



**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

**Danville Light Opera**  
*"Annie Get Your Gun"*  
April 30 & May 1, 2005

**Red Mask Players**  
*"Web of Murder"*  
March 18, 19, 20, 25, 26  
&  
April 1, 2, 3, 2005

**Danville Symphony Orchestra**  
*Don Quixote*  
March 12, 2005

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April 3, 2005

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*Cabaret*  
May 7, 2005

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*presents...*

*The*  
**Fantasticks**

Book and Lyrics by  
**TOM JONES**

Music by  
**HARVEY SCHMIDT**

**February 18, 19 & 20, 2005**  
**DACC Bremer Conference Center Theatre**

"The Fantasticks" is presented through special arrangement  
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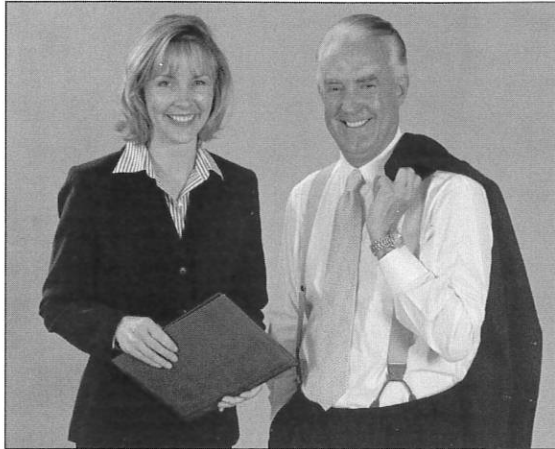
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## *The Fantasticks*

Directed by

Matt Hester

Pamela Starr

Kathleen Spain-Swiersz

— CAST —

El Gallo ..... Brad Smith

Luisa ..... Kayla Verhoeven

Matt ..... Brent Jones

Hucklebee ..... Creighton Cole

Bellomy ..... Jim Gilmore

Henry ..... David Laker

Mortimer ..... Jeff Carter

The Mute ..... Sidnee Gordon

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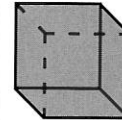
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## Musical Numbers

### — Act 1 —

Try to Remember  
Much More  
Metaphor  
I'll Marry  
Never Say No  
It Depends On What You Pay  
It Depends On What You Pay (Reprise)  
Soon It's Gonna Rain  
Rape Ballet  
Happy Ending

### — Act 2 —

This Plum Is Too Ripe  
I Can See It  
An Episode  
Plant a Radish  
Much More (Reprise)  
'Round and 'Round  
Beyond That Road  
Paradox  
They Were You  
Metaphor (Reprise)  
Try to Remember (Reprise)

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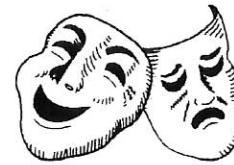
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## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director ..... Matt Hester  
 Music Directors ..... Pamela Starr & Kathleen Spain-Swiersz  
 Accompanist ..... Pamela Starr  
 Producer ..... Nancy Henderson  
 Stage Manager ..... Becky Riggle  
 Costumes ..... Cast  
 Props ..... Nancy Henderson, Becky Riggle & Cast  
 Set Design ..... Matt Hester  
 Set Construction ..... Eric France, Becky Riggle &  
 Jason Greene  
 Make-up ..... David Laker & Chris Jacobson  
 Sound ..... Todd Nardoni  
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 Percussion ..... Mac Byrne  
 Piano ..... Pamela Starr



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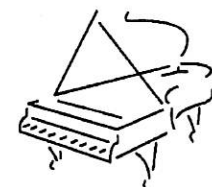
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 for the 50th Season!*

# BIOGRAPHIES



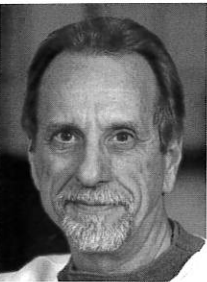
## Jeff Carter (Mortimer)

Jeff is still fairly new to DLO, with his first show being *Jesus Christ Superstar* last season. Since then he has participated with Red Mask Players in last summer's one-act plays and appeared as Luther Billis last fall in *South Pacific*. Jeff also appeared in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Olivet University. He is the Administrator and Pastor of the Danville Salvation Army. Jeff and his wife Mikey are the parents of two children, Emma and Dune.



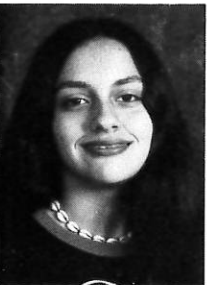
## Creighton Cole (Hucklebee)

Creighton was recently on the DLO stage in last fall's production of *South Pacific*. He has also appeared in *Pippin* and *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* as well as shows at The Beef House Dinner Theatre. He played in the Danville Symphony Orchestra for several years and currently is part of a worship band at his church. He thanks his wife Amanda and daughter Emily for allowing him the time to be involved in *The Fantasticks*.



## Jim Gilmour (Bellomy)

Jim has graced the DLO stage several times in the past two years, appearing in *Blood Brothers*, *JC Superstar*, and *The King & I*. He has directed for DLO in the past and also appeared in many Red Mask productions. He thanks the cast and crew for all their hard work and patience and his lovely wife for her help and support. He says a special thanks to Matt for having the courage to cast him and to the music directors for "going very slow and not laughing (much)".



## Sidnee Gordon (Mute)

This is Sidnee's first adult production with Danville Light Opera but she is no stranger to community theatre. She has also appeared in several Danville Light Opera and Red Mask Players children's shows. Sidnee is an eighth grader at North Ridge Middle School where she participates in music and theatre activities. She also takes dance lessons. Sidnee sends thanks to her family and friends for always backing her up.

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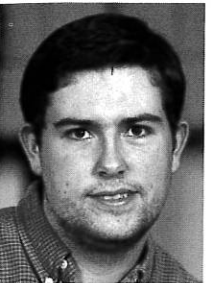
## Nancy Henderson (Producer)

Nancy is behind the scenes this year, after appearing as Anna in *The King & I* last season. This past fall she directed *South Pacific* in addition to directing shows at Danville High School for the past two years. Nancy has also appeared onstage with Red Mask Players and The Beef House Dinner Theatre. She has stopped counting the number of productions she has been involved with for DLO, serving in nearly every capacity at one time or another.



## Matt Hester (Director)

*The Fantasticks* will be Matt's third show with DLO. He was previously seen in *JC Superstar* and *Blood Brothers* last season. He is thrilled to be doing this show as it was the very first show he ever directed in 1997 in his hometown. Matt has a B.F. A. in Fine Arts and works as the Artistic Director for the Myers Dinner Theatre. A Danville resident, Matt would like to sincerely thank the community for all of its support. The arts would not be possible without you.



## Brent Jones (Matt)

This is Brent's first show with Danville Light Opera. He has previously appeared in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at the Fischer Theater. He also performed in the Danville High School show choirs and sang with the Indiana University Singing Hoosiers. He is currently working as a sports clerk at the Commercial News while attending DACC. He plans to transfer to Southern Illinois University next summer or fall to study journalism.



## David Laker (Henry)

David has been involved with community theatre for 30 years, appearing in numerous shows for DLO and Red Mask Players. He has also graced the stage at the Beef House Dinner Theatre. David previously served on the Board of Directors for both DLO and Red Mask, holding the offices of vice-president and president. David is a counselor at the Danville Correctional Center, and is married to Mary Ann, who will soon be seen in Red Mask's *Web of Murder*.

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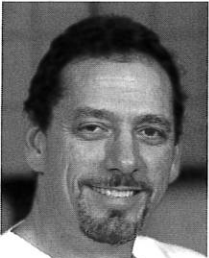


# BIOGRAPHIES



**Becky Riggle (Stage Manager)**

This marks Becky's first time as a stage manager. She appeared on the Danville Light Opera stage last season in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and with Red Mask Players in the summer one-acts. She served as stage and set assistant and props manager last fall for *South Pacific*. Becky sang in her high school choir and also with the choir and madrigal choir at Blackburn College where she had the thrill of performing with the madrigal choir at Carnegie Hall.



**Brad Smith (El Gallo)**

Danville Light Opera is happy to have Brad back onstage after many years as a stage "dad". He says thanks to Jim B. and Danville Light Opera for giving him the opportunity to perform. He also thanks the wonderful cast and crew. Brad shares that in the early summer of his youth, a good friend told him "So many good things happen in the September of our years". He says he is beginning to understand. Finally, Brad sends love to his three girls.



**Kathleen Spain-Swiersz (Music Director)**

Kathleen has served in many capacities for Danville Light Opera. Some of her favorites include directing and choreographing *Pump Boys & Dinettes*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, and *Shenandoah*. Her favorite performances include Guenevere in *Camelot* and Sister Robert Anne in *Nunsense I, II, & III*. Kathleen is active in her church choir and hendbell choir, and she teaches drama and music at Southwest Elementary School.



**Pamela Starr (Music Director)**

The *Fantasticks* is Pamela's first show for DLO but she is no stranger to musical theatre. She has played for and directed music for several productions in the upper Michigan Peninsula and originated "Vintage Half Pints" for Wisconsin tourism heritage theater. Pamela serves as pastor of Danville United Church of Christ and is the mother of five. She feels Danville has a wealth of talent and opportunity for the arts and is honored to be part of this production.



**Kayla Verhoeven (Luisa)**

This is Kayla's first appearance with DLO and also her first experience on the musical theatre stage. A junior at Westville High School, she performs with the Westville Singing Tigers and competes in solo and ensemble contests and talent shows. Kayla is a member of the Concert Choir, Art Club, is active in youth group, and also works at Dairy Queen. She wants to thank the cast and directors for making this opportunity possible.

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*Danville Light Opera Company  
Dedicates Our 51st Season to*



Helen McDuffee

1914-2004

Helen McDuffee, a life-long supporter of the arts in the Danville community, passed away April 16, 2004, the day before opening night of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, the final production of our 49th season. She had only missed one other performance during those 49 years. Helen, probably our most loyal supporter, will always have a special place in the hearts of many, as she was ever so complimentary of each cast and performance. Each show was always “the best one ever!”

“Helen, we won’t let you down, every show of this 51st season will be the best one ever!”

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Although it may not be common knowledge, “The Fantasticks” was the longest running musical in the world up until a few years ago. How, you may ask, could a show so little known have been so popular for so long? The answer is simple. It’s a story that speaks to us all on our most basic human level. It speaks to our desires for love, romance and adventure. It also touches the reality of our lives with our heartaches, disappointment and having to learn to hard lessons in life. The story may be told in a, somewhat, unconventional way, but it is a story where we can all identify a little piece of ourselves within.

The story of “The Fantasticks” follows the romance between Matt and Luisa. They are two young people who remind us all of our first romance. They are kept apart by their fathers which only fuels their love. Hucklebee and Bellomy, their fathers, have plans of their own, though, as they know that children only want what they can’t have and pretend to feud in an attempt to get the children together. How many clever parents haven’t considered this? The only obstacle now is how to end the feud? Enter El Gallo and his band of helpers. El Gallo has already overseen all of this and provides them with a scene in which to end the feud and deliver a happy ending. Or so they think.

The “happy” family soon discovers, though, that things are not all roses in the sunlight. Suddenly all the flaws rear their ugly heads. The family splits to go their separate ways as El Gallo steps in once again to guide them through the tough lessons in life they must learn to fully appreciate the things they had all along. As El Gallo says, “why we all must die a bit... before we grow again.” We’ve all been there and we’ve all lived through it. I think that if you look very closely you may just see a bit of yourself up there on that stage. A part of you that you once knew. A part of you that still lives in your heart somewhere. Try to remember...

— MATT C. HESTER