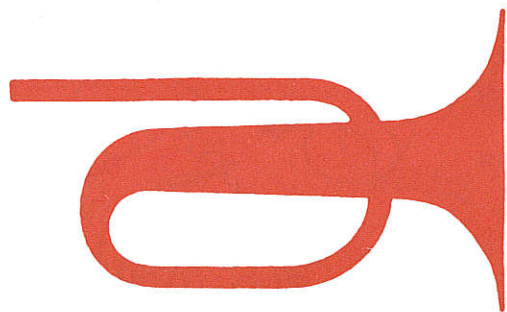


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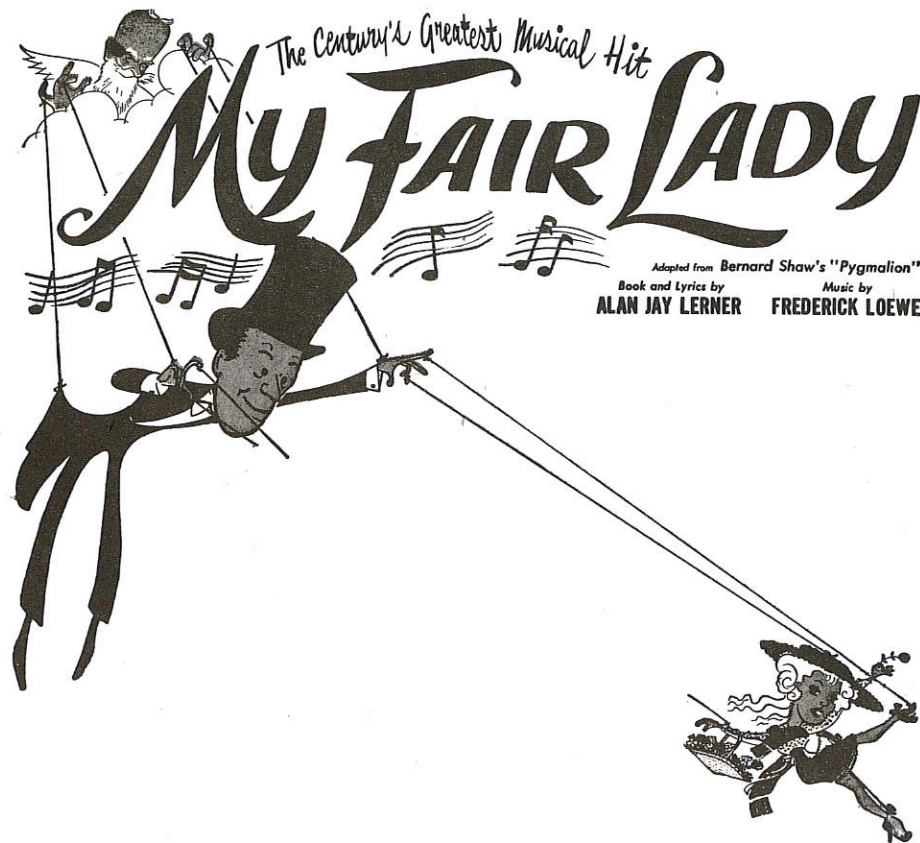
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## DANVILLE LIGHT OPERA

presents...



APRIL 8, 9, 10, 1976

8:00 P.M.

DANVILLE MASONIC TEMPLE

## THE STORY

The first encounter between Professor Henry Higgins, the brilliant, crotchety, middle-aged bachelor who is England's leading phonetist, and Eliza Doolittle, the little cockney gutter sparrow, takes place near the Roylea Opera House, Covent Garden, late on a cold March night. Eliza is selling violets. Higgins is out on his endless quest after new varieties of London's speech. A handsome young aristocrat, Freddy Eynsford-Hill takes no notice of her when she tries to sell him violets. Colonel Pickering, a linguistic expert, too, comes to stay with Higgins. Eliza's squalid father, Alfred P. Doolittle, outlines his optimistic if somewhat unorthodox philosophy to his friends, Harry and Jamie. Eliza comes to Higgin's flat to be instructed in the English language, so that she may transform herself into a "lidy". Pickering challenges Higgins to "metamorphose the guttersnipe into a paragon of verbal correctitude". Higgins looks upon her not as a person but as raw material for his experiment. Higgins drills Eliza for weeks. As no hint of progress is made Eliza loses her courage. Higgins loses his temper, and even Pickering's patience wears thin.

At last she improves, and in the flush of his first success Higgins resolves to put Eliza to the preliminary test. He will introduce her to his mother's snobbish quests at the Ascot Race Meeting the following week. While not romantic, her sense of triumph is tied up with a new feeling for Higgins. Eliza, strikingly pretty in her new gown and hairdo, appears at the races. Instructed to restrict her conversation to the weather and everyone's health, she says her little set pieces flawlessly. The illusion is shattered when her enthusiasm for the horse she is backing impells her to indulge in a bout of violently unlady-like cheering. Freddy Eynsford-Hill falls hopelessly in love with the new Eliza, and pours out his feelings in song at her window.

Six weeks later Higgins, in a crucial test, presents Eliza at a full-dress Embassy Ball. She is the object of admiration and everyone speculates on her identity. It becomes obvious that Eliza must take in Karpathy, a European phonetics expert. At the height of the ball, Karpathy invites her to dance and comments on the pureness of her English.

Pickering and Higgins, back at the flat, give themselves over to an orgy of self-congratulation. Neither of them takes into account Eliza's personal accomplishment in the matter. Eliza has absorbed the sophistication and the courage to see the unfairness of this, and she blows up, demanding recognition. The professor is not so much affronted astonished; it is as though a statue had spoken from its niche. Infuriated and frustrated, Eliza aimlessly walks the streets of the town, the remainder of the night. She encounters her father, drunk and dressed for a fashionable wedding. He has become wealthy, and Eliza's mother is marrying him at last.

Doolittle gives an account of his celebration to his friends in Soho Square. Higgins discovers that he is hurt that Eliza has left him. He meets her at his mother's flat where she has gone for advice. They argue violently and she storms out. It is only at that moment Higgins finally wakes up to the fact that Eliza has become an entirely independent and admirable human being. He realizes that he will have a difficult time getting on without her. Back at his flat he sinks into his chair prepared to face a bleak, lonely future. But just then — a moment before the final curtain — a future emerges from the shadowy corner of the room, and Higgins recognizes Eliza. He leans back with a long contented sigh speaks softly "Eliza? Where the devil are my slippers?"



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DANVILLE LIGHT OPERA

PRESENTS



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CAST

Henry Higgins . . . . .	Joe Kearns
Eliza Doolittle . . . . .	Mary Schifo
Col. Pickering . . . . .	Chuck Ferris
Freddy Eynsford-Hill . . . . .	Dan Brodsky
Mrs. Eynsford-Hill . . . . .	Vera Healy
Mrs. Higgons . . . . .	Julia Hubbard
Mrs. Pearce . . . . .	Sherri White
Alfie Doolittle . . . . .	George Mahan
Harri . . . . .	Harry Ferguson
Jamie . . . . .	Corky Rennick
Mrs. Hopkins . . . . .	Jeannie Bowers
Zoltan Kaparty . . . . .	Tom Shafer
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Second Maid . . . . .	Diane Carlton

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Nora Coffman  
Terry Koebrich  
Diane Carlton  
Brian Castle  
David Newton  
Joan Johnson  
Tom Szatt  
Laurie Collins  
Chris Hogatt  
Lila Riley  
Michelle Prosser  
Larry Trimble  
Karter Blakeney

### ASCOT CHORUS

Charles Handley  
John Kaellner  
Edwina Westwater  
Bob Westwater  
Ramona Lucas  
Bill Lucas  
Lori Mahan  
George Staley  
Nora Coffman  
Dann Miller  
Mary Coffman  
Nore Ghibaudy  
Tom Szott  
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Ruth Blakeney  
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## OUR DIRECTOR

**JAMES D. BEEBE, (Director)** Band and Chorus Director of Ridge Farm High School, holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Illinois Wesleyan University and a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Illinois. Before moving to Danville, Beebe taught in Mazon and Gilman, where he and his wife, Joy, co-directed four high school musicals. He was the organizer and director of the Iroquois Players in Watseka. In Wesleyan's summer stock, he served as musical director and appeared in "Brides of March," "The Wayward Way", and "Plain and Fancy". While working as assistant technical director at Boulder Hill Playhouse in Aurora, he acted in the "Pajama Game" and "Sunrise at Campobello". He has also directed for Kankakee Little Theatre. He has also worked in the American Passion Play in Bloomington where he was a member of the makeup crew and in the cast. He directed "Wait Until Dark," and "Butterflies are Free" for the Danville Red Mask Group and has directed four Light Opera productions. He has appeared on the Red Mask stage in "Come Blow Your Horn," and "Plaza Suite" and is currently serving on the Board of Directors. He has been a frequent director at Stage One Dinner Theatre in Williamsport, Indiana. His last work in Danville as the highly successful Bicentennial production "1776" presented by Danville Scottish Rite in cooperation with Danville Light Opera.

Jim is a member of the chorus and an organist for Danville Scottish Rite; Ansar Shrine Band, Springfield; the Gao Grotto of Danville; and is ritual coach for Danville Elks Lodge 332.

The Beebe's have two children: Danielle, age 9 and Stephen, age 7½.

## THE PLAYERS

**JOE KERNS (Henry Higgins)** moved to Danville 2 years ago from St. Charles, there he was active with the Schoolberg Festival Players, Elgin Community Theatre, Tri-Village Theatre Guild, and the Twilight Ridge Theatre. From those groups he had leading roles in a "Midsummer Nights Dream", "Period of Adjustment," and "You Can't Take it with You." He made his musical debut as Luther Bill in D.L. O.'s production of South Pacific and portrayed John Dickenson in "1776". Joe is a D.L.O. board member and a bachelor.

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### THE PLAYERS (CONTINUED)

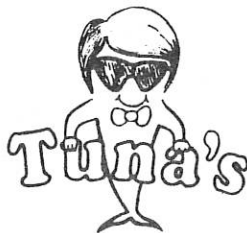
**MARY SCHIFO (Eliza Doolittle)** appeared in last falls production of "Gypsy" as Dainty June, and in last springs production of "Applause". She is currently singing with Bev Wolfes band and enjoys music. Mary and her husband Bob live in Westville, and Eliza is her first major role.

**CHUCK FERRIS (Colonel Pickering)** has been active in amateur theatre for several years; "Camelot" for Danville Light Opera, Red Mask productions of "Everybody Loves Opal", and "Blithe Spirit", and while in Michigan, "Call Me Madame" for the Grand Rapids Circle Theatre. Chuck lives in Danville with wife Patty and his two sons Eric and Joshua.

**GEORGE MAHAN (Alfred Doolittle)** and his family arrived in Danville in the summer of 1974 and first became involved with Danville Light Opera when his daughter had a part in "South Pacific" and he was recruited for the chorus. The next spring he portrayed Stephen Hopkins, the Rhode Island delegate in "1776". He assisted the stage crew with "Gypsy" in the fall of 1975. George is a member of Danville Light Opera board and Alfred Doolittle is his first main role.

**SHERRI WHITE, (Mrs. Pearce)** has been active in music since Covington High School. Her first show with D.L.O. was "South Pacific" in which she played the role of a governess. Later in "Applause" she was assistant to the director, and was make-up chairman for "Gypsy". Sherry is a Danville Light Opera board member and resides in Danville with husband Howard and son Benjamin.

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### SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The story is set in London in 1912

#### ACT I

- Scene 1: Outside Covent Gardens, a cold March night.  
"Why Can't The English" ..... Higgins  
"Wouldn't It Be Lovely" ..... Eliza and Quartet
- Scene 2: Tenement Section, Tottenham Court Road,  
immediately following.  
"With A Little Bit of Luck" ..... Doolittle, Harry, Jamie
- Scene 3: Higgins' Study, next night.  
"I'm An Ordinary Man" ..... Higgins
- Scene 4: Tenement Section, Several weeks later.  
"With A Little Bit Of Luck" (Reprise) .. Doolittle, Harry,  
Jamie and Chorus
- Scene 5: Higgins' Study, that night.  
"Just You Wait" ..... Eliza  
"Servants' Chorus" ..... Servants  
"The Rain In Spain" ..... Eliza, Higgins, Pickering  
"I Could Have Danced All Night" ..... Eliza,  
Mrs. Pearce, Maids
- Scene 6: Ascot, A July Afternoon.  
"Ascot Gavotte" ..... Ascot Chorus
- Scene 7: Outside Higgins' House, Wimpole Street,  
the same afternoon.  
"On the Street Where You Live" ..... Freddy
- Scene 8: Front Hall of Higgins' House, six weeks later.
- Scene 9: Transylvania Embassy, Ballroom, that night.

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## ACT II

- Scene 1: Higgins' Study, 3:00 the next morning.  
"You Did It" ..... Pickering, Higgins  
"Just You Wait" (Reprise) ..... Eliza
- Scene 2: Outside Higgins' House, immediately following.  
"On The Street Where You Live" (Reprise) ..... Freddy  
"Show Me" ..... Eliza
- Scene 3: Flower Market, 5:00 that morning.  
"Wouldn't It Be Lovely" (Reprise) ..... Quartet, Eliza  
"Get Me To The Church On Time" ..... Doolittle, Harry,  
Jamie, Cockney Chorus
- Scene 4: Higgins' House 11:00 that same morning.  
"Hymn To Him" ..... Higgins
- Scene 5: Mrs. Higgins' Garden, immediately following.  
"Without You" ..... Eliza
- Scene 6: Higgins' Study.  
"I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face" ..... Higgins

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Each Spring the Danville Light Opera Company presents a \$300 Scholarship to an area senior planning to work toward a Major or Minor Music Degree in College. This scholarship is awarded after competitive auditions and is given in memory of Charles R. Suycatt, Mrs. Velma Dupree and Mary Schroeder, who contributed greatly to the success and growth of the organization in its formative years. The competition will be held on Friday, April 23, 1976 at 7:30 p.m. at Central Christian Church, 1101 N. Vermilion. For information call Louise McCollum phone 446-4675. Danville Light Opera also awards traveling trophies in each of Danville's Junior High Schools to the outstanding vocal music students of the ninth grade.

Our scholarships are financed by donations for promotions providing entertainment for your organizations. Groups of entertainers have performed in the Central Illinois-Indiana area promoting Danville Light Opera and at the same time bringing the best of local talent to civic organizations. Please call if you would like to have us perform for you.



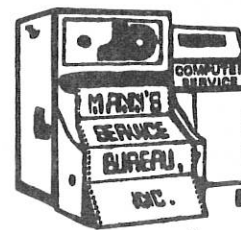
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is a member of the  
Danville Area Arts Council



**GENERAL MEETING**

On Thursday, May 13, at 7:30 p.m., at the Central Christian Church, Danville Light Opera will once again conduct its annual general meeting. This meeting is open to all holders of memberships for the season. Annual reports of all the company's committees will be read and those attending will elect four directors to three-year terms on the group's board of directors. We hope that you will show your continued interest in the growth of Danville Light Opera by attending this meeting.

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