring shows are great ways to keep Vermilion County's rich theatre tradition alive and well! Please call 217-431-1660 or email danvillelightopera@hotmail.com if you would like information about purchasing a season membership, an ad in the 2010-2011 season programs, or if you would like to learn more about the benefits of sponsoring one of upcoming shows.

Let Us Entertain You!

Your support is critical to the on-going success of community theatre and the performing arts during these difficult economic times. Let us entertain you!

Danville Light Opera presents



PERFORMANCES

April 23, 24 & 25, 2010

The Bremer Theater

Danville Area Community College

(www.danvillelightopera.com for details and more info!)

The Red Mask Players

THE REPLACEMENT

Performances are March 26-28, and April 2-3 and 9-11.
www.redmaskplayers.com

**Artistic Repertory Theatre
Hoopston**

*All performances at
the historic Lorraine Theatre.*

AUDITIONS FOR TWO SHOWS:

COOKING WITH GUS (A Comedy)

Roles for 2 men/2 women.

Performance Dates: June 26 & 27, 2010

HAVE A NICE DAY (A Musical)

Performance Dates: October 23 & 24, 2010

Submissions for **DLO e-Stage Let Us Entertain You!** may be emailed to danvillelightopera@hotmail.com. Please type **e-Stage Submission** in the **subject line**. Submissions must be specifically arts-related, in and around Vermilion County. **DLO e-Stage** reserves the right to accept or decline submissions based on content, propriety and/or space limitations.

Danville Light Opera Information

Telephone for Info/Box Office..... 217-431-1660

Mailing address:

Danville Light Opera

P.O. Box 264

Danville, IL 61834-0264

On the Internet

Website..... www.danvillelightopera.com

Email danvillelightopera@hotmail.com

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DLO e-stage

DLO e-Stage will be delivered to you via email during the first week of each month. Special alerts for upcoming auditions and performances may arrive between issues. Other than that, you will receive no email from this subscription list.

What would you like to see in future issues of DLO e-Stage?

Please email your comments, suggestions and questions to danvillelightopera@hotmail.com, and put **e-Stage** in the subject line.