



# Spotlight

## Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* Live on Stage

### April 28 – May 7

By Donna Klein, Director

Find us on the web:  
<http://rcctheatre.org>

#### Inside this issue:

Director's Corner	2
How'd They Do That?	2
Community Characters: Mary Ann Heidemann	3
Ticket Order Form	3
About Our Theatre	4

#### Six Songs from *Oliver*

The 1963 Broadway production of *Oliver* won a Tony for Best Original Score. Here are six of the best known and best loved songs from that award-winning score:

- **Food Glorious Food**
- **Where is Love?**
- **Consider Yourself**
- **As Long As He Needs Me**
- **Who Will Buy?**
- **Reviewing the Situation**

*Oliver!* is a musical very close to my heart. It was the first play in which I performed. I was in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Lincoln Elementary School in Hawthorne, New Jersey. At that time, *Oliver* was the most popular school musical in the United States and in England. Over the years, I've thought that it would be a lot of fun to revisit the classic Dickens' story right here in Rogers City. I'm so glad the opportunity to direct this play presented itself!

The show is a stage adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel, *Oliver Twist*. The plot follows a young orphan, Oliver, during London's early Victorian era, as he moves from orphanage, to workhouse, to life as an undertaker's apprentice. He then escapes into the London underworld, where he is initiated into a street school for pick-pockets run by a charming and charismatic criminal, Fagin. In the process, clues about Oliver's family history come to light, and by the play's end, his circumstances undergo a surprising and radical change.



The original production of *Oliver!* opened in London's West End in 1960. The show was brought to Broadway in 1963, where it was nominated for nine Tony awards, and won three in the categories of best score, musical director and set design (see panel at left for some of the production's favorite songs). The show enjoyed a long and successful run, and was re-adapted for film in 1968.

This production is special because it calls for a mixed-age group of troupers. Therefore our adult actors have the opportunity to work on stage with the vibrant and talented youth of this community. A full list of our cast and crew can be found on page two. We have all been diligently work-

ing to perfect our roles and we are looking forward to an entertaining and memorable opening night!

*Oliver* opens at the Rogers City Community Theatre on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> and runs through May 7<sup>th</sup>. Showtime on Friday and Saturday is 7:30 p.m. Sunday is a 2 p.m. matinee. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for students. Advance tickets are available through the Presque Isle Advance office and the Box Office. Tickets are always available at the door, as well.

Remember, we still offer a six-pack ticket package available for \$50 (Box Office and at the door only). Call 989-734-3861 for more ticket information. See you at the show!

## Director's Corner by Donna Klein Cast and Crew for *Oliver!*



Here is the list of cast and crew for *Oliver*.

### Youth

Katie Adair: Adult & Youth Chorus, Devin Allsteadt: Adult & Youth Chorus, Lexia Haske: Youth Chorus, Bradley Heidemann: Artful Dodger & Youth Chorus, Nora LaLonde: Youth Chorus, Gabbe Miller: Charley Bates & Youth Chorus, Sophia Mina: Youth Chorus, Angelee Piechan: Oliver

### Adults

Lawrence Anderson: Fagin, Jodi Collins: Old Sally, James DeDecker: Bill Sikes, Lucy DeDecker: Bet, Rochelle

Martin: Matron, Karl W. Heidemann: Mr. Brownlow, Penne Hoeft: Mrs. Bedwin, Baylee Lijewski: Charlotte Sowerberry, David Miller: Mr. Bumble, Sabrina Miller: Widow Corney, Denise Perrault: Mrs. Sowerberry, Edward Perrault: Mr. Sowerberry & Dr. Grimwig, Robert Starnes IV: Noah Claypole, Brittany VanderWall: Nancy.

Many of our adult actors are also members of the Adult Chorus. Watch for the Governors and the Market Sellers. You won't want to miss them. We also have dedicated crew members who are integral to the success of our show.

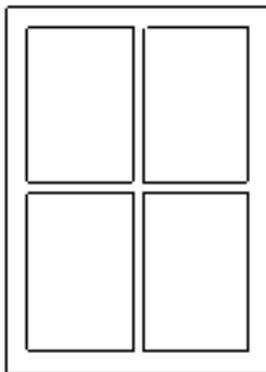
### Crew

Anne Spens is the assistant director/stage manager and Lucy DeDecker is the show's choreographer. Val Schalk is our costumer. Mary Parsons is the property master. Karl W. Heidemann oversees set design, building and painting. Riconda Lamb and Mike Marx are running the lights. As of this writing, we still need someone to run the sound. Is that someone you? Last, but not least, your humble director and music director is me, Donna Klein.

Thank you for supporting community theatre and we'll see you at the show!

*"Consider yourself at home. Consider yourself one of the family. We've taken to you so strong. It's clear we're going to get along."*

## Why'd They Do That? A Window into Helen Keller's Life



Envisioning production of *The Miracle Worker*, Director Julie Riddle was seeking a way to communicate the world view of young Helen Keller to the audience. How would a blind child "see" her environment?

In discussing the concept with set designer Karl Heidemann, Riddle noted that Helen's blindness would prevent her from actually seeing the walls of her home, so why not make the walls invisible to the audience as well?

While a normal stage set is assembled as a series of walls, Riddle wanted a different

approach. Could a set be made without walls, to give a more impressionistic sense of space that better represented a sightless world?

Thus the see-through set of *The Miracle Worker* came into being. The walls of Helen's home became nothing more than an outline. Her second floor bedroom and the stairway leading to it seemed to be suspended in space. All movements in the room were visible to the audience, while still conveying a sense of enclosure.

One key scene in the play took place in the garden shed,

which was pulled directly in front of Helen's home. The shed set consisted of three simple wood frames hinged together to outline the shed walls. Within those frames, the shed window and door were defined by white paint. Because the supporting pieces holding the doorway and window in place were painted in black, they seemed to disappear and leave the window floating in darkness. This simple technique was eerily effective, putting the audience on notice that they were constructing meaning out of darkness, just as Helen had to do.



# Community Characters: Mary Ann Heidemann

This year is the tenth anniversary of the theatre newsletter, *Spotlight*; making for a good excuse to reflect on the past decade with newsletter editor, Mary Ann Heidemann. Heidemann started the newsletter because “my husband, my sisters, my kids and most of my grandkids have been involved in the theatre over the years. Putting the newsletter together is just my way of supporting their enterprise, while also letting the wider community know a bit more background on theatre productions and the people behind the scenes who make it all happen.”

Heidemann’s job as Community Planner often required attending night meetings out of town, so it was impossible for her to participate in evening rehearsals, “not to mention a lack of acting talent,” she said with a smile. “Besides, for the last several years I’ve been working out of state. But I could keep

up with the newsletter from a distance.”

Heidemann fondly remembers one of her job locations in St. Paul Minnesota, because it was close to an all-night print shop where she could get the newsletter produced, packed and mailed back to Rogers City at any hour or the day or night. These days, she is happy to be home where she can just take the newsletter down the block to Dockside and get it printed right in town.

The newsletter is currently mailed to 500 homes, plus posted on line. In Heidemann’s view, that distribution network is like an extended family. “*Spotlight* helps people feel connected to the theatre, and fosters great pride in the home-grown talent we have here.” But important as the newsletter may be, Heidemann believes she has another more significant theatre



task. “Job One for a theatre supporter is simply this: buying a ticket and going to the show, then laughing, clapping and thoroughly enjoying it. I do that job very well.” We hear you, Mary Ann!

## Order Your Tickets Today

**Ticket Order Form** Fill out, clip and mail to address below.

Tickets will held for pick up at the box office.

Please hold the number and type of tickets indicated below:

**Number:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Six Pack punch card; mix and match any six admissions for \$50
- \_\_\_\_\_ General Admission to *Oliver!* @ \$12 each
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student Admission to *Oliver!* @ \$6 each
- \_\_\_\_\_ Angel Donation (see box at right)

**Amount:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**Information for program listing or ticket pick-up:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to : Rogers City Community Theatre

Mail ticket order form to: 257 N. Third Street,  
Rogers City, MI 49779



**Are you an Angel?**

The Rogers City Community Theatre is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation committed to bringing quality theater to NE Michigan. Donations are an important part of our budget. Please enable our work through your tax deductible gift, at any level.

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Heavenly Host
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Archangel
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Guardian Angel
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50 Seraphim
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25 Cherubim

Angels will be recognized under the appropriate category heading in all 2017 show programs. Thanks for your continuing support!

*We have the lowest ticket price in NE Michigan. Help keep it that way with your donations.*

## Rogers City Community Theatre

257 North Third Street  
Rogers City MI 49779



Find us on the web:

<http://rcctheatre.org>

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### About Our Theatre



#### ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

257 North Third Street  
Rogers City, MI 49779

Theatre Office Phone: (989) 734-7368  
Movie & Show Hotline: (989) 734-3861  
Web: <http://rcctheatre.org>  
Join our group on Facebook!

Newsletter Editor:  
Mary Ann Heidemann



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*See you at the show!*

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The Rogers Theatre was constructed in 1937 as a classic, single screen, small town movie palace in the Art Deco style. After a fire in 1947, the theatre was re-built and expanded. Serving as a downtown landmark for decades, the theatre was purchased in 2003 by Karl W. Heidemann. The new owner added a stage, theatrical lighting and utility improvements. In 2004, live productions began alternating with first run movies, in a revitalized auditorium. In the summer of 2009, exterior restoration brought back the black and orange ceramic work of the original façade.

Once the stage was available, an informal group of local theatre fanatics emerged that now constitutes the Rogers City Community Theatre (RCCT). In 2006, a summer youth theater program began as well. Community cast members have ranged from age 6 to 94. New cast and crew volunteers are always welcome! In 2009, the RCCT incorporated as a Michigan non-profit organization and received IRS approval for federal non-profit status. Contributions are appreciated, and are tax deductible as allowed by law.

In 2013, a community-based fundraising drive provided support for installation of new theatre seating, sound system improvements, a digital 3-D projector and a new highly reflective screen, putting our theater at the cutting edge of stage and movie technology. In June 2016, Mary Ann and Karl Heidemann donated the theater building to the Presque Isle District Library for use as a community education and entertainment center, with a long-term lease for the Rogers City Community Theatre, ensuring access to theatre and fun for the next generation.