

DLO e-stage

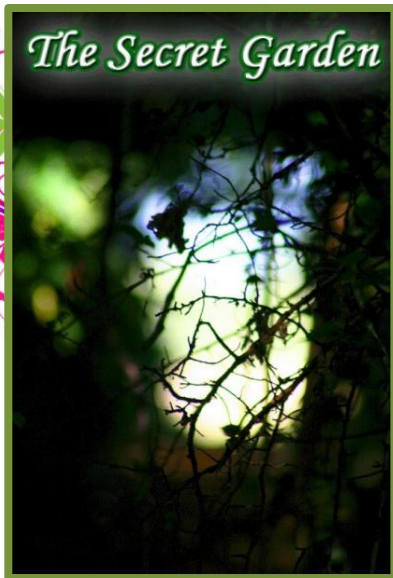
Volume 2, Issue 2

March 2010

**Danville Light Opera 2009-2010
Our 55th Season!**

A Season of Hope concludes!

The Secret Garden



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**

"When you have a garden," wrote Francis Hodgson Burnett in 1921, "you have a Future." The author of *The Secret Garden* was 72 years old, in constant pain, and less than three years away from her death at the time, yet the promise of spring and things once again blooming had caused her to rally from her sickbed in anticipation of planting seeds which would grow and bring beauty to a dormant landscape.

The enduring appeal of *The Secret Garden* certainly has something to do with its author's connection to the story's four main characters. Burnett could be as disagreeable and determined as Mary Lennox; in fact, like Mary, who is taken from India to the forboding Yorkshire moors, Burnett, fatherless and impoverished, was forcibly taken from her home in England to a strange, unfamiliar world known as Tennessee, where an uncle agreed to take her family in. Like bedridden Colin Craven, Burnett could be self-centered and hypochondriacal. Like the grieving hunchback Archibald (Colin's father and Mary's uncle), Burnett could be removed and remote. Like the conjurin' gardener Dickon, Burnett

could be mischievous, optimistic, and dedicated to renewal. A contemporary of Burnett's summed up the author best when he commented, "Some have found her cold and an indifferent talker while others have left her presence in a state of wild enthusiasm over her vivacity and brilliancy." Burnett's three beloved novels, *A Little Princess*, *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, and *The Secret Garden* all seem to blend themes of loss, mysticism, resilience, and charm, these elements never so magically blended as in the latter story and the subsequent Tony Award-winning musical that Danville Light Opera will present in April.

Just two weeks into rehearsals, I can confidently say that this is one of the more accomplished casts with whom I have ever worked, a blend of well-loved DLO veterans and some fresh, amazingly talented faces. Out of love for *The Secret Garden*, some of our cast members are willing to drive from Champaign and even as far away as Tuscola to be a part of this production. That, in itself, should be a clue as to the skill, passion, and vision shared by the company. This is a musical over which actors drool.

Mark April 23, 24, and 25 on your calendars, and make your reservations early when the box office opens. This is a show you will not want to miss, a labor of love, born in pain but resulting in hope, inspiration, and the beauty of Spring. Please, come to our Garden.

~ Greg Williams, Director

- Please see Page 3 for ticket information.
- Please see Page 4 for a complete cast list.



**Congratulations to the cast & crew
of THE SPITFIRE GRILL!**

**Four shows!
Four standing-O's!**

Bravo!



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

THE SECRET GARDEN

PERFORMANCES

April 23, 24 & 25, 2010

The Bremer Theater

Danville Area Community College

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.

The Red Mask Players

THE REPLACEMENT

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

www.redmaskplayers.com

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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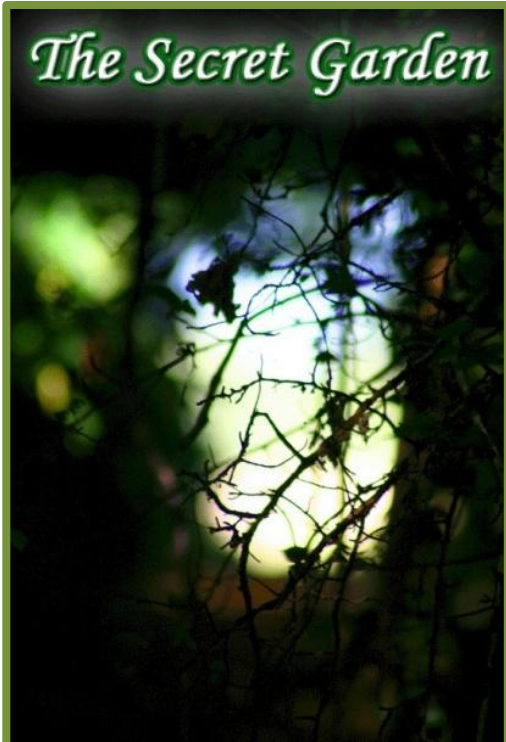


DLO e-stage

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.



The Cast of
Danville Light Opera's production of

The Secret Garden

LilyJodi L. Prosser
 Mary Lennox Bailey Williams
 Mrs. Medlock Julia Megan Sullivan
 Major Shelley Sonny Downing
 Dr. Neville Craven.....Matt Hester
 Martha Libby A. Mueller
 Archibald CravenMichael Steen
 Ben Weatherstaff.....Chris Dunn
 DickonDavid Zych
 Colin Craven..... Patrick Strader
 Mrs. Winthrop Stephanie Keller
 William.....Bryan Jenkins

Dreamers

Rose LennoxMarah Sotelo
 Albert Lennox..... Ian Williams
 Alice Mallory Williams
 Lieutenant Wright..... J.J. Bailey
 Lieutenant Shaw..... Dalton Halls
 Major Holmes Jim Gilmour
 Claire HolmesJeanne Dunn
 Fakir Craig Krukewitt
 Ayah.....Lisa Burgess

Dance Ensemble

Emily Turner
 Kaitlyn Dickson
 Sammy Smalley
 Sarah Strader
 Priscilla Steinberg

