

EVERGREEN players

Summer 2003

Imaginative Approach Gives Classic *Cinderella* a Fresh, New Look

Everybody knows the story of Cinderella. It's like Little Red Riding Hood or Goldilocks and the Three Bears, something you acquire practically from birth. A version of it has been told since the 9th century (it originated in China, in fact, so it transcends culture). It's been set to music, animated, parodied. Cinderella even has a psychological complex named after her.

For the TV generation, Rodgers and Hammerstein made it an icon of popular fantasy with their musical version, which debuted in 1957 and starred Julie Andrews. For the tail end of the Baby Boom, watching the 1965 remake with Leslie Anne Warren was an annual TV event, like watching the "Wizard of Oz." It was something everybody looked forward to all year.

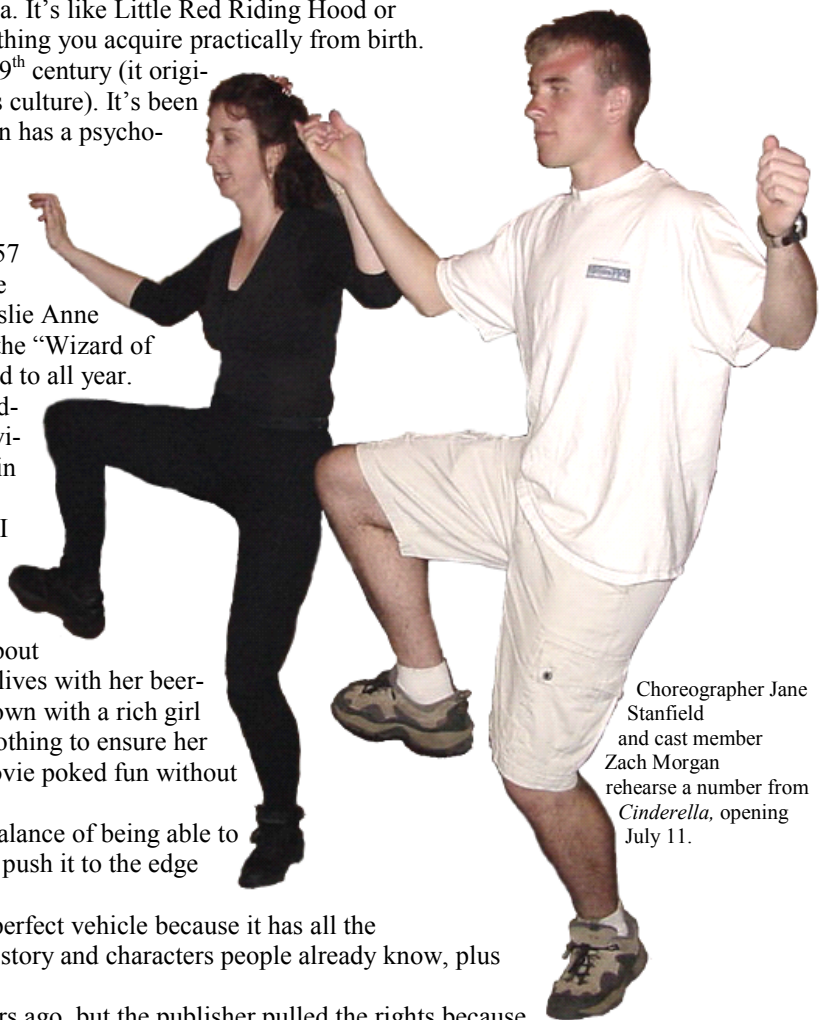
Given all this history, any director staging Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* faces an obvious challenge: how do you find something new in territory so familiar?

"I was really inspired several years ago when I saw the movie *Drop Dead Gorgeous*," says Peter Hughes, who directs the Evergreen Players' production opening July 11. The movie, starring Kirstie Alley, is a mock documentary about a teen beauty pageant in Minnesota. A girl who lives with her beer-drinking single mom in a trailer vies for the crown with a rich girl whose control-freak stage mother will stop at nothing to ensure her daughter a win. He says he liked the way the movie poked fun without offending.

"I was intrigued with the idea of finding the balance of being able to really just take something very, very quirky and push it to the edge but never go over."

Hughes says *Cinderella* came to mind as the perfect vehicle because it has all the right ingredients – that touch of class conflict, a story and characters people already know, plus wonderful songs and nonstop charm.

The Players planned to do the show a few years ago, but the publisher pulled the rights because of traveling professional productions. So, Hughes has had some time to think about it. Or, more to



Choreographer Jane Stanfield and cast member Zach Morgan rehearse a number from *Cinderella*, opening July 11.

(Continued on page 4)



Volunteers Working

By Angela Berry
Volunteer Committee Chair

Some comments overheard as audiences left the theater after our last production of *Over the River*: “Hilarious,” “Sad,” “Nostalgic,” “Made Me Laugh,” “Made Me Cry.” Laughing or crying, everyone really loved our last show.

Well, we’re thrilled that so many people enjoy our productions. Ever wondered who puts on these great shows at Center/Stage? It’s provided almost entirely by a dedicated staff of ... volunteers. We are people from Evergreen and the surrounding area who have one thing in common – an interest in providing good community theater.

The Evergreen Players is always looking for new talent, and there are enough fun opportunities at Center/Stage to appeal to everyone’s skill level and timetable. Is there something

you’d like to do but don’t think you have the necessary skills for? Don’t worry — we’ll assign you a mentor to teach you everything you need to contribute to the running of one of our shows.

Not all of the work that needs to be done in the staging of a production takes place during the run of the play. Much of the effort — Public Relations or set design for instance — is done before the play starts. Take a look at some of the opportunities available – I think you’ll be surprised and intrigued by some of the things we do.

To get involved, I invite you to give me a call at (303) 674-1470 or fill out the form on our website. Just point your Internet browser to

Behind the Scenes:

www.evergreenplayers.org.

Graphic Design

Interested in designing? This work would be ideal for someone with some knowledge of design software or with a creative flair and who can work to deadlines.

Public Relations

PR volunteers are constantly on the lookout for new and creative ways to get the Players’ name before the public.

Grants and Fundraising

Do you have experience with grant-writing processes and know how to research funders? If so, and you’re highly detail-oriented and good at



Clockwise left page: Jan Hart, Larry Davis, Susan LaBone sew curtains for *La Cage*; Kim Stiles loads up *All in the Timing*; Cory Docter's daughter paints *Crimes of the Heart* set; and Katherine Quinby is always up in the air. **Clockwise right page:** Sterling Nelson, Lynne Smith, Gene Kato paint *Over the River* set pieces; Karl Andersen, Dale Fetchenhier build a railing; Davis Bennett and Scott Nelson set up a platform.

People Making Worlds of Possibilities

keeping records, please call me.

Events Coordinator

Events Coordinators plan and manage our fundraising events. The ideal person is an excellent salesperson/ambassador, a good manager, very organized and energetic!

Scenic Designer

A scenic designer and the director collaborate to bring to the production a visual expression of the playwright's aims. He/She is responsible for designing the stage setting.

Props Master and Gatherer

Every play needs props and someone to collect them. You'll gather the furniture, set dressing and items the

actor uses during the action of the play. If you have a scavenger instinct, this one's for you.

Hosting

The Host hands out programs, directs guests to their seats, and supervises refreshments for consumption during the intermission.

Stage Manager

The stage manager is accountable for the show during its run. All cues come from the Stage Manager and both cast and crew are responsible to the Stage Manager.

Lighting Designer and Operator

The Lighting Designer is responsible for the appearance of the stage light-

ing during a production. Knowledge of equipment and computerized light board a must. The light board operator controls the theater lighting during the performances of a show using a computerized system.

Sound Designer and Operator

The Sound Designer works with the director to prepare any sound that is recorded or produced mechanically. Some knowledge of microphones, telephones, doorbells, instrument amplification and recorded sounds is helpful. The Soundboard Operator controls the theater sound systems and operates equipment used to play recorded music and sound effects during the performances.

Announcing Evergreen Players' 2003-2004 Season

Evergreen Players has a terrific line-up for its 54th season, from a gripping court-room drama to a musical retelling of a beloved children's novel. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us at Center/Stage. Season tickets and group rates are available!

Inherit the Wind — Based on the Scopes-Monkey trial, this classic courtroom drama brings a gripping moment in history vividly to life. The *New York World-Telegram & Sun* critic writes, "A tidal wave of a drama *Inherit the Wind* makes its point immediately applicable." Director: Gene Kato. Dates: Oct. 24-Nov. 9, 2003.

Auditions: Sun., Aug. 24, 1-4 p.m. at Center/Stage. Call (303) 674-4934 for details.

Breaking Legs — A professor desperately wants to get his play produced. He approaches a businessman only to discover he's with the Mob, then complicates matters by falling for the boss' daughter. *New York Post*: "There is a buoyant joy to be had in the comic confrontation between two of the wackiest gangster chieftans ever to wack." Director: Amy Amani. Dates: Jan. 16-Feb. 1, 2004.

Sylvia — When Greg finds a dog named Sylvia abandoned

in the park and brings her home, this canine companion becomes a bone of contention between him and his wife. This "mad comedy is the most endearing good time to trot down the pike in many a moon," writes *Backstage*. "Howlingly funny." Director: Scott Ogle. Dates: March 26-April 18 (except April 9-11).

The Secret Garden — This musical version of the beloved children's book enchants audiences of all ages and features some of the most beautiful music ever written for a Broadway show. It "revels in the imagination [and] achieves the irresistible appeal that moves audiences to standing ovations," writes the *Christian Science Monitor*. Directors: Kathleen Davis and P.K. Worley. Dates: July 9-Aug. 8, 2004.

Evergreen Players Youth Drama Camp — Back for its fifth summer, the Evergreen Players Youth Drama Camp offers children ages 5-15 a chance to develop their skills and talents within a creative theater environment. Each weeklong session culminates in a performance for family and friends. Director: Renye Ress. Dates: July 12-July 23, 2004 (two weeklong sessions).

Cinderella: Now with Lawn Gnomes and Pink Flamingos

(Continued from page 1)

the point, play with it. "The challenge there was to make this script, which at times was really shallow, work. Well, you make it work by creating an environment that has integrity and magic in it."

Without changing the script or the songs, Hughes creates an environment that is both fantastical and modern realistic. Cinderella still lives with her stepmother and stepsisters but instead of a humble village somewhere in fairytale land, they live in a trailer park. The fairy godmother, when we first meet her, is a bag lady. The opening scene takes place at a mini-golf course called "Grimm's Putt 'n' Sit." There is still a prince but instead of being tall, dark and handsome he's "cute in a

quirky kind of way." Cinderella's carriage starts out as a shopping cart. Her team of white horses is lawn gnomes and pink flamingos.

"I struggled with not making it so fantastic that we couldn't relate to it, that it was so overwhelming," he says. But at the same time "I just wanted to show what happens when you have imagination and you use what's around you to create something else."

Hughes says he wants to create "a lot of layers and richness and personalities [that] make it really interesting."

The result is a show audiences can enjoy for all the traditional reasons and for the surprises, both playful and profound, that pop up when you

put old wine in a new glass. For instance, consider what happens when the classic song "In My Own Little Corner" is recast as a Country Western ballad a la Patsy Cline or Loretta Lynn.

As Hughes puts it, this staging has all the charm and sentiment of the original, plus "a healthy dose of blue eye shadow and a case of Aquanet."

Evergreen Players' production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's musical *Cinderella* opens Fri., July 11 for a five-weekend run through Sun., Aug. 10 at Center/Stage.

For reservations, call our hotline at (303) 674-4934 or visit our website at www.evergreenplayers.org.