



*Oregon*

# STRAW HAT PLAYERS

December 2013

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*Duane Draper*

Vice-President  
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*Sarah Karlen*

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## Oregon Straw Hat Players

201 Market Street

Oregon, WI 53575

608-835-9126

[www.oshponline.org](http://www.oshponline.org)

## Annual Meeting Report

Thanks to everyone who attended the 2013 Annual Meeting at the Gorman Building in Oregon. If you missed the meeting, here are some highlights:

We cleaned up the bylaws and clarified membership definitions. See our Web site for an updated version of the bylaws.

We reviewed the 2013 season and previewed the 2014 season.

We presented the 2013 Hats Off! Awards: Congratulations to Jessica Brooke, Erin Milleville, Alexander Smith, John Unertl IV, Ryan Wood, Steve Zach, The Abitz Family, and The Fitzgerald Family on receiving Hats Off! awards. Congratulations to David Lawver and Jeanne Jacques O'Malley on receiving the Duane Draper Lifetime Achievement Award.

We elected a new set of board members and officers for the organization. Thank you to Emily Richardson and Joe Leone who finished out terms and decided not to run for re-election.

We had a fun social hour after the meeting.

## Oliver! Review

What a terrific summer we had! Our production of Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* was everything we hoped it would be. In the cast, we had many OSHP veterans in lead roles, and many new friends that we hope will continue with us.

Bravi to Duane, Pam, Sarah, Steve, Johns III and IV, Erin, Caty, Julie, the other Sarah K, Ryan, Emily, and Maddie. Welcome to Simon, Jacob, Erik, Aimee, Rich, Andy, Rhiannon, and Joseph!

We learned that a minimalist set can take a major effort to shift.

Sarah Karlen's stylish steampunkish costumes gave the show a contemporary vibe while remaining true to the period of the show, when Dickens was developing his social conscience.

The superb orchestra, led by superconductor Laurie Fellenz, knocked the socks off of our audiences with their sensitive, supportive, and virtuosic artistry.

Jeff Skubal taught us to fight safely and but realistically, and Erik and Joseph kept it going through every performance. Nic Olsen found his inner techie as he worked with Paul Cargill to make everything audible.

Jessica, Alex, and Erin!!! Need we say more? They were our rock. Brenda and Theresa were our stalwart producers and wise leaders. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this summer a joy!  
-David Lawver, Director

## Holiday Fantasy in Lights



OSHP is once again volunteering for the Holiday Fantasy in Lights at Olin Park. This is an annual fundraiser for OSHP and also a great opportunity to spend time with your OSHP family during the holidays!

To volunteer to help, contact Emily Richardson at 608-332-2378 or email [holidaylights@oshponline.org](mailto:holidaylights@oshponline.org)

Volunteers are still needed for the following shift:

**Tuesday, December 24**

4:30 – 7:30 pm

7:30 – 10:00 pm

## The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee



### AUDITION INFORMATION:

Auditions will be held Sunday, January 26, at 5:00 pm, and Tuesday, January 28, at 7:00 pm, in the Performing Arts Center at Oregon High School, 456 North Perry Parkway.

Auditioners should prepare a portion of one minute or less of a song from a contemporary musical. Selections from the show are welcome. An accompanist will be provided, and a cappella auditions are strongly discouraged. Auditioners may also be asked to read from the script.

Performers age 12 and older are welcome to audition. There are no additional age requirements for any role in this production. There may be roles for ensemble performers in addition to the named characters in the script.

OSHP is excited to be doing a fun, contemporary musical in a space perfectly designed for the show--the Brooklyn Community Center. There will be opportunities for many different ages of performers (age 12 and older) and the director is open to a mixed-age cast.

This show provides opportunities for many fun roles, ranging from characters that never leave the stage to some with smaller roles requiring less time commitment.

For more information on auditions, or if you wish to volunteer to work on the project, but not appear onstage, contact: [auditions@oshponline.org](mailto:auditions@oshponline.org)

Staff members include:  
Director: Duane Draper

Producers: Pamela Crary,  
David Lawver

Stage Managers: Sarah  
Schultz, John Unertl III

### THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

is a hilarious tale of overachievers' angst chronicling the experience of six adolescent outsiders vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime.

The show's Tony Award winning creative team has created the unlikeliest of hit musicals about the unlikeliest of heroes: a quirky yet charming cast of outsiders for whom a spelling bee is the one place where they can stand out and fit in at the same time.

**PERFORMANCES:**  
April 12-19, 2014

## 2014 Summer Show - Gypsy



Our summer production, *Gypsy*, is different in many ways from any show we have done before. Because the show is different there will be many differences in the production process.

To start with, there is no chorus. There are a variety of distinct roles, many of which can be doubled, but the whole gang never crowds on stage to sing together. There are only two male principals who sing solo, and even they don't sing that much. One is primarily an actor, the other a dancer. There are several small ensembles of four to six performers, both male and female. There are a lot of children who appear only in the first scene. There's a cow! There are three burlesque performers who have seen better days. Then of course there are several towering lead roles that require strong acting and singing and reasonable dancing skills.

Because of this unusual cast makeup, we are trying a completely different audition

method. During the first week of June, we will hold individual interviews. These will be held at our building and will give us a chance to get to know prospective performers and their skills and background. Interviews will be by appointment and will last 15 minutes each. Full details of how to schedule an interview will appear on our Web site after March 1.

Then on June 9, 10, and 11 we will hold actual auditions at the PAC. Most candidates will only be needed one of those three nights, and some may not need to come at all but be cast out of the interview process. By scheduling this way we avoid having folks who are primarily actors sit around while we audition dancers, and we group singers together for the most effective use of their time.

Another big difference will be in costuming. We are renting the entire show from Music Theatre of Wichita. The costumes are brilliant, and will come by truck about three weeks

before opening night, when we will have a flurry of matching costumes to performers. Incidentally, this rental is *very* expensive, so the Board is putting extra effort into writing grants and securing donations. If you are aware of any source of funding please let us know.

The orchestra for *Gypsy* is bigger than the PAC's pit can accommodate, so present plans are to put the players right on stage behind the action. It is also one of the most difficult orchestrations of any musical, so we are on the lookout for skilled players.

It's going to be an adventure, but we hope a richly rewarding one. This show regularly makes the lists of greatest musicals of all time. If we all pitch in to help out, it promises to be a memorable summer.

Please join us!

### OSHP SCHOLARSHIPS

OSHP will again offer college and camp scholarships in 2014.

Watch our Web site in early January for full details.

## OSHP Financial Update



OSHP ended its 2012-2013 financial year with another balanced budget. The Board of Directors takes its financial responsibilities seriously. We take pride in producing quality theatre with big production values while still carefully managing our resources.

We continue to work on paying off our mortgage on our property on Market Street. We thank those donors who have helped us make considerable progress toward our goal of owning a debt-free property.

2014 brings many exciting opportunities to the group. For the first time in many years, we will be doing two Broadway musicals in the same year. With these opportunities come financial challenges the board is determined to meet.

We believe it is important to keep our ticket prices in the middle range of theatre groups in the area in order to maintain our excellent production

standards and to keep ticket prices affordable, especially for families and senior citizens. We also decided to be upfront with our patrons about our pricing structure so that the announced price is what the actual price is, whether the ticket is purchased online or at the door. Tickets this year will be \$17 for adults and \$15 for students and senior citizens. There will be no additional service charges or handling fees for tickets ordered in advance.

The Board is reaching out for new grant opportunities to help fund some of our productions. We are thankful for the corporate support we have received and look forward to developing new sponsorships in the community.

This is also a great time for you to provide a "little extra" funding for our group. Perhaps you have thought about being a sponsor of our building project.

We would appreciate additional end-of-year contributions to the building fund to help reduce our mortgage further. We also ask if you might consider an additional end-of-year contribution specifically for our production of Gypsy to help offset the considerable costs of costuming and other production design needs. Additional contributions will be credited to our Shining Stars program and checks can be mailed to OSHP; 201 Market St.; Oregon, WI 53575. Please note how you would like your contribution used and credited. Contributions are always tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Most importantly, we are so grateful for the thousands of dollars that people contributed to OSHP this year. With your support, OSHP continues to be a leader in area community theatre and we look forward to your continued support in 2014.

**OSHP provides amateur theatre in and for the Oregon, Wisconsin, community, offering opportunities to participate voluntarily in all production processes, striving for excellence while stressing enjoyment and entertainment, and welcoming all those who choose to associate with the Oregon area.**