

DLO e-Stage

Volume 3, Issue 4

August 2011

Attend the tale of ...

Considered by many to be Stephen Sondheim's masterpiece, this musical has delighted and horrified audiences since it first appeared on stage in 1979. The story, though rather grim, is told through strong, powerful and beautiful song, iconic characters, and an pervading dark humor.

The perfect recipe for a show being staged this close to Halloween!

Danville Light Opera is excited to bring this award-winning musical to the D.H.S. Dick Van Dyke Auditorium Saturday and Sunday October 22 & 23, 2011.

AUDITIONS

LOCATION:

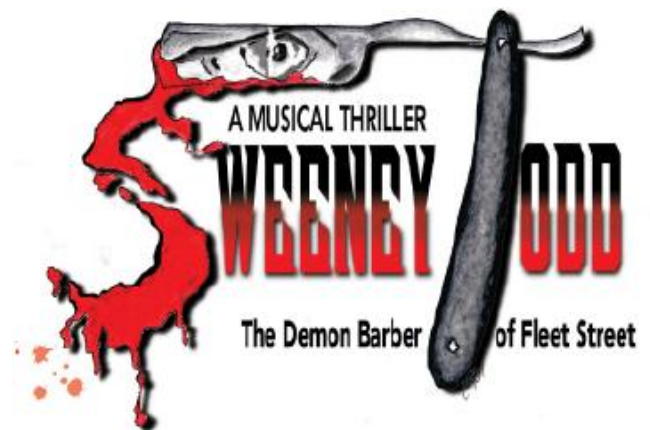
DLO Center Stage Rehearsal Hall
The East Wing of the Village Mall
2917 N. Vermilion Street
Danville, IL 61832

DATES:

Saturday, August 20, 1-4 p.m.
Sunday, August 21, 1-4 p.m.

Callbacks *(by directors' request only)*

Sunday, August 21, 6-10 p.m.



Audition Preparation:

The following links will provide you with detailed information for audition preparation:

Excellent summary of the show at Wikipedia: [Sweeney Todd on Wikipedia](#)

If you wish to purchase a copy of the script, you can find it at Amazon: [Sweeney Todd Script](#) (A perusal copy will be available at Danville Public Library two weeks prior to auditions.)

Additional details and an audition form will be published on the Danville Light Opera website the week of August 8, 2011: www.danvillelightopera.com

We look forward to seeing you at auditions!

So You Think You Can't Sing...

By Brian Morris



Everyone sings. Some can bring an arena to tears with the power of their voice. Others can make a child smile at bedtime. Within the confines of my tubsurround, I can make the ghosts of Frank Sinatra, Enrico Caruso, and Freddie Mercury weep with envy. But we all sing, just at different comfort levels.

However, not everyone thinks they can sing well enough to be on stage.

Back in 2007, e-newsletter editor Jeanne Dunn informed me that I would be great as "Proops" in the upcoming production of *Jekyll & Hyde*. She, along with director Julia Megan Sullivan and Musical Director Belinda Smith, seemed undeterred by my protestations that I couldn't sing. So I made an arrangement with them that I would lip sync my role since I had no solos and I was very self-conscious about my voice. The members of the cast eventually were surprised to find out I didn't truly vocalize. They just wondered why I sounded just like whoever I stood next to, including Jeanne's dog, Lily.

When my ruse was discovered by one cast member, I cowered behind the excuse that I wasn't a trained vocalist. She laughed and countered with, "I'm not either." In fact, most of the cast wasn't and they sounded just fine. The difference was they were brave enough to try it.

One of the delights of stage work is that no matter your level of ability, you work to improve your craft for the next time. I began reading up on vocal technique, listening to people whose voices I enjoyed, and practicing in private. Many a motorist prayed for cold weather in order to be spared my learning curve on their way to work.

When I was cast as Mayor Shinn in *The Music Man*, I felt comfortable enough to vocalize as part of the ensemble. Later, I auditioned for *My Fair Lady* and I felt good about my reading for Alfred Doolittle, even down to my Cockney accent. Well, then came the dreaded words, "We're ready to hear you sing."

My first thought was that I hadn't thought this through well enough. But lift my voice in song, I did. It didn't make Frank, Enrico, or Freddie whirl in their graves, but it was good enough to get me the role and to surprise my J&H pals. I didn't have to be perfect. I just had to be brave enough to make some joyful noise.

Whether auditioning or performing, just keep in mind that you are among friends who want you to succeed, both out in the audience and behind the curtains. And like any creative endeavor, you learn so much about yourself. I found out that one will take more kidding over lip syncing than for one's singing voice. Also, I discovered that I am a bass-baritone who's developing a bit of vibrato, thank you. And I learned that if I can do it, despite what anyone else - or you -- might say, you too can sing!



DLO Board Election Results 2011-2012

This year, the Board said good bye and thank you to two members – Todd Nardoni and Belinda Smith. Todd had served a three-year term, and Belinda was an active Board member for seven years!

During the run of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, season members voted on the candidates running for four spots on the DLO Board. Re-elected for three-year terms were Jeanne Dunn and Susie Willard. Newly elected board members include Brian Morris and Rick Welchans.

If you would be interested in running for the DLO Board next season, please don't hesitate to express your interest to any Board member, or send an email to danvillelightopera@hotmail.com. We would love to hear from you! It takes many hands behind the scenes to keep Danville Light Opera alive and well!

**Danville Light Opera's
Our 57th Season!**

Sweeney Todd

October 22 & 23, 2011

DHS Dick Van Dyke Auditorium

A Little Night Music

Dinner Theatre

February 17, 18 & 19, 2012

DACC Bremer Auditorium

Gypsy

April 28 & 29, 2012

DHS Dick Van Dyke Auditorium

**Season Memberships Still
Available!**

It's like seeing one show free!

**\$55 Adult Season
Membership
\$35 Student Season
Membership**

SAVE

**\$18 off the price of
buying tickets for
individual shows!**

Season memberships can be purchased through any Board member (see next page) or by calling the Box Office at 217-431-1660. One of our box office volunteers will return your call.

Danville Light Opera Information

Telephone for Info/Box Office 217-431-1660

Mailing address:

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P.O. Box 264

Danville, IL 61834-0264

On the Internet

Website: www.danvillelightopera.com

Email: danvillelightopera@hotmail.com

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The 2011-2012 Board of Directors

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Brian Morris, Brad Smith, Jenny Taylor

Rick Welchans, Susie Willard



DLO e-Stage

DLO e-Stage will be delivered to you via email several times each year. 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.