

dlo CENTER STAGE

musical theatre

JANUARY 2019

john & jen CONNECTIONS

john & jen is a musical about connections, commitments and the healing of the human heart. A tour-de-force for our two actors, this challenging script takes the characters from childhood, through adolescence and beyond.

The show starts with John and Jen, brother and sister doing their best to survive a dysfunctional family environment. In Act 2, Jen has married and divorced and is trying to raise her son, John, while still dealing with the fallout from her childhood and her failed marriage. That is the frame we build the story around, a story of the complexities of relationships between brothers and sisters and parents and children, set against the background of a changing America between 1950 and 1990.

As our Jen we have Mallory Williams Middendorf, whom I contacted years ago and has been waiting with me for a chance to bring Jen to life. At auditions we found Charlie Johnson as our John, a newcomer to the DLO stage, but by no means new to theater. Together they bring us characters that are heartfelt, invested, and real.

My experience with the show started like this:

Random internet surfing, finding an article on the musicals most worthy of production that were woefully underproduced. Finding *john & jen* on that list, and then finding a recording of the entire production on YouTube, and falling in love.

And then biding my time and fueling my obsession for six years, waiting for the right season to come along that fit the show. In the interim, I reached out to several "Jens" and several "Johns," helping them each fall in love with the show. I read everything I could find about the show. I had an email exchange with Andrew Lippa, the creator of the show. And a Broadway revival happened.

And here we are, in a season that needed a small winter show because All of the People are in Beauty and the Beast.

I can't recommend the show any more than this: I laugh at every rehearsal, and I cry at every rehearsal. I believe that you too will see yourself somewhere in a moment in this show, and it will touch your heart.

~Paul Strain, Director

PERFORMANCES:

February 14-16, 6:30pm, February 17 at 1:30pm

Harrison Park Clubhouse

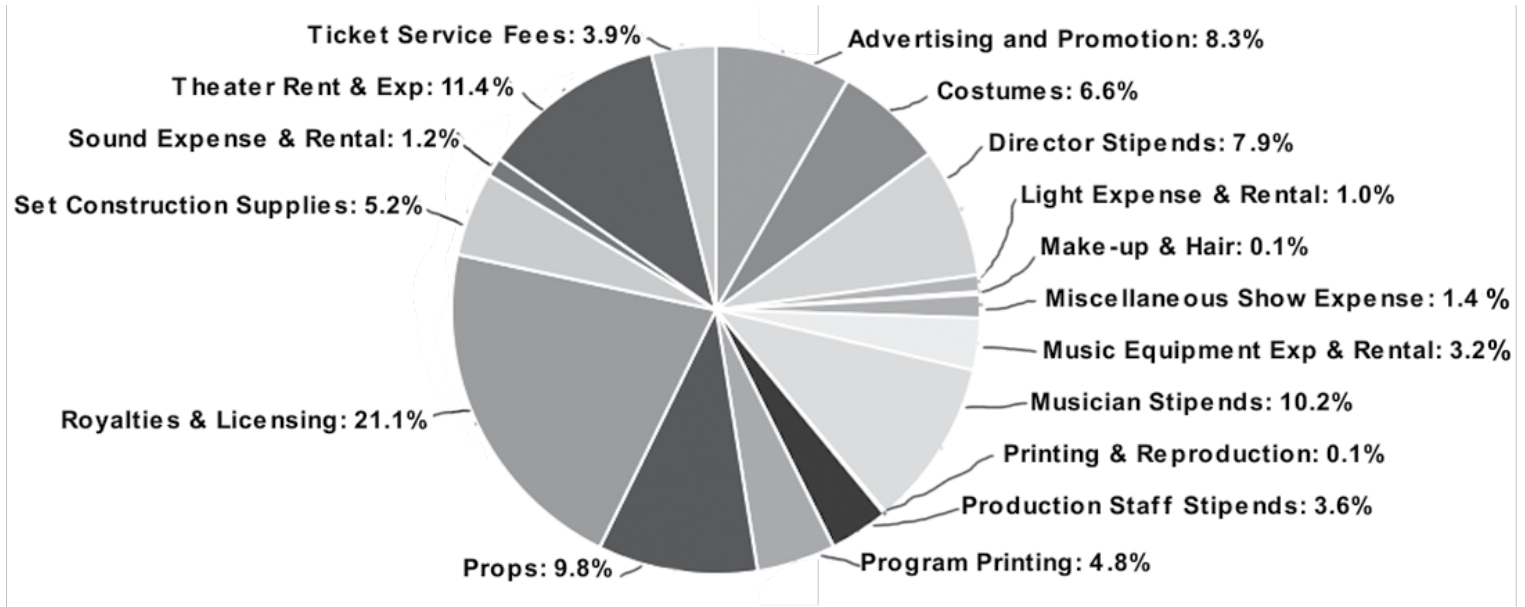
February 23 & 24, Lorraine Theatre, Hoopston (show only)



DINNER OPTIONS FOR *john & jen*
Valentines Day-full service dinner
Friday, Saturday - buffet style dinner
Sunday - dessert

MONEY TALK

Even though DLO is a nonprofit organization, what we do is not free, so we would like to update you on our budget and costs from our 2017-18 season (The Little Mermaid, Curtains, Sister Act, The Big Bad Musical, and High School Musical). Some shows have bigger budgets depending on their needs (e.g., the flying rig for The Little Mermaid in fall 2017 was very expensive, but was covered by extra donations).



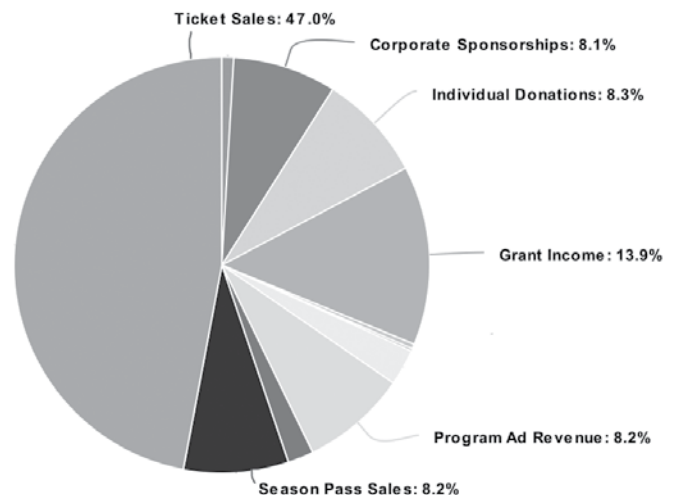
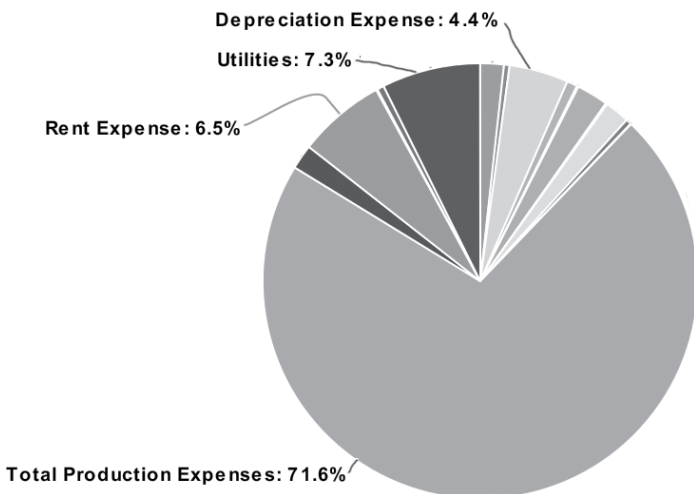
The biggest drivers of our costs are “hidden but essential” categories like royalties (the licensing rights to put on the show). Musicals typically cost \$800-\$1000 in royalties per performance. Combined with theater space rental, this accounts for \$1 out of every \$3 we spend on our productions. The things that you, our patrons, actually see (like sets, costumes, programs, marketing materials and having a live orchestra) make up slightly under half of our actual costs for putting on a show.

On the income side, ticket sales (individual tickets and season passes) account for just over half of our revenue. Grants, donations, and corporate support (ads, sponsorships) are essential to help us keep our ticket prices reasonable for Vermilion County.

While show expenses account for nearly three-quarters of our expenditures, we also have administrative costs—primarily space rental and utilities. What is not in our budget is salaries! DLO operates on the generous donation of hundreds of hours of time per year from its volunteers. We ended the 2017-18 season just barely in the black. One of our current goals is to increase that margin, as we will very soon need to move to new set-building facilities, which will drastically increase our rental costs.

There is a more detailed version of this article on our website at www.dlomusicaltheatre.com/newsletter. We are always glad to field questions, so feel free to get in touch if there is anything else we can help clarify. Thanks for all you do to support us—as our budget breakdowns clearly show, we only exist because of our wonderful patrons, members, donors, supporters and volunteers!

~ Andrew Peters, Assoc. Treasurer



DLO WANTS YOU... TO DIRECT!

Greeting, All!

We are in the thick of rehearsals and preparations for a huge and exciting spring lineup: *john & jen* is our annual Valentine's weekend dinner theatre, which is fast approaching, and in final rehearsals now. Get a taste of what we are so excited about in our director's note! And keep an eye out for show trailers on the DLO Facebook page and website. New this year is an additional performance weekend for *john & jen* in Hoopeston at the newly renovated Lorraine theatre. Following *john & jen* is the collaborative extravaganza that is DLO/DSO's *Beauty and the Beast* in March. Also in rehearsal is the sensation *Next to Normal*, scheduled for late April.

In the midst of all this, it is not too early to be thinking about this summer's youth lineup and next season—we are recruiting, again, now and perpetually!!!

Directors:

We are still looking for directors for the 2019-20 season. We are accepting submissions to direct *Mamma Mia!* in the spring (2020). The sooner we hear from you, the better—this is a huge show, and advance planning is critically important.



We are also currently selecting directors and shows for this summer's youth program (2019). If you are interested in directing, please let us know, send in a proposal, or come to a board meeting and pitch your show.

Interested, but not sure where to start? Please get in touch with me, or any other board member, and we will gladly help you!

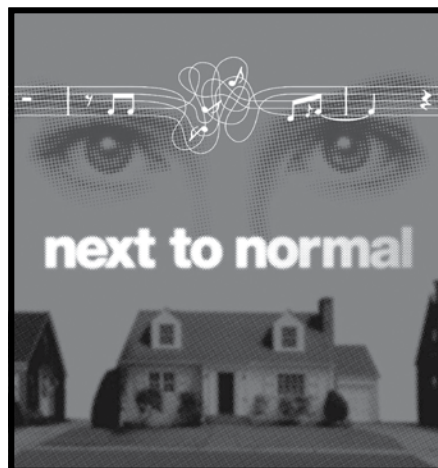
~Heather Miyagi, Board President
heather.miyagi@dломusicaltheatre.com

BOARD MEMBERS:

It is almost that time of year again, and we are looking for candidate board members in advance of the next round of elections (April). We are a 12-member working board—board members are expected/required to be involved in all aspects of staging the season and running the theatre company. In addition to the usual officers (secretary, treasurer, vice-president), some examples of board activities are: box office, marketing/publicity, concessions, fundraising, grant writing, volunteer recruitment, properties and facilities management.

Please let us know if you might be interested in any of these opportunities—we are always excited to welcome new members of the DLO family!

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE REST OF OUR SEASON AT WWW.DLOMUSICALTHEATRE.COM





PO BOX 264
DANVILLE, IL 61834-0264
Address Service Requested

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit 499
Champaign, IL



Box Office:

Our box office at the Village Mall will be open M-F, 9am—12pm.

Please get your tickets early, so there is a seat for you! You may also secure your seats through our online box office at your convenience. See you at the shows!

Tickets available online at www.dlomusicaltheatre.com or by phone at 217-431-1660.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST TICKETS

Tickets to *Beauty and the Beast* are not included in the DLO season subscription, and are on sale now, through DSO. DLO Musical Theatre Season Members should contact box office for details and reservations.

2018-2019 GENERAL ADMISSION PRICES

- Dinner Theatre adult ticket: \$38.00
- Dinner Theatre student ticket: \$25.00
- Dessert Theatre adult ticket: \$25.00
- Dessert Theatre student ticket: \$15.00

2018-2019 SEASON MEMBERSHIPS

- # _____ Adult Memberships (\$60, add to total below)
- # _____ Adult Flex Passes (\$64, add to total below)
- # _____ Student Memberships (\$35, add to total below)
- # _____ Student Flex Passes (\$36, add to total below)

_____ Memberships/Flex Passes \$ _____
Total purchase due = \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: DLO MUSICAL THEATRE

Name on Tickets: _____
Address: _____
Phone: (_____) _____ - _____
Email: _____ @ _____

Mail order form and payment to:
DLO Musical Theatre
PO Box 264, Danville, IL 61834
Box Office (217)431-1660

Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for ticket delivery, or we will hold your tickets at will-call. Include email for digital delivery.

A box office volunteer will contact you to help you choose seats. Please include your phone number.



DLO accepts payment by credit card for your membership purchases and donations. Please supply information below.

Name on card:

Card #:

Expiration Date:

Security Code (from back)

Billing Address (Street, City, State, Zip)

Your Signature: