



# DLO e-stage

Volume 1, Issue 11

November 2009



Congratulations to all who were involved in bringing *THE CIVIL WAR* to stage! What a spectacular experience it was!

Photos appear on page 2  
in this issue of DLO e-Stage!



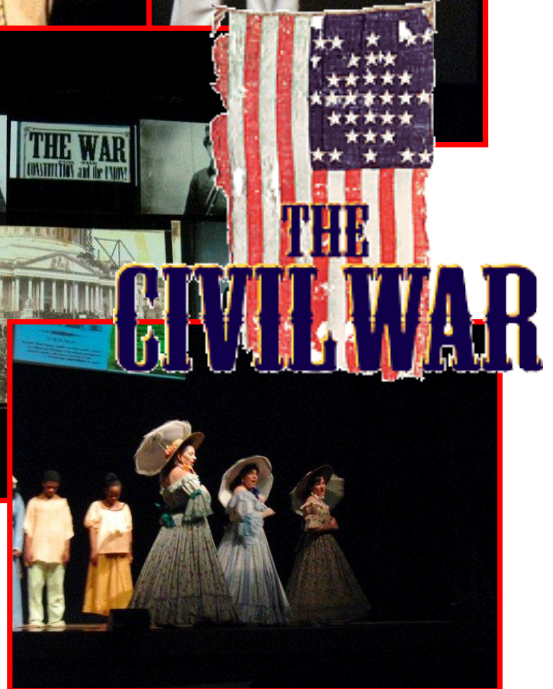
## **AUDITIONS FOR *THE SPITFIRE GRILL!***

Sunday, November 15, 2:30 pm  
Monday, November 16, 6:30 p.m.  
Center Stage @ Village Mall

A summary of the show and character descriptions appear on pages 3 and 4 of this issue of DLO e-Stage.

Audition information and an audition form appear on the website: [www.danvillelightopera.com](http://www.danvillelightopera.com)

# Spectacular!



**THE SPITFIRE GRILL SYNOPSIS & CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS***by Jeanne Dunn*

(Scripts are available for perusal at Danville Public Library and Java Hut. For those unable to peruse a script, an excellent, in-depth synopsis of the musical can be found on line at [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) by doing a search for The Spitfire Grill Musical.)

**THE SPITFIRE GRILL** is the story of a young parolee (Percy) who, after finding a photograph in a travel magazine, sets her sights on a new beginning in the small town of Gilead, Wisconsin. What she finds is a town that has lost industry and hope, but is full of suspicion.

The audience will recognize the characters who inhabit Gilead, from the crusty widow (Hannah) who owns the only eating establishment in town (The Spitfire Grill), to the busybody (Effy) who runs the post office and general store to the young man (Joe) suffering from wanderlust, and the couple (Shelby and Caleb) struggling to keep their marriage together in the face of economic and personal challenges.

**THE SPITFIRE GRILL** is the story of how Percy ultimately finds redemption and carries the entire town of Gilead with her on that journey. The music has a folk/blue grass flavor, and every character has moments in which to shine – including The Visitor, despite the fact that he never utters a sound.

This is truly an ensemble piece and “an actor’s show”. People auditioning should have a strong interest in character exploration and development. Age ranges are guidelines only and will be determined during casting.

**Percy Talbott**

Type: Lead  
Approximate Age Range: 22 - 26  
Gender: Female  
Voice Part: Mezzo (with a belt) (High of D 5)

Percy is tough, sassy, and works very hard to hide her vulnerabilities. Eventually those vulnerabilities are revealed, and it is pretty heavy stuff. There is great depth to this character, which must be tapped with sensitivity and realism. Vocally, the role is described as being “a Reba McEntire type”, which is a good guideline, including the ability to pull off a slight southern twang.

**Caleb Thorpe**

Type: Supporting  
Approximate Age Range: 36 – 53  
Gender: Male  
Voice Part: Baritone (High of G 3)

Caleb is Hannah’s nephew. He is the embodiment of masculine frustration and anger. He lost a cousin he idolized, a job he that filled him with pride, his hometown is crumbling around him, and realizes he has no control left in his life when his subservient wife begins to pursue some aspirations of her own. Though harsh, the goal is to convey that Caleb is suffering beneath all the anger and frustration.

(Continued on Page 4)



**Effy Krayneck**

Type: Supporting  
Approximate Age Range: 40-60  
Gender: Female  
Voice Part: Alto

Effy is typical of small town busybodies everywhere. She runs the general store, which also houses the post office and barber shop, and she has her nose in everybody's business. She is the hub of the town gossip mill and can be a bit hateful. What one needs to wonder is why Effy is so busy talking about everyone else and stirring up trouble instead of sharing anything of herself with the people she's known her whole life.

**Hannah Ferguson**

Type: Supporting  
Approximate Age Range: Late 60's plus  
Gender: Female  
Voice Part: Alto

Hannah is a widow and proprietor of The Spitfire Grill. She lives alone, is highly independent, and one might even call her crusty. Her manner is gruff, but she has keen perception, and her kind actions often speak louder than her rough words. She seems to be bone-tired of life, harbors a painful secret. She should be able to give the audience the impression that in her younger days, she was optimistic and the life of every party.

**Shelby Thorpe**

Type: Supporting  
Approximate Age Range: 32 - 45  
Gender: Female  
Voice Part: Soprano (High of D 5)

Shelby is a meek, gentle, soulful woman who works hard to please her husband, whom she genuinely loves. She has, however, allowed him to control and bully her. Shelby has never allowed herself to have, let alone pursue, her own dreams and aspirations. She has always served others and believed she was happy in that service. Imagine her surprise when she tastes independence and finds out she likes it!

**Joe Sutter**

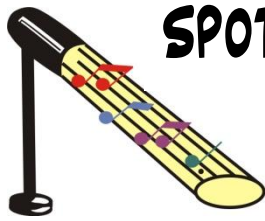
Type: Supporting  
Approximate Age Range: 25 – 34  
Gender: Male  
Voice Part: Tenor (High of G 4)

Joe was born and raised in Gilead, and now serves as the town's only sheriff. By default, he becomes Percy's parole officer. He is basically kind and an appealing young man, but has little patience for the town and anyone in it. He's very suspicious of Percy, finding it hard to understand why anyone would choose Gilead as a place to start over. He is restless, and it's no secret to anyone that he can't wait to leave this "one dog town."

**The Visitor**

Type: Supporting  
Approximate Age Range: 45 – 55  
Gender: Male  
Voice Part: Mute

The Visitor never speaks or sings, but he should be played by an actor who has a strong sense of his body and understands how to move and project attitude and emotion through his body language and facial expression. A strong sense of body and powerful eyes need to tell this man's story.



SPOTLIGHT ON CONVENIENCE

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, 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 7

Of this issue of DLO e-Stage.



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



**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

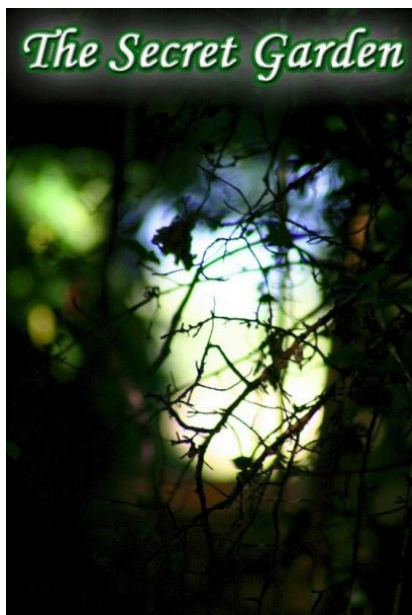
“The music in THE SPITFIRE GRILL ranges from tender ballads to soaring epiphanies, and brilliantly constructed ensemble pieces. The audience will recognize the threads of folk and bluegrass that contribute to the rustic tapestry of this show. The melodies and lyrics are integral to the progression of the plot. There are no ‘filler’ songs. In fact, some of the characters are defined more by the songs they sing than the words they speak! This is one of the reasons I fell in love with THE SPITFIRE GRILL. Every moment, every word, every song is important, and it will be an incredible opportunity for the cast to shine! I am so looking forward to auditions!”

~ Jeanne Dunn, Director

**Audition dates are November 15 and 16!**

If you have questions about the show, auditions, or are interested in helping in any way, please contact Jeanne Dunn by email at [jeanze@comcast.net](mailto:jeanze@comcast.net).

*The Secret Garden*



**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

From director, Greg Williams: “On the evening of October 1, while waiting for the start of the Domestic Violence Awareness program at Your Family Resource Connection, I suddenly enjoyed a moment of synchronicity and reflection. I realized that the last time I had been in that room was back in 1972 when the building was the YWCA. In that space, just off the lobby, I auditioned for my first DLO show, a production of *Mame*. I hoped to play young Patrick Dennis, Mame’s orphaned nephew who moves in with his bohemian aunt and learns that “Life is a banquet” if one is willing to “open a new window.” I didn’t get that role; I was placed in the chorus instead, but it began a decades-long association with DLO as I graduated to other roles: walk-ons, supporting parts, and leads on stage as well as backstage tasks like running spotlights, painting sets, choreographing, and, eventually, directing music and drama. Now here I am, nearly 38 years later, preparing to mount a production of *The Secret Garden*, a very personal project for me, a show about loss and reclamation which features young Mary Lennox, an orphan who moves in with her brooding uncle and encourages all whom she meets to live again and love again by reopening a certain neglected garden. Like the changing seasons, I seemed to have come full circle that first evening in October—a past and a future, a boy and a man, chorus member and director, seedtime and harvest—all resulting in what I believe will be a magical production later this April. I hope you’ll come to our Garden.”

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).

**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!*

**AUDITIONS**



**Sunday, November 15, 2:30 pm**  
**Monday, November 16, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Center Stage @ Village Mall**

Additional details appear on our website and in this issue of DLO e-Stage, or you may email the director at [jeanze@comcast.net](mailto:jeanze@comcast.net).

**The Red Mask Players**

**TOM JONES**

*Performances: November 6-8, 13-15, and 20-21, 2009*  
[www.redmaskplayers.com](http://www.redmaskplayers.com)

**Danville Symphony Orchestra**

**Voices of Christmas**

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

**Artistic Repertory Theatre,  
Hoopeston**

**THE CEMETERY CLUB**

*Performance: Sunday., November 8, 2 p.m.*  
*At the history Lorraine Theatre in Hoopeston!*

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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**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.