



# DLO e-Stage

Volume 1, Issue 7

July 2009



A madcap musical comedy tribute of the 1920's!

Book by Tim Kelly

Music and Lyrics by Bill Francoeur

Directed and Choreographed by Stephanie Keller

Musical Direction by Karen Romig

Produced by Cindy Nichols

Fri., July 24  
7:00 p.m.

Sat., July 25  
7:00 p.m.

Sun., July 26  
2:00 p.m.

DACC

Bremer Conference Center

Adults: \$7.00 Youth (through high school): \$5.00

Tickets at BC Collectibles in the Village Mall  
or at the door 30 minutes before performances.

Danville Light Opera's annual summer youth show auditions kids from 8 years old through high school. This year's cast boasts almost 40 of Danville's most talented young people!

For a full cast list, please visit our website at [www.danvillelightopera.com](http://www.danvillelightopera.com).

Plan on joining us to support the next generation of community theatre participants! You will enjoy great entertainment and boost the thrill of this experiences for those working on and off stage!



## A Note from the Director of FLAPPER!

By Stephanie Keller

Flapper...how do I explain this show? Well, I could start by introducing you to the characters who include an heiress, socialites, gangsters, con-artists, a pilot, a washed-up club owner and – yes – a flagpole sitter. I could go on and on about the catchy songs and the very funny plot. I could talk about an attempted jewel heist, and a love song in a plane. What I really find myself wanting to talk about, however, is the fabulous cast.

Our youngest cast member just turned 8, and our oldest is 17. Even though these are for all intents and purposes "just kids", I am amazed at their level of professionalism and dedication every rehearsal. I am so pleased with the progress the cast has made. At our first rehearsal, we could barely hear each other as we read through the script. Now, the kids have embraced the show and its music, and they are requesting to practice certain scenes and songs! What more could you ask?

When we chose this show, we wanted something upbeat and fun that would appeal to all available ages. Little did we know that our cast would fit so perfectly into the roles. We have Bailey Williams as Polly – the always perky and very lucky heiress, about to turn 18, and Bryan Jenkins as Buck – the pilot that has his eye set on Polly. We also meet Cheater and Muggs – two bumbling gangsters played perfectly by Patrick Strader and Kalen McGowan, and their "boss" for all intents and purposes, Mona, played by Alexis Simmons. This is only a hint of our fabulous cast of 35, all of which shine like Polly's Ice Garden Necklace! Please join us for a madcap ride through the Roaring 20's in Flapper!

## Danville Light Opera 2009-2010 *Our 55<sup>th</sup> Season! A Season of Hope!*



**October 24 & 25, 2009  
DHS Auditorium**

Angie Mansfield, Director • Belinda Smith, Music Director • Gary Lickfett, Producer

“This epic thematic revue puts a human face on the greatest tragedy of American history, exploring not only the experiences of the soldiers and leaders who fought for their way of life and the lovers and families they left behind, but also the hopes and fears of the slaves whose freedom was at stake. It passionately asks us to consider our beliefs about freedom, honor and faith.” ~from [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

If you have questions or are interested in helping in any capacity, please contact Gary Lickfett by email at [danvillelightopera@hotmail.com](mailto:danvillelightopera@hotmail.com).



**February 12, 13 & 14, 2010  
The Bremer Theater at Danville Area Community College**

Jeanne Dunn, Director • Karen Grove, Music Director

Jessica Brackmann, Choreographer • Susie & Mark Willard, Producers

“There’s darkness in me as deep as this valley, and things that I done I can never repay. The days I regret are too many for countin’, they’re sins river water will not wash away. But if you can turn this whole valley to golden and burn ‘til the colors of Paradise shine, Then maybe your bright morning light can discover a diamond of hope in this dark heart of mine. Mornin’ light, shine on me... shine...” Percy Talbott in *The Spitfire Grill*

Still in search of a **stage manager** (small cast, no major set moving), a **costumer** (this will be an *easy* show to costume – most stuff right out of people’s closets), and **prop person** (acquisition and management). If you have questions or are interested in helping in any capacity, please contact Jeanne Dunn by email at [jeanje@comcast.net](mailto:jeanje@comcast.net).



**April 23, 24 & 25, 2010  
The Bremer Theater at Danville Area Community College**

Greg Williams, Director • Belinda Smith, Music Director

Jesse Pierce, Choreographer • Suzy Smalley, Producer

The History Channel teaches viewers that planning a strategy for battle is complex; likewise, HGTV shows that selling a home or reclaiming a garden is a major undertaking. So is mounting a musical production. In *The Secret Garden*, Ben, the old gardener, states: “It’s a maze this garden, it’s a maze of ways...” That’s certainly an apt description of the process which goes into each DLO show. ~from Greg Williams

Still in search of a **stage manager** (a medium-sized cast with frequent but fluid set changes) and a **costumer** (most will be rented, so measurements and coordination are required, but not sewing). If you have questions or are interested in helping in any capacity, please contact Greg Williams by email at [mindthegap2@comcast.net](mailto:mindthegap2@comcast.net)



## Why I Chose *The Spitfire Grill* – or did it choose me?

By Jeanne Dunn

The urge to direct started for me like a subtle itch while performing as Mrs. Paroo in DLO's *The Music Man* in 2008. It grew more persistent as we worked on the Jazz Night fundraiser, and suddenly that subtle itch turned into a full blown rash. I remember thinking, "Now's the time!"

I began to do research for a show, first setting out my criteria:

1. I wanted an intimate show; one that drew the cast and the audience into an experience beyond entertainment. For me, this meant an excellent story and a small cast.
2. My passion is acting. The show had to have interesting and complex characters that required more than a good singing voice. As much fun as light and cheerful musicals can be, as a director, I wanted something that packed drama and emotion. A story that would require intensive character development, and that would move the audience.
3. I wanted to find a show that I had never seen... maybe never even heard of! Something I could approach from a pure perspective, without being influenced by other people's work.
4. I wanted a show that had received excellent reviews by respectable critics during its professional run. If I was going to take a chance on bringing a new show to Danville, that show had to have previous success in order to draw an audience.

*The Spitfire Grill* met each point in this criteria... and more. It isn't an exaggeration to say that I have been fairly obsessed about bringing this show to the stage for over a year now. It was a very exciting moment for me when my proposal was accepted and DLO scheduled *Spitfire* for February 2010.

Pieces continued to fall into place when Karen Grove agreed to be music director, and Jessica Brackmann signed on as choreographer. Then Susie and Mark Willard agreed to produce. My dream team!

Other people read and fell in love with *The Spitfire Grill* as passionately as I, and I have become more committed than ever to sharing this stirring story of hope and redemption – the theme that threads its way through the DLO's entire 55<sup>th</sup> season – with our audiences.

To learn more about *The Spitfire Grill*, I invite you to visit Wikipedia. (I have provided a link below.) That is where I first encountered *The Spitfire Grill*, the musical. (The musical was inspired by a movie – a movie I highly recommend!) I was impressed and intrigued, and, as they say, "the rest is history." You will not be disappointed by *The Spitfire Grill*. In fact, it will leave you uplifted and perhaps even inspire faith that wonderful things can happen when we allow room in our hearts for tolerance and hope, and we connect with the people around us.

**[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE:](#)**



[The Spitfire Grill \(The Musical\)](#)



The painting being used for promotion and the program cover of *The Spitfire Grill* was created by my friend and gifted artist Adrienne Trafford. To see more of Adrienne's work: <http://adriennetrafford.blogspot.com>

## 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...

#### FLAPPER!

*Our Summer Youth Musical  
Directed by Stephanie Keller*

**PERFORMANCES:** July 24, 25 & 27, 2009

DACC Bremer Theatre

Tickets: Adults \$7, Youth (through High School) \$5

For additional information check our website:

[www.danvillelightopera.com](http://www.danvillelightopera.com)

### AUDITIONS



Sunday, August 16, 2 p.m.  
Monday, August 17, 6:30 p.m.  
For additional details,  
please click here:  
[Civil War Auditions](#)

## CIVIL WAR

Artistic Repertory Theatre  
in Hoopeston presents:

#### GUYS & DOLLS, JR.

July 24 and 25 at 7 p.m.  
July 26 at 2 p.m.

#### STATE FAIR

August 7 and 8, 2009 at 7 p.m.  
August 9 at 2 p.m.

All tickets \$8, reserved seating only.  
McFerren Park Civic Center, Hoopeston  
Order early for best seating.  
Box office: 217-283-6553

Submissions for **DLO e-Stage Let Us Entertain You!** may be emailed to [danvillelightopera@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.danvillelightopera.com)

Email ..... [danvillelightopera@hotmail.com](mailto:danvillelightopera@hotmail.com)

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#### The 2009-2010 Board of Directors

*(Officers to be announced in the August e-Stage)*

Jason Asaad, Jeanne Dunn, Tom Fricke,  
Karen Grove, Gary Lickfett,  
Ron McDaniel, Todd Nardoni, Belinda Smith,  
Carolyn Smith, Kathleen Spain-Swiersz,  
Jenny Taylor, Susie Willard



## 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](mailto:danvillelightopera@hotmail.com), and put **e-Stage** in the subject line.