

*H. M. S. Pinafore*



*Muddy River Opera Company*  
*January 2006*

**THE MUDDY RIVER OPERA COMPANY  
2005-2006 SEASON**

**“LUNCH ‘n LAUGH”**

With  
GILBERT AND SULLIVAN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2005  
11:30 A.M.  
THE STATE ROOM



**H.M.S. PINAFORE**

By GILBERT AND SULLIVAN

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8:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2006  
2:00 P.M.

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*Aristotle*

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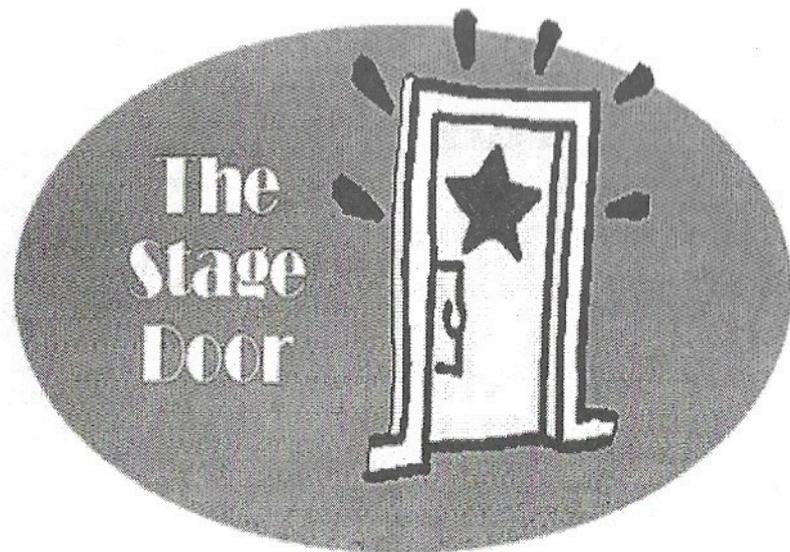
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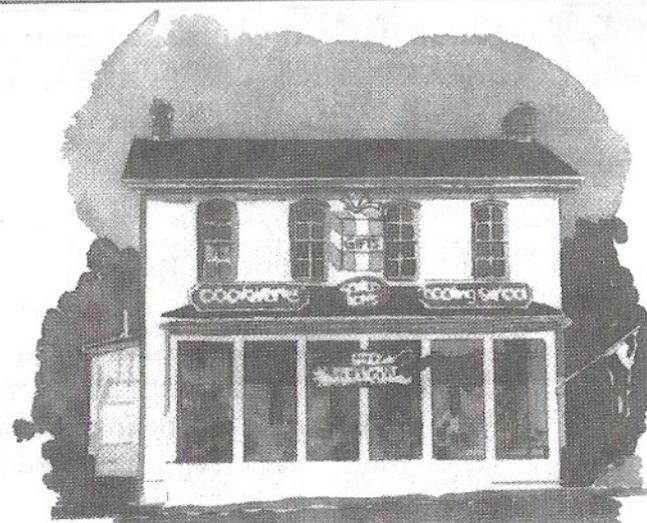
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The Muddy River Opera Company  
presents

# H.M.S. Pinafore

An opera in two acts

Libretto by  
W. S. Gilbert

Music by  
Arthur Sullivan

Friday, January 6, 2006, 8:00 PM

Sunday, January 8, 2006, 2:00 PM

Quincy Community Theatre  
Quincy, Illinois

This production is partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and the Marion Gardner Jackson Trust Arts Fund and the Businesses and Individual Members of the Quincy Society of Fine Arts.



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## THE CAST

**The Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B. .... John Milligan**  
First Lord of the Admiralty

**Captain Corcoran ..... Robert Barker**  
Commander of the *HMS Pinafore*

**Ralph Rackstraw ..... Mark Meier**  
Able Seaman

**Dick Deadeye ..... Terry L. Bucher**  
Able Seaman

**Josephine ..... Kathy Pyeatt**  
The Captain's Daughter

**Little Buttercup ..... Veronica McHale**  
A Portsmouth Bumboat Woman

**Cousin Hebe ..... Monica Scholz**  
Sir Joseph's First Cousin

**Bill Bobstay ..... Allen Means**  
Boatswain's Mate

**Bob Becket ..... Jason Stone**  
Carpenter's Mate

## THE CHORUS

Max Emerick  
Tom Fentem  
Allen Means  
John Moore  
Kevin Payne  
Jason Stone  
William J. B. Winn

Janet Arndt  
Emily DePauw  
Valerie Hernandez  
Kimberly Howard  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Janice Milligan  
Ann Pfaffe  
Amy Walker

## THE ORCHESTRA

**Violin I ..... Brian Gehrlich**  
Jane Polett  
Linda Vic

**Violin II ..... Kamen Petkov**  
Joan Mast

**Viola ..... Vicki Daggett**  
Kae Blecha

**Cello ..... Roxy Fess**  
Jerry Fess

**Bass ..... Doug Reeve**

**Flute ..... RaNae Inghram**  
Rose Ruzicka

**Clarinet ..... Christine Damm**  
Jean Murray

**Bassoon ..... Cathy Flick**

**Horn ..... Jim Williams**  
Christine Beason

**Trumpet ..... John Hume**  
Keith Wiemelt

**Trombone ..... Tom Polett**  
Matthew Tipton

**Timpani ..... Donna Bohn**

**Percussion ..... Miranda Eston**

## The Production Staff

Stage Director .....	Dimitri Toscas
Conductor/Music Director .....	John Massaro
Artistic Director .....	Avril Marie Bernzen
Chorus Master .....	Paul Shelor
Rehearsal Accompanist .....	Dan Fry
Chorus Rehearsal Accompanist .....	Robert March
Orchestra Rehearsal Conductor.....	Dr. Donna Bohn
Set Design .....	Paul Denckla, Michael Gash
Stage Manager .....	Dena Knipe
Stage and Scenery Coordinator .....	Larry Stoll
Sound .....	Michael Gash
Lighting .....	Roger Begley, Don Johnson
Backstage Crew .....	Kent Slack, Amanda Veile, Jason Keller, Dave Scharnhorst
Costume Designer .....	Cathy Inman, Stage Door Costume Shop
Props, Collection .....	Angie Thompson, Rochelle Busbey, Avril Marie Bernzen, Amy Walker
Props Backstage .....	Rochelle Busbey
House Manager .....	Leonora Suppan-Gehrich
Program .....	Amy Stollberg, Avril Marie Bernzen
Advertisements .....	Sherry Beckenholdt, Tom Fentem, Roger Begley, Larry Stoll
Tickets .....	Tom Fentem, Sara North, Amy Stollberg
Marketing and Housing .....	Avril Marie Bernzen
Intermission .....	Erin Meats, Carol Mathieson, Leonora Suppan-Gehrich
Photographs .....	Scott Nozawa, Bill Winn
Opening Night .....	Sherry Beckenholdt, Ann Pfaffe

## Musical Numbers

Overture ..... Orchestra

### ACT I

We sail the ocean blue .....	Sailors
I'm called Little Buttercup .....	Buttercup
But tell me who's the youth .....	Buttercup and Boatswain
The nightingale .....	Ralph and Chorus of Sailors
A maiden fair to see .....	Ralph and Chorus of Sailors
My gallant crew .....	Captain Corcoran and Chorus of Sailors
Sir, you are sad! .....	Buttercup and Captain Corcoran
Sorry her lot .....	Josephine
Over the bright blue sea .....	Sir Joseph's Female Relatives, off-stage
Sir Joseph's barge is seen .....	Chorus of Sailors & Sir Joseph's Relatives
Now give three cheers ..	Captain Corcoran, Sir Joseph, Cousin Hebe, Chorus
When I was a lad .....	Sir Joseph and Chorus
For I hold that on the seas .....	Sir Joseph, Cousin Hebe, Relatives, Sailors
A British tar .....	Ralph, Boatswain, Carpenter's Mate, Sailors
Refrain, audacious tar .....	Josephine and Ralph
Can I survive this overbearing? .....	Ensemble

~Intermission~

Entr'acte ..... Orchestra

### ACT II

Fair moon, to thee I sing .....	Captain Corcoran
Things are seldom what they seem .....	Buttercup and Captain Corcoran
The hours creep on apace .....	Josephine
Never mind the why & wherefore ..	Josephine, Captain Corcoran, Sir Joseph
Kind Captain, I've important information ..	Captain Corcoran, Dick Deadeye
Carefully on tiptoe stealing .....	Ensemble
Farewell, my own! .....	Ensemble
A many years ago .....	Buttercup and Chorus
Oh joy, oh rapture unforeseen! .....	Ensemble

# STORY SYNOPSIS

## ACT I

Some time before Act I opens, Ralph has fallen in love with Josephine, the daughter of his commanding officer, Captain Corcoran. Likewise, Little Buttercup, a buxom peddler-woman, has fallen in love with the Captain himself. Class pride, however, stands in the way of the natural inclinations of both the Corcorans to reciprocate Ralph's and Buttercup's affections. The Captain has, in fact, been arranging a marriage between his daughter and Sir Joseph Porter, First Lord of the Admiralty, who is of the social class above even the Corcorans.

When Act I opens, the sailors are merrily preparing the ship for Sir Joseph's inspection. The generally happy atmosphere on deck is marred only by Little Buttercup's hints of a dark secret she is hiding, by the misanthropic grumbling of Dick Deadeye, and by the love-torn complaints of Ralph and Josephine. Sir Joseph appears, attended by a train of ladies (his relatives, who always follow him wherever he goes). He explains how he became Lord of the Admiralty and examines the crew, patronizingly encouraging them to feel that they are everyone's equal, except his. Like the Captain, he is very punctilious, demanding polite diction among the sailors at all times.

Josephine finds him insufferable. When Ralph again pleads his suit and finally threatens suicide, she agrees to elope. The act ends with the general rejoicing of the sailors at Ralph's success; only Dick Deadeye croaks his warning that their hopes will be frustrated.

## ACT II

Act II opens with the Captain in despair at the demoralization of his crew and the coldness of his daughter towards Sir Joseph. Little Buttercup tries to comfort him, and prophesies a change in store. But Sir Joseph soon appears and tells the Captain that Josephine has thoroughly discouraged him at his suit; he wishes to call the match off. The Captain suggests that perhaps his daughter feels herself inferior in social rank to Sir Joseph, and urges him to assure her that inequality of social rank should not be considered a barrier to marriage. This Sir Joseph does, not realizing that his words are as applicable to Josephine in relation to Ralph as they are himself in relation to Josephine. He thinks that she accepts him, whereas actually she is reaffirming her acceptance of Ralph. They all join in a happy song.

Meanwhile, Dick Deadeye has made his way to the Captain, and informs him of the planned elopement of his daughter with Ralph. The Captain thereupon intercepts the elopers and, when he learns that Josephine was actually running away to marry Ralph, he is so incensed that he cries, "Damne!" Unfortunately, Sir Joseph and his relatives hear him and are horrified at this swearing; Sir Joseph sends him to his cabin in disgrace. But when Sir Joseph also learns from Ralph that Josephine was eloping, he angrily orders Ralph put in irons.

Little Buttercup now comes out with her secret, which solves the whole difficulty: she confesses that many years ago she had charge of nursing and bringing up Ralph and the Captain when they were babies. Inadvertently, she got them mixed up; so the one who was Ralph really should be the Captain, and the one now the Captain should be Ralph. This error is immediately rectified. The sudden reversal in the social status of Ralph and the Corcorans removes Sir Joseph as a suitor for Josephine's hand and permits her to marry Ralph, and her father to marry Buttercup. Sir Joseph resigns himself to marrying his cousin, Hebe.

## Biographies

### **Robert Lyon Barker ~ Captain Corcoran ~ Baritone**

A native Vermonter, Robert Lyon Barker, began his professional acting career at the Champlain Shakespeare Festival as Henry II in *The Lion In Winter*. He also performed at Tanglewood with The Boston Symphony Orchestra, for two summer seasons, where he sang under the batons of Seiji Ozawa, Aaron Copland, and Leonard Bernstein. A month after moving to New York City, Mr. Barker became the Principal Baritone at The Light Opera of Manhattan; at the time, America's only year round operetta repertory company. There he portrayed over twenty-five leading roles; including the title role in *The Vagabond King*, The Red Shadow in *The Desert Song*, and the baritone roles in all thirteen Gilbert and Sullivan Operettas. He subsequently worked with numerous Light Opera companies throughout the U.S. He has performed both Captain Corcoran in *H.M.S. Pinafore* and Pooh-Bah in *The Mikado* over five hundred times. Since relocating to Los Angeles, Mr. Barker has appeared in numerous productions, including the world premiere of *Bird of Quintain* where he starred as G. P. Putnam and was featured with Cathy Rigby in *Annie Get Your Gun*. Mr. Barker is making his debut with the Muddy River Opera Company in this role.

### **Terry L Bucher ~ Dick Deadeye ~ Bass**

Terry L Bucher constantly delights audiences with his vivid characterizations and fine bass voice. He is happy to be debuting with MROC as Dick Deadeye (role debut). Mr. Bucher performed the role of Pa Dowling in the Mid-West premiere of the contemporary opera, *Patience and Sarah*, at the Bailiwick Repertory Theatre in Chicago. Favorite opera roles performed include Sarastro (*Die Zauberflöte*), Bartolo (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Melchior (*Amahl*), Sparafucile (*Rigoletto*) and Benoit/Alcindoro in *La Bohème*. Earlier in his career, Mr. Bucher served as an apprentice artist at Santa Fe and Sarasota Operas and studio artist at Central City Opera. Since then, he has performed major roles at numerous companies in the Mid-West including L'Opera Piccola, Light Opera Works, DuPage Opera Theatre, Light Opera of Michigan, Ohio Light Opera and Toledo Opera. Terry is an honor graduate of the prestigious Indiana University School of Music where he studied with heldentenor David Aiken and baritone Walter Cassel. He is currently a student of retired Metropolitan Opera soprano, Judith Haddon.

### **Veronica McHale ~ Little Buttercup ~ Mezzo-Soprano**

Mezzo-Soprano, Veronica McHale, just performed the role of Marcellina in *Le Nozze di Figaro* this summer as a member of the San Francisco Opera's prestigious MEROLA program. This past spring she played the role of Mama Lucia in Tulsa Opera's production of *Cavalleria Rusticana*. In 2004 she performed the role of the Sorceress (*Dido and Aeneas*), the Old Woman (*Candide*), and the Mother/China Cup/Owl (*The Bewitched Child*) all with the Chicago Cultural Center. She also appeared as the Russian Nanny (*Death in Venice*) and covered the role of Arnalta (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*) with the Chicago Opera Theater. She was a member of their Young Artists Program for both the 2002 and 2003 seasons and during that time performed the roles of Mrs. Goose (*Turn of the Screw*) and Juno (*Semele*) in shortened versions of those operas. Ms. McHale is a 2005 and 2004 Metropolitan Opera Guild Regional Finalist and a recipient of the 2003 Musician's Club of Women Farwell Award. She was most recently a winner of the 2005 Chicago Opera Society Scholarship. Ms. McHale attended the College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University where she appeared in such productions as the Third Lady (*The Magic Flute*) and Zita (*Gianni Schicchi*). She is making her debut with MROC with this production.

### **Mark James Meier ~ Ralph Rackstraw ~ Tenor**

Mark James Meier returns to Quincy as Ralph Rackstraw in *H.M.S. Pinafore*. He has previously worked with MROC as director for last season's *La Bohème* and also directed *A Little Night Music* and the World Premiere of David Conte's *The Gift of the Magi*. As a performer with MROC, Mark has been seen as Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, Che in *Evita* and the title characters in *Jekyll and Hyde*. Mark James has also directed and starred as the Phantom in *The Phantom of the Orchestra* with the Quincy Symphony Orchestra. Last season Mark was seen as Fred Graham in QCT's production of *Kiss Me Kate*. Versatile tenor Mark James Meier has brought his warm and powerful voice and exuberant stage presence to a wide array of popular stage roles and concerts at opera, musical theater, operetta companies, and major symphonies throughout the United States, under the baton of some of the world's great conductors. AS a concert soloist, he has appeared with the Chicago Milwaukee, Saint Louis, Colorado and Arkansas symphony orchestras under such conductors as Sir Georg Solti, Christoph Eschenbach, Erich Kunzel and Anton Coppola. Mark is an established stage director for opera and musical theater, and as a composer he recently enjoyed the world premiere of his new musical, *The Ceiling*.

### **John Milligan ~ Sir Joseph Porter ~ Bass**

New Zealand bass John Milligan began his singing career as a boy chorister in the local Cathedral choir. Later, during college, he studied under the former Director of the Vienna Boys Choir, Dr. Georg Gruber, and was a member of then internationally acclaimed Rhodes Chamber Choir. Since those early days, John has performed as a soloist throughout New Zealand; in Sydney; South Africa; the East Coast and Midwest of the USA, and on many of the major stages of Europe. Throughout his career, John has had the good fortune to study with and been mentored by some real masters of his art: Malcolm Smith (28 years as principal bass at the Deutsche Theater-am-Rhein, Düsseldorf); Manfred Schenk (one of the all-time great German basses); Richard Woitach (coach at the Metropolitan Opera NYC); Alan Hendrie (Sydney) and Mary Adams Taylor in New Zealand. John's training as an actor in straight theatre has enabled him to excel in the often difficult buffo or character roles in the opera/operetta/musical theater repertoire. Amongst his musical theater credits are Captain von Trapp in the NZ production of *Sound of Music*, Bill Sykes in the musical *Oliver!* Presently, John is director of Quincy's public radio station, WQUB 90.3 FM. John is making his debut with MROC in this production.

### **Kathy Pyeatt ~ Josephine ~ Soprano**

Kathy was recently named "vocalist of the year" by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in their annual Top 10 list for the performing Arts, due to her critically acclaimed portrayal of Constanza (*The Abduction from the Seraglio*) with Skylight Opera Theatre. Recent performances with the Florentine Opera, Opera Company of North Carolina, Natchez Opera Springfield Regional Opera, Chamber Theatre, Light Opera Works, DuPage Opera, and Opera Theatre Highland Park, have included roles such as Violetta (*La Traviata*), Michaela (*Carmen*), Hanna, (*The Merry Widow*), Ilona (Gypsy Love), Queen of the Night (*The Magic Flute*), and Sharon (*Masterclass*). Upcoming performances include a return to the Florentine as the High Priestess (*Aida*), soloist for Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasilieras #5* with the Manitowoc Symphony, soloist for Herbert Howells' *Hymnus Paradisi* with the Bel Canto Chorus and soloist for Verdi's *Requiem* with the Central Wisconsin Symphony. Ms. Pyeatt has been a top prize winner in numerous competitions, including the District and Regional levels of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and the MacAllister Awards. Kathy resides in Wisconsin along with her husband, Dan Kerkman and 2 year-old daughter Emma. She is making her debut with MROC in this production.

### **Monica Scholz ~ Cousin Hebe ~ Mezzo-Soprano**

Monica Scholz holds a B. A. in Music Education from Western Illinois University. There, she was a member of the nationally recognized choir, the W.I.U. Newcomers. Formerly Miss Kankakee Hancock West-Central 1989, she toured Alaskan military bases under the auspices of the United States Department of Defense, with the Miss America song and dance troupe "Queens". From 1991-1995, Monica was choir director and classroom teacher at St. Peter School. Ms. Scholz is currently music director at St. Peter Catholic Church in Quincy, where she is organist and choral director. Monica has been on staff at the Western Illinois University and Eastern Illinois University Show Choir Camps, and frequently serves as an adjudicator and clinician at festivals, contests, and pageants throughout the Midwest. She is active in the Quincy Community Theatre, and has had leading roles in several productions, including Luisa in *The Fantastiks*, Lily in *The Secret Garden*, The Baker's Wife in *Into The Woods* and Sr. Robert Anne in *Nunsense* and *Nuncrackers*. Monica has been a member of and soloist with the Quincy Symphony Chorus, and in 1997 appeared as soprano soloist in the symphony's performance of Handel's *Messiah*. Monica is making her debut with MROC in this production.

### **Dimitri Toscas ~ Stage Director**

Dimitri Toscas is thrilled to be returning to Illinois to direct *H. M. S. Pinafore*; it's one of his favorite G & S Operettas. Most recently Toscas directed *Sweeney Todd* and the *demon barber of Fleet Street*. No stranger to the Midwest, he also directed *The King and I* in Illinois and his first *H. M. S. Pinafore* at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. In Orlando, FL, Toscas wrote and directed family theater (*the EMPTY pot*), cabaret (*the NAKED cabaret* and *the NAKED cabaret 2*). While in Florida, Toscas also served on the Entertainment Task-Force Team designing new and innovative shows for EPCOT at Walt Disney World. Now, at the Falcon Theatre in Burbank, California, Toscas is known for his whimsical "Family Theatre" adaptations of familiar operas for the renowned film director Garry Marshall (*Pretty Woman*, *Princess Diaries*). Designed and directed by Toscas, "*Cinderella!*" and *The MAGIC Flute* celebrated raves from the LA Times and two sold-out runs. Most recently, *The Little Mermaid* received critical acclaim as a "frolicking new musical" starring Paul Vogt ("*MADtv*"/*Princess Diaries 2*) with book, music, and lyrics by Toscas. Currently in development for stage: a wacky storybook adaptation of the opera *Hansel & Gretel* and a contemporary cutting-edge version of *La Traviata*.

**John Massaro ~ Conductor/Music Director**

John Massaro began his training in California working as an accompanist and coach for the Los Angeles Opera Repertory Company. After working with Elisabeth Scharzkopf at the Britten-Pears School in Aldeburgh, the Frankfort Opera and at her home in Zurich, he became a coach for the Metropolitan Opera Young Artist Development program. During his years in New York he had the fortune of assisting Leonard Bernstein with his last opera, *A Quiet Place*. He was also the conducting assistant for Zubin Mehta and the Israel Philharmonic in a production of *Madama Butterfly* in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Jerusalem. In the summer of 2005, Massaro made his Carnegie Hall debut conducting the Mozart *Requiem*. He has recently been invited to conduct the *Requiem*, in Krakow, Prague, Brno, Budapest, and Vienna, as part of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mozart's birth in 2006. Massaro has also served for seven years, as Chorus Master and Assistant Conductor for the Arizona Opera Company, where he conducted a critically acclaimed *Mikado*. This September he conducted the Sierra Vista Symphony Orchestra in a program of operatic favorites and in February, an all French program with the Mesa Symphony.

**Avril Marie Bernzen ~ Artistic Director**

Avril Marie Bernzen has served as President of Muddy River Opera for the last six years. She is a graduate in piano and voice and has her own voice and piano studio at the present time. In the past, she has appeared with the St. Louis Grand Opera Company, USO in Cuba, performed in concerts, dinner theatre, and plays in many of the cities where she lived in past years. She recently appeared as Madame Armfeldt in MROC's *A Little Night Music*. Avril Marie studied opera with teachers in Quincy, Springfield, and St. Louis.

**Paul Shelor ~ Chorus Master**

Paul Shelor completed his B.A. in Music at Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa, and his Masters of Music in choral conducting and teaching certificate from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, Conservatory of Music. Mr. Shelor has performed with the Muddy River Opera Company and has served as its chorus master for the last four seasons. For the past twelve years, Mr. Shelor was served as the guest conductor for the Piano Ensemble Festival. In addition to directing the Quincy Area Youth Chorus' Concert Choir, Mr. Shelor is currently a choir director with the Quincy Public Schools where he has directed and taught at the Quincy Junior High School for the past thirteen years.

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**2005-2006**

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The National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) has awarded Muddy River Opera Company with a \$10,000 grant for the March 2006 children's opera.

This is a matching grant.

Anyone wishing to donate towards the \$10,000 needed for the matching grant may do so by sending a check to MROC, 428 Maine St., Suite 270, Quincy, IL 62301, or by calling 217/222-3313 for more information.

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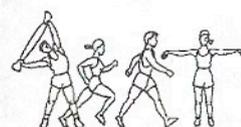
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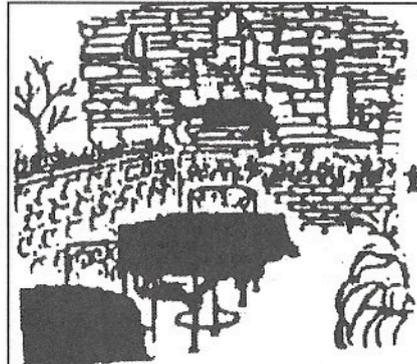
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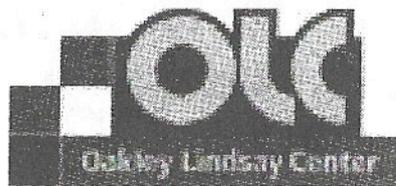
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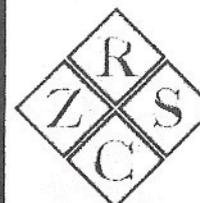
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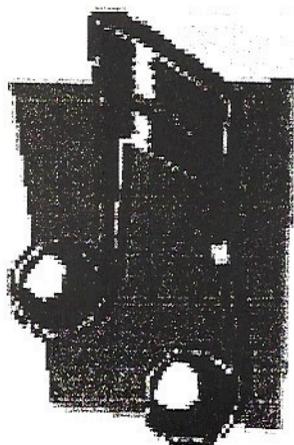
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