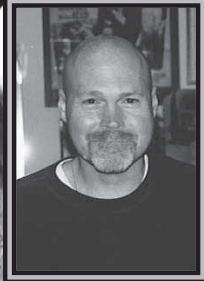


Danville Light Opera CENTER STAGE



What's the 'Secret' all about?

"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 foreboding 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 hunch-



back 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.



Performances are:

April 23rd, 7:30 pm

April 24th, 7:30 pm

April 25th, 2:00 pm

at the DACC's Bremer Auditorium.

See page 3 for a complete cast list and the back

~ Greg Williams, Director

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

There is probably not a single person in the state of Illinois who is unaware of the continuing and seemingly interminable announcements of budget shortfalls, deficit spending, reductions in force, downsizings, and general economic turmoil. While there is widespread agreement as to the problem, there is no consensus on the solution.

Reducing the public debt and balancing public budgets seem like reasonable proposals. Indeed, the very same advice is often offered in the context of personal budgets and debt that may be out of control. How can this be done at the state level?

Few would take issue with the notion that the government should fund only essential programs and services. Fewer still, I think, could agree on what is "essential." Those of you who are reading this would, hopefully, assert with us that the arts are essential. Many others, however, would argue that while theater and all the other forms of expression we call "art" are desirable, they should be funded privately by patrons and not by the general public.

Can DLO survive if its present level of (already reduced) public funding were completely eliminated? Most certainly. Could we continue to provide musical theater at the high level of quality our audience deserves and expects? Most definitely. Would we have to ask even more of ourselves as an organization? Undoubtedly.

We have a loyal following of sponsors, contributors, and volunteers. With their help, and with the continued support of our equally loyal audience, DLO will continue providing the finest possible musical theater to the Danville community. And so we confidently announce, what is sure to be one of our best:



Danville Light Opera's 56th Season!

Hello, Dolly!
 Danville High School Auditorium
 October 23 & 24, 2010

A is for Alice

DACC Bremer Auditorium
 Dinner Theater
 February 18, 19 & 20, 2011

DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS

DACC Bremer Auditorium
 May 6, 7 & 8, 2011

DLO SEASON TICKETS FOR THE 2010-2011 SEASON ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE NOW! REDUCED PRICE OF ONLY \$45 FOR ADULTS UNTIL JUNE 30th. GET YOURS TODAY!

The Secret Garden Cast

Lily - Jodi L. Prosser
 Mary Lennox - Bailey Williams
 AT MISSELTWHAITE MANOR,
 N. YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND, 1906:
 Archibald Craven - Michael Steen
 Dr. Neville Craven - Matt Hester
 Mrs. Medlock - Julia Megan Sullivan
 Martha - Libby A. Mueller
 Dickon - David Zych
 Ben Weatherstaff - Chris Dunn
 Colin Craven - Patrick Strader
 Corporal Shelley/William - Bryan Jenkins
 Mrs. Winthrop... - Stephanie Keller

COLONIAL INDIA, 1906:

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

DANCE ENSEMBLE:

Kaitlyn Dickson, Sammy Smalley, Priscilla Steinberg, Sarah Strader, Emily Turner



The Secret Garden Production Team

Greg Williams, Director
 Belinda Smith, Musical Director
 Jesse Pierce, Choreographer
 Suzy Smalley, Producer
 Lisa Richter, Stage Manager
 Marsha Williams & Jodi Prosser, Costumes
 Gary Lickfett, Set
 Tom Fricke, Lights
 Jenny Taylor, Sound

BOX OFFICE HOURS



Box Office Hours for Season Members only

Saturday, April 3rd - 2pm-4pm
Monday, April 5th - 6pm-8pm

Box Office Hours for Members & General Public

Sunday, April 11th - 2pm-4pm
Monday, April 12th - 6pm-8pm

Sunday, April 18th - 2pm-4pm
Monday, April 19th - 6pm-8pm
Tuesday, April 20th - 6pm-8pm
Wednesday, April 21st - 6pm-8pm

Location: Village Mall, Danville
Box office phone # 431-1660.



Danville Light Opera
PO Box 264
Danville, IL 61834-0264

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #776
Danville IL 61834

SEASON MEMBERS TICKET PURCHASES (check one)

___ tickets for Friday, April 23rd at 7:30 pm
___ tickets for Saturday, April 24th at 7:30 pm
___ tickets for Sunday, April 25th at 2:00 pm
Names(s) on membership(s): _____

GENERAL PUBLIC TICKET PURCHASES (check one)

___ tickets for Friday, April 23rd at 7:30 pm
___ tickets for Saturday, April 24th at 7:30 pm
___ tickets for Sunday, April 25th at 2:00 pm
___ Adult tickets @ \$17 = \$ _____
___ Student tickets @ \$12 = \$ _____ (with Student ID)
Total ticket purchase due = \$ _____

DLO DOLLAR PURCHASES

___ DLO Dollars @ \$20 = \$ _____ **Make Checks Payable to: DLO**
Total due = \$ _____

Name(s) on ticket(s) _____
Address _____
Phone # (_____) _____ - _____

Mail order form and payment to: Box Office (217)431-1660

Ask us about our
group discount!



DLO now accepts credit
card with an additional \$1
convenience charge per ticket.

Name on card: _____
Card #: _____
Expiration Date: _____
Security Code (from back): _____
Billing Address (Street, City, St, ZIP): _____
Your Signature: _____