OH COWARD!

The Second Production of Our 28th Season



DANVILLE LIGHT OPERA is a member of the Danville Area Arts Council and the Illinois Theatre Association.

Danville Light Opera



February 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 1983

Danville Civic Center



DANVILLE LIGHT OPERA

presents

OH COWARD!

The Musical Revue

Words and Music by NOEL COWARD

Devised by RODERICK COOK

with

DAVID E. LAKER NANCY NICHOLS DAVID FEAGANS

Directed by

MARY LOU SPAIN and DANIEL J. MILLER

Choreography by Kathleen Spain

Oh Coward! is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International, 119 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.



WHO IS NOEL COWARD?

In the early 1920's Noel Coward established himself as the most versatile, most sophisticated theatre craftsman of his generation. With seemingly equal ease he wrote plays and acted in them, wrote tunes and words for musicals and directed, sang, danced, and acted in them!



In the years that followed, he turned out 31 successful plays, 11 splendid musicals, 6 movies, 2 novels, and 12 other books — all while continuing to act!

His cleverness and suave, brittle personality opened the most exclusive doors in New York to him. He could imperiously set a 12-week limitation on the run of any of his shows that he chose to appear in and be guaranteed that playgoers would bid furiously for every last seat available.

Coward's seventieth birthday was the occasion of a big bash in London. The Queen's gift to him was knighthood. Thereafter, he was to be known as Sir Noel.

Sir Noel appeared for the last time in New York on December 16, 1972, to attend a performance of the hugely successful tribute to him, *Oh Coward!* As you will see, *Oh Coward!* is a delightful melange of his songs, as well as bits and pieces of dialogue from all of his greatest works, put together to give you an evening of pleasure, charm, and sophisticated fun.

At almost the same time as DLO's tribute to Sir Noel opens in Danville, Coward's greatest hit, *Private Lives* will be revived in New York starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton.

And now, sit back and enjoy an evening of real theatre!

THE CAST



DAVID E. LAKER — David is stepping directly from his role as the villainous Mordred in last December's Camelot into a starring part in a totally different kind of musical, proving once again the versatility he has always displayed in over a decade of theatrical work. Danville audiences will remember David as Jerry/Daphne in DLO's Sugar and as "Bogey" in Red Mask's Play It Again, Sam. He is currently living in Champaign-Urbana, where he works as a waiter for Snaks Fifth Avenue and does occasional stand-up comedy on weekends at the Ramada Inn. His hobbies include collecting comic books, watching old movies, and reading. After Camelot and Oh Coward!, David is looking forward to auditions for How to Succeed in Business . . . so that he can prove that he can speak without a British accent.



NANCY NICHOLS — A few years ago the lights at the Kankakee Valley Theatre went up on Nancy Nichols as Cecily Pigeon in The Odd Couple, and she quickly discovered that special happiness that only someone "hooked" on performing can experience. After roles in My Fair Lady (she sang 15 notes!), Jesus Christ Superstar, and The Sound of Music, she moved to Danville, where local audiences first enjoyed her as Rose in God's Favorite at Red Mask. Other memorable Red Mask parts followed. She has appeared in five shows for Sunshine II, including Barefoot in the Park and See How They Run. At the Station Theatre in Urbana, Nancy played Solange La Fitte in Follies and Mama in Chicago. She has also had several "fun" roles in Christian Arts Productions. Oh Coward! brings Nancy to the DLO stage for the first time. We welcome her.



DAVID FEAGANS — Dave graduated from the University of Evansville with a bachelor's degree in music education. While there, he participated in Concert Band and Choir, Marching Band, Varsity Band, Chapel Choir, Campus Choir, and Clarinet Ensemble. Dave moved to Danville in 1969 and taught strings, Marching Band, Concert Band, and music theory in District 118. He has received his master's degree in music education from the University of Illinois. He has directed three church choirs and presently sings tenor in the choir at St. James United Methodist Church. A soloist in many functions in the Danville area, Dave played the male lead in DLO's production of Bells Are Ringing and was the musical director of our first show this season, Camelot.

PROGRAMME

ACT ONE

Introduction

"The Boy Actor" (from Not Yet the Dodo)
Opening medley

England

"London Pastoral" (from Ashes of Roses - Collected Short Stories)

"The End of the News" (from Sigh No More)

"The Stately Homes of England" (from Operette)

"London Pride" (from Up and Doing)

Family Album

"Aunt Jessie"

"Uncle Harry" (from Pacific 1860)

The Music Hall

Introduction (from The Noel Coward Song Book)

"If Love Were All" (from Bitter Sweet)

Travel

"Too Early or Too Late" (from Holiday Magazine)

"Why Do the Wrong People Travel?" (from Sail Away)

"The Passenger's Always Right" (from Sail Away)

"Mrs. Worthington"

!NTERMISSION (15 minutes)

(Wine and cheese will be available for your enjoyment at the evening performances, compliments of DLO.)



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PETER M. SMITH

PROGRAMME (Continued)

ACT TWO

- "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" (from The Third Little Show)
- "A Marvellous Party" (from Set to Music)
- **"Design for Dancing"** (Dialogue adapted from: Private Lives, Design for Living, Shadow Play, Nude with Violin, The Young Ida. Music: "Dance Little Lady" from This Year of Grace.)
- "You Were There" (from Shadow Play Tonight at 8:30)

Theatre

"Three White Feathers"

"The Star"

"The Critic"

"The Elderly Actress" (from Not Yet the Dodo)

Love

"Gertie" (from Present Indicative)

"Loving"

"I Am No Good at Love"

"Sex Talk" (from Present Laughter)

"A Question of Lighting" (from Marlene Dietrich-Not Yet the Dodo)

"Mad About the Boy" (from Words and Music)

Women

"Thoughts" (from The National Enquirer)

"Nina" (from Sigh No More)

"Mrs. Wentworth-Brewster" (or: In a Bar on the Piccola Marina)

"World Wearu" (from This Year of Grace)

"Let's Do It" (Music by Cole Porter; Lyrics adapted by Noel Coward)
Finale



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THE DIRECTORS

MARY LOU SPAIN — Mary Lou, a DLO veteran and past president, is serving her seventh term as the organization's secretary. Since majoring in drama at Drake University, she has appeared in and directed both professional and non-professional productions of all kinds for many years. As a church elder, teacher, and soloist, she keeps pretty busy. Much of her remaining time is filled with other community efforts. Although she speaks and entertains widely in this area, she states there's no facet of entertainment as fulfilling as musical theatre, such as that done by DLO!



DANIEL J. MILLER — Although Oh Coward! marks Dan's directing debut in the Danville area, his association with DLO began 10 years ago. Since returning to Danville after attending college in New Hampshire, he has been very active in the musical community, performing with the Danville Municipal Band, playing in various show orchestras, and most recently joining the prestigious Danville Woodwind Quintet. Dan is serving his second term as president of DANVILLE LIGHT OPERA and will have produced seven shows for DLO at the end of this term. He serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the Danville Musicians' Association, Local 90 of the American Federation of Musicians, and is a director of the Danville Area Arts Council, the Danville Municipal Band, and the Danville Artists Coalition. He is the Fund Administrator of the Music Performance Trust Fund. Dan is employed by Vermilion County Abstract Company.



KATHLEEN SPAIN — Kathleen is participating in her ninth DLO season. Her debut was in the 1974 production of *South Pacific*, and her last affiliation with DANVILLE LIGHT OPERA was *Camelot* in 1982, in which she played Guenevere. *Oh Coward!* marks her second choreographic stint with DLO, her first being *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* (1981). Kathleen has also done choreography for the DHS Contemporaires and Danville Chapter of Sweet Adelines. She has been Junior Choir director at Central Christian Church for one year and has directed and taught for the church's Summer Parish Music Program. Kathleen achieved her degree in elementary education from ISU last May and is currently a substitute teacher for District 118.



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Bass Frank Lestina Percussion Tom Hensold

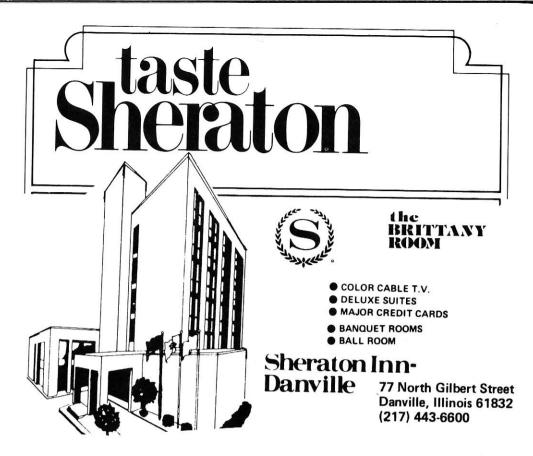
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Stage Manager	Laurie Spain Chambliss
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Lighting Design	J. C. Bartley
Lighting Technician	J Benn Darner
Costume Design	J. C. Bartley
Costume Coordinator	Martha Burton
Set Construction J. C. Ba	artley, Benn Darner, Brad Wright
Property Supervisor	Brad Wright
Orchestra Manager	Daniel J. Miller
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City of Danville Parks Department, Ray Randall, Commissioner; Danville Municipal Band; Dale Livingston; Paul M. Shore.



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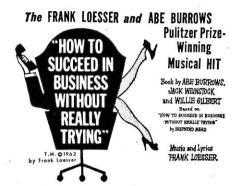
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DANVILLE LIGHT OPERA'S SPRING PRODUCTION

A tuneful tale of officemanship—i.e., how to maneuver your way to the top over the bodies of other executives. The songs are by Frank Loesser, who put a crap game to music in *Guys and Dolls*. He even has a tune for a board meeting, kind of a funeral dirge but uproarious.



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