



# DLO e-stage

Volume 1, Issue 12

December 2009



*The Danville Light Opera  
Board of Directors  
wishes you good health and good cheer  
during the holiday season  
and throughout the coming year!*

## Give the gift of entertainment!



**DLO Dollar\$ make an excellent gift and also support the performing arts in your community! DLO Dollar\$ can be used toward ticket purchases and for any DLO merchandise. Please call 217-431-1660 and leave your name, telephone number, and the message that you're interested in purchasing DLO Dollar\$ for holiday gift-giving. One of our Board members will return your call.**



The casting committee for *THE SPITFIRE GRILL* genuinely thanks everyone who auditioned.  
What talent! You didn't make our job easy!

### CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Percy Talbott .....	Mallory Williams
Hannah Ferguson.....	Alice Cowan
Shelby Thorpe .....	Stefanie LaReau
Caleb Thorpe .....	Jason Asaad
Sheriff Joe Sutter .....	Geno Carver
Effy Krayneck .....	Belinda Smith
The Visitor.....	Greg Williams

*We are already receiving inquiries about ticket sales for this thought-provoking, often humorous, and ultimately heart-warming show! Our dinner theatre productions often sell out in advance. For additional details, visit our website or call 217-431-1660.*

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



Danville Light Opera thanks...



<http://www.visionsource-chittick.com/>

**Corporate Sponsor of  
THE SPITFIRE GRILL**

*THE SPITFIRE GRILL* is our annual dinner theatre. There will be four seatings.

**Friday, February 12: Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**

**TWO SHOWS Saturday, February 13: Brunch at 11:30 p.m. / Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, February 14: Dinner at 12:30 p.m.**

*Valentine's Day is Sunday, February 14!*

*Why deal with crowded restaurants when, for the same cost,  
You can enjoy dinner (or a bountiful brunch) and a show?*

*Check out our website for details ([www.danvillelightopera.com](http://www.danvillelightopera.com)) or call 217-431-1660.*



*The Secret Garden*

**April 23, 24 & 25, 2010**

**The Bremer Theater**

**Danville Area Community College**

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

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*Audition dates to be announced soon!*



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

By Jeanne Dunn, *THE SPITFIRE GRILL*



It was March 2008, and DLO was in rehearsal for **THE MUSIC MAN**, in which I played the role of Mrs. Paroo, and during which I was inspired to think I would love the creative challenge of directing a show myself.

I know the exact moment when this happened. It was when choreographer Jesse Pierce brought together for the first time the three factions of the company number "76 Trombones". He had taught the children, the teen dancers and the adults in separate sessions. When he brought us all together for the first time and began running us through our paces, I was awestruck that his vision for the number was so all-encompassing that he could take three very different groups, performing three different ways, in different areas of the stage, teach them separately, and bring it all together in a whole that was exciting and amazingly cohesive.

Now, I knew then and know now that I am neither dancer nor choreographer, but I was enamored with the notion of bringing such vision to life. I'd directed variety-type cabaret-style shows. I'd assistant directed shows. But now, I wanted to direct. I wanted to exercise my intellect, my imagination, my experience and creativity. I was excited enough to start researching shows.

I formulated a list of qualifications to hone my research. The show had to have a manageable cast size. It had to have depth and substance, heart and realism. It had to have a story and a message. It also had to be a true actor's show, as acting is my passion. I had to love the music. I also wanted to find a show with which I was not very familiar, so my own vision would not be compromised by what others had done before me.

By May 2008, I'd developed a short list, and I read scripts and listened to music. The show with which I absolutely fell in love was **THE SPITFIRE GRILL**. It wasn't long after that before I submitted an official proposal to the DLO Board of Directors, and the day the proposal was accepted, I was overjoyed! Well, with everything except the fact that somehow I had to wait until 2010 to get it to stage. Who knew that almost two years could pass so quickly?

I am grateful to the people who joined me on this journey pretty early on. Karen Grove, music director, and Jessica Brackmann, choreographer, were enthusiastically on board by January 2009. A few weeks later, Susie and Mark Willard agreed to be my producers. Gary Lickfett was excited to design and execute the set, and his own enthusiasm continues to fuel to my fire. When Brian and Cookie Morris agreed to serve as co-stage managers/costumers, the production team was complete months before auditions were held. And we have new folks asking to be involved behind the scenes. Darcy Lack and Michelle Calvin have offered to help however we need them. I am very fortunate to have this kind of support.

We are just a few weeks into rehearsals. This cast is remarkable! Most names will be familiar to DLO audiences, and our newcomer is sure to make a lasting impression. All of them have embraced the spirit of **THE SPITFIRE GRILL** with the same passion it lit in me from the start. In next month's issue of **DLO e-Stage**, I will introduce them to you. For now, I will share that they are all gifted performers and a pleasure to direct. Audiences will see some of Danville's best actors pouring their hearts into their roles and songs, and it is a privilege to serve as their director.

Please join us for a delicious dinner, or our bountiful brunch, and let this cast move and delight you as they bring **THE SPITFIRE GRILL** to life!



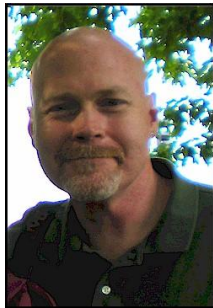
*Note: Although there is nothing very explicit in dialogue or performance, parents should know that this show contains adults themes and one cussword, and may be most appropriate for children 13 and older.*

*And now the sun is climbin' high,/ Rising fast, on fire,/ Glaring down through the gloom./ Gone the gray, I say./ The sun it spells the doom/ Of the winter's reign./ Ice and chill must retire./ Comes the May, I say.*

— Dickon in *The Secret Garden*

## A SEASON OF HOPE

By Greg Williams, Director of *THE SECRET GARDEN*



2009-2010 is a DLO season of Hope—hope of reunion and reconciliation in *The Civil War*, hope of redemption in *The Spitfire Grill*; hope of reclamation in *The Secret Garden*. It is also a season of Seasons—shifts in the political and moral landscape of *The Civil War*; the colors of a Wisconsin paradise from late fall

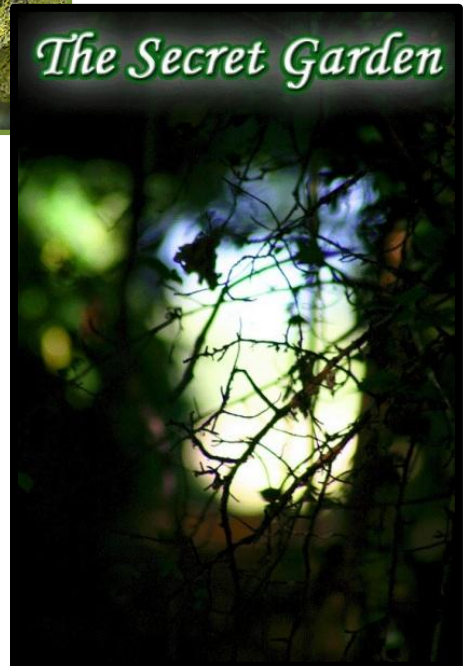
through a numbing winter to a glimpse of warmer days in *The Spitfire Grill*; finally, spring in full bloom as purple and gold clusters of crocus, blankets of pansies, and lilies and iris cover a once-neglected garden nestled in the hill.

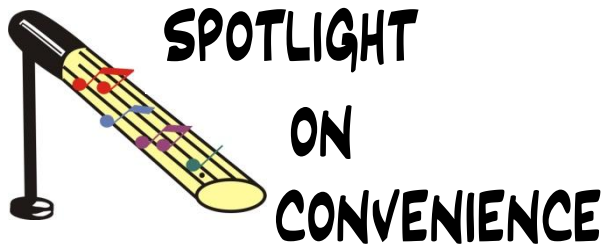
As I walk in my neighborhood or through nearby Springhill Cemetery, I see the changing of seasons...and what *work* it is. In summer, men mow their lawns while women tend to flowerbeds. In autumn, green gives way to red, orange, yellow, and gold. People rake leaves and store patio furniture and get their furnaces checked. Pumpkins, carved or whole, appear on front porches. Screens come out and storm windows go in. Squirrels scurry to gather nuts. In winter, lights go up on houses and in bushes. All is aglow, all is twinkling, all is bustling. Bundled people spend more time shoveling and scraping and chopping and shopping and warming up automobiles.

Finally, in spring, Nature heaves a small sigh and buds appear and gray is none-too-soon replaced by pinks and lavenders and whites and fragrance. Folks bring out the patio furniture and put the screens back in and breathe deeply and freshly. Seeds go in the waiting earth. The mowers come out. Birds build nests. Then the cycle repeats itself.

I feel fortunate to be a part of not only this cycle of Nature but other cycles as well: the history and evolution of Danville, the fifty-plus seasons of DLO, and, most meaningfully, the changing lives of family and friends with whom I have shared an abiding love of theatre. Despite what personal challenges we have endured offstage or what artistic hurdles we have faced onstage, we look with confidence and hope to the future and to what ever the next season has in store.

See you in the spring. See you in our *Garden*.





**SEASON MEMBERSHIPS!**

It isn't too late to purchase season memberships! For \$50/Adult or \$35/Student, your season memberships entitle you to a ticket for our dinner theatre, **THE SPITFIRE GRILL**, and **two** tickets to our spring show, **THE SECRET GARDEN!** You also receive the benefit of purchasing your tickets prior to sales being open to the general public.

**CHARGE IT!**

Danville Light Opera now accepts Visa, Mastercard and Discover. (This includes debit cards with the Visa and/or Mastercard logos.) Due to our cost to process charges, there is a \$1 convenience fee, but no more paying with cash or having to write a check! Just charge it!

**THE UNIQUE GIFT OF AN ENTERTAINING EVENING OUT! DLO DOLLAR\$!**

DLO Dollar\$ are available now! In \$20 increments, DLO Dollar\$ can be used for tickets to any show, toward season memberships or merchandise!

Give DLO Dollar\$ for anniversaries, birthdays, holidays, or to say thank you to someone special! You can call 217-431-1660 to request DLO Dollar\$, and a DLO representative will be happy to assist! OR get in touch with any DLO Board member!



# Help Us Develop Our 56th Season!

Do you have a **favorite musical** you would like DLO to consider for next season?

Email your requests to [danvillelightopera@hotmail.com](mailto:danvillelightopera@hotmail.com), and put "NEXT SEASON" in the subject line!

Your email will be forwarded to our Reading/Director Selection Committee.

**Would you like to direct?**

Do you have a specific show you would like to direct? We want to hear from you!

DLO welcomes your ideas, suggestions and proposals!

DLO is also looking for people to serve on a variety of committees.

This is an excellent opportunity to use your skills, get to know new friends, and be a part of the creative and business end of community theatre.

Email us or talk to any of our Board members for more info. Board members are listed on Page 6 of this issue of **DLO e-Stage**.



**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!*

**THE SPITFIRE GRILL**



**DINNER THEATRE PERFORMANCES**  
Friday, February 12, 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday, February 14, 12:30 p.m.

**SPECIAL BOUNTIFUL BRUNCH PERFORMANCE**  
Saturday, Feb. 13, 11:30 a.m.

**The Red Mask Players**

**THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK**  
Performances are January 15-17, 22-24, and 29-30, 2010.  
[www.redmaskplayers.com](http://www.redmaskplayers.com)

**Danville Symphony Orchestra**

**Voices of Christmas**  
December 12, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.

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**

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