

The King & I

Historical notes

The King & I is not only a beautiful musical but it is a true story. Anna Leonowens, a proper Englishwoman, was an unlikely candidate to change the course of Siamese (Thi) history. A young widow and mother, her services were engaged in the 1860's by King Mongkut of Siam to help him communicate with foreign governments and be a tutor to his children and favored concubines. King Mongkut was a learned and visionary King, caught at the time when the West was at its most predatory towards the East, and it was his diplomatic brilliance and his desire to think in modern "Western" terms that resulted in Thailand remaining the only country in the Orient that has never been conquered. Prince Chulalongkorn was particularly influenced by Leonowens. He would become probably Siam's most progressive king. He guided the country's transformation from a feudal state to a modern society, establishing religious liberty, peacefully abolishing slavery, and making many other radical reforms.

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Book and Lyrics by
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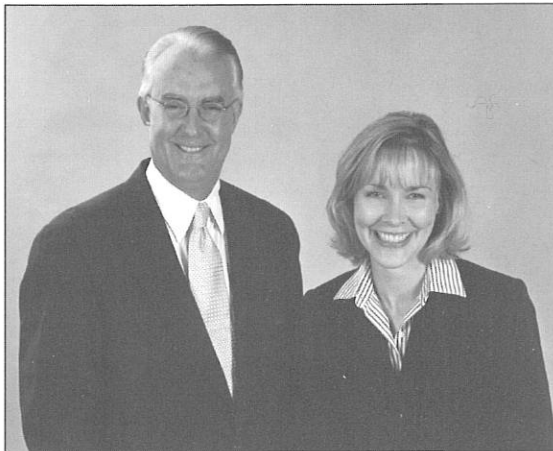
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October 25 & 26, 2003

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CAST
(in order of appearance)

CAPTAIN ORTON Tom Fricke
LOUIS LEONOWENS Colin Ramage
ANNA LEONOWENS Nancy Henderson
THE INTEPRETER Erick Henderson
THE KRALAHOME Craig Krukewit
THE KING Jason Asaad
PHRA ALACK Geno Carver
LUN THA Jared Yates
TUPTIM Julia Davis
LADY THIANG Belinda Smith
PRINCE CHULULONGKORN Alex Dunn
SIR EDWARD RAMSAY Jim Gilmour
PRINCESS YING YAOWLAK Emily Cole
ROYAL CHILDREN Sammi Auditore, Abby Benzig, Nancy Benzig, Kristen Cauley, Alyssa Cast, Charlene Cessna, Colleen Cessna, Murphy Connelly, Brian Coutant, Iris deTorres, Steven Downing, Sarah Finley, Emily Halls, Payten Halls, Rebecca Halls, Molly Hanrahan, Sabrina Hantz, Thomas Hantz, Bobby Harshbarger, Bailey Hills, Shelby Hines, Morgan Kelley, Kelsie Landers, Augusta Mansfield, Callie Jane Mansfield, Krista Mathias, Melissa Miller, Stephanie Miller, Grace Newman, Brianna Reed, Alexxis Reitsma, Chloe Roberts, Iggy Romack, Sissy Romack, Kayci Smalley, Sammy Smalley, Lindsey Swick, Noelle Wheaton, and Ashleigh Zellers
ROYAL WIVES Vicki Auditore, Elizabeth Bates, Emily Benzig, Amanda Coutant, Shealin Ferguson, Jodi Gray, Erin Halls, Kathleen Hantz, Brandi Harris, Amy Hegg, Stephanie Keller, Angie Mansfield, Gretchen Neisler, Mary Newman, Shannon Peterson, Colette Ramage, Robin Romack, Suzanne Smalley, Lauren Smith, Kendra Walag, Allison Willard, and Lori Zellers
ENGLISH GUESTS Lon Henderson, Al Ramage, Larry Weatherford & Rhea Weatherford

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Eliza Laurel Soderstrom
Uncle Thomas Dalton Halls
Little Eva Gretchen Rolnicki
Little Topsy Emily Halls
Simon of Legree Ben Gulley
Angel Jessica Gulley
Featured Dancers Meghan Hanrahan, Kylie Knee and Bree Swartz



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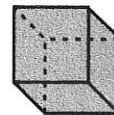
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Act One

Scene 1 - Deck of the Chow Phya approaching Bangkok

I Whistle a Happy Tune Anna & Louis

Scene 2 - The King's Library in the Royal Palace

My Lord and Master Tuptim

Hello, Young Lovers Anna

The March of the Siamese Children Royal Children

Scene 3 - A Corridor in the Royal Palace

Home Sweet Home Royal Children

A Puzzlement The King

Scene 4 - The School-room

Getting to Know You Anna & Louis with Royal Wives and Children

Scene 5 - A Corridor in the Royal Palace

Reprise: *A Puzzlement* Prince Chulalongkorn & Louis

Scene 6 - A Garden in the Royal Palace

We Kiss in the Shadows Lun Tha & Tuptim

Scene 7 - Anna's Bedroom

Shall I Tell You What I Think? Anna

Something Wonderful Lady Thiang with the Kralahome

Scene 8 - The King's Library in the Royal Palace

Finale Act One The King & Entire Company

Act Two

Scene 1 - The King's Library in the Royal Palace

Scene 2 - A Garden Outside the Theatre Pavilion

I Have Dreamed Lun Tha & Tuptim

Scene 3 - The Theatre Pavilion

The Small House of Uncle Thomas Tuptim, Royal Dancers & Royal Wives

Scene 4 - The King's Library in the Royal Palace

Song of the King The King & Anna

Shall We Dance Anna & the King

Scene 5 - A Room in Anna's House

Scene 6 - The King's Library in the Royal Palace

Reprise: *I Whistle a Happy Tune* Anna

Finale Ultimo Chulalongkorn and the Entire Company

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Directors..... David & Jennifer Woodrow
 Accompanist.....Kevin Latoz
 Choreographer.....Laurel Soderstrom
 Producers.....Tom Fricke & Angie Mansfield
 Sound.....Jenny Taylor
 Set Design.....Angie Mansfield, David Woodrow & Gary Lickfett
 Set Construction & Painting.....Gary Lickfett, Mike & Shealin Ferguson,
 Angie Mansfield, Tom Fricke, Nancy Henderson,
 Tom, Michelle & Colin Ramage, Jason Asaad,
 Jeanne Dunn, Malynnda Winters, Simone Halls,
 Gretchen Neisler, Kay, Sammy & Suzanne Smalley
 Costumes..Nancy Henderson, Collette Ramage, Jennifer Woodrow & cast
 Hair & Makeup.....Amy Hegg & Gretchen Neisler
 Lights.....Graham Peck
 Stage Managers.....Mylanda Winters & Tom Fricke
 Publicity.....Nancy Henderson & David Woodrow
 Programs.....Nancy Henderson & Brian Morfey
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 Violin.....Renee Cauley & Marissa Hulvey
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 Cello.....Jana Marron
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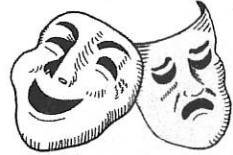
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Biographies



Jason Asaad (The King)

When the "King" is not ruling Siam, he is working full time at the Vermilion County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Jason has also been active in other local community theatre groups, in addition to Danville Light Opera, for several years. The leader of Siam would like to thank his family, friends, and everyone who supports him...etcetera., etcetera, etcetera and so forth. Enjoy the show!!



Geno Carver (Phra Alack)

Geno, age 11, appears on the DLO stage for the first time in The King & I. He has always enjoyed performing in class plays and chorus. He also participated in Red Mask's Christmas play in 2001. Geno is a sixth grader at North Ridge Middle School, where he is achieving high honors in the MATS program and is on the stage crew for the Red Coats. He is also in band, learning to play the tuba.



Emily Cole (Princess Ying Yaowlak)

Emily is a seven year old 2nd grader from Catlin. Her last appearance was as a "Snow Child" in *Carousel* at the Beef House. She is active in Brownies, soccer, and is a new member of the Children of the American Revolution. Emily plans on becoming a children's author when she grows up. She would like to thank her Mom and Dad, and her chihuahua, Angel, for their support.



Julia Davis (Tuptim)

A relative newcomer to the Danville area, this is Julia's first appearance on the Danville Light Opera stage. Julia can be seen performing daily at the Vermilion County Courthouse where she works as an Assistant Public Defender. She is both an Illini and a Saluki. Her favorite pastimes include but are not limited to traveling, skiing, scuba diving, concert going and playing with children.



Alex Dunn (Prince Chululongkorn)

Alex, 12, is taking great pride in his first community theatre experience. As suspected, based on seeing his performances in school Christmas plays and his amazing ability to mimic just about anyone, he's proven to be a real "natural"! (It's in his genes! His dad, Chris, appeared in DLO productions several years ago.) Alex is an excellent student in the seventh grade at St. Paul's School.

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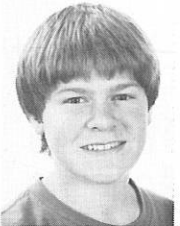
Tom Fricke (Captain Orton/Co-Producer)

After appearing in "Pump Boys and Dinettes" at the Beef House this past summer, Tom is returning to the DLO stage. He has also appeared in DLO's *State Fair* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. He has also been involved on the technical side of numerous DLO productions, sings with the Danville Barbershoppers, works during the day at the Vermillion County Farm Bureau.



Jim Gilmour (Sir Edward Ramsey)

Jim is a newcomer to DLO as a performer, however he has directed three DLO productions. He has been involved in theatre since college ("a long, long time ago in a distant place") and has appeared in several Red Mask productions. Jim thanks David for giving him the opportunity to be in this production and his patience with him. He also thanks his lovely wife, Anna Beth for her support and coaching.



Erick Henderson (Interpreter)

Erick is already a theatre veteran, having appeared several times with DLO. He has also been involved with the Beef House Dinner Theatre and is active with theatre and music activities at church. Erick is an eighth grader at North Ridge, where he is a member of Redcoats Show Choir, Jazz Band, and National Junior Honor Society. Erick takes dance lessons and recently earned his Black Belt in Taekwondo.



Nancy Henderson (Anna Leonowens)

Nancy has stopped counting the number of shows she has been a part of in various capacities for DLO. She is excited to be onstage again in one of her favorite roles. Her last onstage appearance was in *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* last fall for the Red Mask Players. Nancy is happy to be in a show with her son Erick again, and thanks her husband Lon for his support and for doing such a fantastic job with the box office.



Craig Krukewitt (The Kralahome)

Last seen with DLO as Josh in *BIG*, Craig has since made his Red Mask debut (*Cuckoo's Nest*), played approximately the same British stereotype character in two different musicals (*Crazy for You* and *Anything Goes*), and ventured to Decatur for the state's first amateur production of *Ragtime*. He is currently studying to be a medical transcriptionist and has no time for theatre whatsoever, well, theoretically.

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Kevin Latoz (Accompanist)

Kevin first became a part of DLO in the late 1980's. After a break to start a family and build a house, Jennifer Woodrow lured Kevin back into show business at the Beef House for 1776 and again last year to DLO for *Pippin*. Kevin wishes to thank his wonderful wife Kristi and his two handsome boys, Lucas and Levi, for letting him devote time to *The King & I* now that he has been bitten by the Showbiz bug once again.



Angie Mansfield (Co-Producer)

Angie is happy to return to the DLO scene after an 11 year absence. She has really enjoyed working behind the scenes helping to create this fabulous set. She is thrilled to be sharing the stage with her daughters, Augusta and Callie Jane, in their theatrical debut! Aside from being a stay at home mom, Angie teaches art classes, paints murals, and helps her husband, Jim, renovate their home.



Colin Ramage (Louis Leonowens)

Colin is enjoying this, his second DLO engagement, following a wonderful experience as "The Dragon" in Aladdin last summer. He has also enjoyed participating in two children's shows for Red Mask. Colin is in the fourth grade at Liberty Elementary School. He is a member of the YMCA Swim Team, and enjoys Tae Kwon Do. His proud grandparents are Al and Colette Ramage and Chuck and Cheryl Schroeder.



Belinda Smith (Lady Thiang)

Belinda knows that it is truly "something wonderful" to play this part. She is no stranger to the stage, having played roles in other DLO productions as well directing several of DLO's children's shows. She also enjoyed being onstage with the Beef House Dinner Theatre. She is happy to share the stage with her daughter, Lauren, one of the King's wives. She thanks her husband, Larry, and son, Andrew, for their support.



Laurel Soderstrom (Choreographer/Eliza)

Laurel is no stranger to DLO. She is a past president and has been involved in all capacities since 1981. She was last seen onstage and as director for *The World Goes Round* in 2002. She wants to thank her dancers, Gretchen, Kelly, Bree, Kylie, Megan, Jessica and especially Ben Gulley. She says thanks to him for partnering with her once again. Laurel is the owner and director of the Laurel School of Dance.



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David Woodrow (Director)

David has appeared with DLO in the title roles of *Pippin* and *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown.* With his talented wife Jennifer, David has directed many theatrical productions in the Illiana area. For the past seven years, he has been the Banquet Manager and Dinner Theatre Director at the Beef House Restaurant. David is proud and honored to work with the cast, crew, orchestra and production team of *The King & I*.



Jennifer Woodrow (Director)

After many years teaching music in Indiana, Jennifer returned home to Danville. Last year she taught at East Park and recently joined the staff at her alma mater, North Ridge Middle School, where she directs the award winning Redcoats. Jennifer is also active in the DAR as Regent of the Governor Bradford Chapter. Last summer, she directed the All American DAR Chorus in historic Constitution Hall in Washington D.C.



Jared Yates (Lun Tha)

Jared is happy to be bringing his voice to the Danville Light Opera stage again. His other musical theatre credits include *Beauty and the Beast* for Danville Light Opera children's theatre, *Rapunzel* for Red Mask children's theatre and *Gypsy* at the Beef House Dinner Theatre. A junior at Schlarman High School, Jared keeps busy with school plays, singing at church and in his pop/punk band, Beyond Blu.

Mrs. Anna's gowns are from Dodger Costumes, Ltd., N.Y., N.Y. They are some of the original Tony Award winning gowns from the 1996 Broadway revival of *The King & I*.



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FROM THE DIRECTOR

THE KING & I represents everything I love about musical theatre - lavish sets, beautiful costumes, haunting music and an ingenious story, but this production of THE KING & I inspires my love for community theatre. With nearly one hundred cast members and many more people working behind the scenes, this production is a perfect example of what is right in the world - wonderful people coming together through the arts to better themselves and others.

This has been the greatest opportunity for me to work with many old friends, and at the same time, meet people in this tiny community that I otherwise would not have had the opportunity to meet. The people here are good people. Our King, Jason Asaad is an EMT, works for the Red Cross, and has also been a volunteer firefighter. Colette Ramage, a royal wife, has brought her grandson, Colin to nearly every rehearsal, and she made all his costumes, not to mention many others. Tom & Dottie deTorres from our orchestra live in Fithian and are both members of the National Reserve Band. Gretchen Neissler, a royal wife, is a certified teacher, who has taken a year off of school to home school her three sisters. Tom Fricke, our producer, still goes home in the fall to help his family harvest corn. These, and my wonderful wife Jennifer, are just a few of the interesting people that I know because of community theatre.

I encourage everyone to learn more about community theatre and learn more about themselves. I am so lucky to spend this weekend with one hundred friends who make this world a more interesting place to live. Please help keep community theatre a vital part of Danville. Ask me how. I would love to talk to you about it.

Sincerely,

David Woodrow