



January 2009

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**Up Next—'Hello Dolly!'**

**June 5 - June 28**

Come see DLOC's fresh interpretation of this beloved classic.

For tickets call 925-943-7469 or [buy online](#).

**Be a Part of DLOC History!**

For over fifty years, DLOC has been bringing the finest artists and most entertaining musicals to the East Bay. Be a part of our history and [make a contribution today!](#)

**Mel Brooks Musical 'The Producers' Opens Feb. 13**



*The Producers*, starring Marcus Klinger as Max, Ryan Drummond as Leo and Ginny Wehrmeister as Ulla

**February 13 - March 15, 2009**

Leshner Center for the Arts  
1601 Civic Drive in Walnut Creek.

Tickets (\$34-\$43)

Call the Center ticket office: 925-943-7469 OR [Order tickets online](#)

**DLOC's Firehouse Headquarters is Rockin'**

Rehearsals are under way for the February 13 opening of the East Bay premiere of *The Producers*. This is the blockbuster musical by Mel Brooks that won 12 Tony Awards— the most ever in Tony history. And DLOC is pulling out all the stops.

Based on Brooks' 1968 classic cult comedy film, *The Producers* opened on Broadway in 2001 and played 2,502 performances. The show garnered 12 Tony Awards including best musical, breaking the 37-year record held by *Hello, Dolly!* That show, which DLOC will present June 5 through June 28, earned 10 Tonys.

Known for its in-your-face humor, *The Producers* traces the hi-jinks of a down-on-his-luck theatrical producer and his mousy accountant sidekick who scheme to get rich by overselling interests in a Broadway flop. Complications arise when the show unexpectedly turns out to be successful. "It's full of the sidesplitting energy we have all come to expect and appreciate from Mel Brooks," said Shellie Award-winning director Ryan Weible. "DLOC's production will deliver!"

Audiences can expect a fresh, inventive, and creative production. Daren A.C. Carollo, DLOC's artistic director said, "It's one of the most ambitious and exciting shows in five decades of presenting musicals. Only 10 theater companies in the country have been granted production rights to this show in 2009, and we're giving it our all. Audiences will enjoy an unforgettable and uplifting experience in these stressful times."

Heading the cast of 28 are Marcus Klinger as the producer, Max Bialystock, Ryan Drummond as the mousy sidekick accountant, Leo Bloom, and Ginny Wehrmeister as the Swedish bombshell, Ulla Swanson. All have performed for many years in shows throughout the Bay Area.

Director Ryan Weible, who earned a Shellie Award last January for his direction of the DLOC production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, says he's excited to be directing *The Producers* locally. "It's one of the reasons I stopped pursuing my directing career in New York City," he says. "I am most excited to be working in an environment where passion and a love for the art form—not money and ego—is the greatest motivating factor for the cast, crew, and staff. I'm always excited to see each aspect of the collaborative process coalesce in the final weeks leading up to opening night. That's theater magic to me."

The assistant director is Derek Collard, DLOC's director of creative development. Mark Hanson, a familiar face in the orchestra pit for many Bay Area and national touring companies, will direct a 17-piece orchestra. Jacob Brent, who appeared for many years as Mr. Mistoffles in *Cats* as well as in the West End and film versions of *The Producers*, is choreographer. He promises a "fresh eye" in "Springtime for Hitler," one of the show's hilarious production numbers, and in the mirthful number involving nursing home residents dancing with walkers.

Lighting design is by Kurt Landisman, recipient of many awards including 14 from the Bay Area Critics Circle. He has worked in theater, ballet, and opera. His most recent DLOC show was *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. The costume designer is Melissa Paterson assisted by Carol Edlinger and Michael Berg. Set design is by Andy Scrimger. Georgia Taylor Benedict is stage manager.

## DLOC Star Wins Second Shellie for Outstanding Actress

Brandy Collazo was awarded her second consecutive Shellie Award for outstanding actress in a musical for her starring role in DLOC's *Peter Pan* last year. She also won the best actress award for her portrayal of Millie in DLOC's *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

Additional Shellie winners include two stars of DLOC's upcoming production of *The Producers*—Ryan Drummond, who will play Leo Bloom, was honored as the outstanding actor in a musical in The Willows Theatre Company - *Annie Get Your Gun* and Ginny Wehrmeister, who'll play the Swedish bombshell Ulla Swanson, received the award for best actress in a non-musical - *Bus Stop* by Role Players Ensemble Theatre. Mindy Cooper, director of



Brandy Collazo with her Shellie for *Peter Pan*

DLOC's upcoming *On the Town*, was named outstanding director for her work on *The Musical of Musicals* by Center REPeratory Company.

## Stars 2000 Founder Receives Special Shellie



Diane Kamrin receives special Shellie for her leadership of the Stars 2000 Teen Theater Group.

A special award was presented to Diane Kamrin for her work with Stars 2000, the company's teen theater group she founded 16 years ago. Daren A. C. Carollo, DLOC artistic director, and Claudia Nemir, DLOC Board president, made the presentation.

Carollo spoke glowingly about Kamrin's dedication. "She understands that young people are not getting enough arts training in junior high or high school. She not only volunteers for DLOC, but also for Valle Verde Elementary, Ygnacio Valley and Acalanes High Schools, he said."

"What amazes me most about Diane Kamrin is not that she has touched the lives of over three thousand young people, or that she still cries every time she sends a cast on stage, it is her selfless, nonstop dedication to keeping theater alive in the hearts and minds of young people."

## Catch Stars 2000's 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'

**Las Lomas Theatre**  
1460 S. Main Street, Walnut Creek

Thursday, January 29 at 7:30 pm  
Friday, January 30 at 8 pm  
Saturday, January 31 at 2:30 pm & 8 pm  
Sunday, February 1 at 2:30 pm

**Ticket prices:** \$15 general, \$13 students/senior citizens, \$12 groups

[Download the ticket order form](#) or call 925-324-7359.

Following last years' sold-out production of *Les Miserables*, Stars 2000 presents a lively interpretation of the biblical story of Joseph of Canaan, written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. This show has charmed audiences around the world with its excitement, energy, and eclectic musical variety.

The show opened Jan. 23, but there's still time to catch a performance from Jan. 29 through Feb. 1 in the Las Lomas Theatre, a nostalgic location for DLOC. It was there that the company presented its first production almost 50 years to the day that Joseph opened. Currently celebrating its golden anniversary, DLOC now performs at the Leshner Center for the Arts. **For more information call 925-944-0900.**



Emily Trumble (alternating with Jennifer West) as the Narrator and Derek Demsher (alternating with Tony Conaty) as Joseph

## DLOC Looks Toward the Future of the Arts with Scholarship Awards

Inspiring and educating future musical theater audiences and artists is one of DLOC's primary goals. Eight talented students aspiring to careers in the performing arts have been awarded scholarships by DLOC. Vincent Graham is the recipient of the annual Rhoda Klitsner "Follow Your Dream" scholarship of \$1,000. Cabrina Lett, who made her debut with DLOC last year in a concert version of *Brigadoon*, was awarded \$500.

The scholarship is given in memory of Rhoda Klitsner who—as a director, choreographer and artistic director—was a guiding light of DLOC from 1960 until her death on April 19, 2003. Rhoda was successful in following her dream of dancing in a Broadway show for the famous choreographer, Agnes DeMille, and always encouraged young talent to follow their dreams.

Vincent Graham is currently studying in New York City at NYU's Tech School of the Arts. He attends the Playwrights Horizons Theatre School where he is working toward a BFA in theater. In addition to studying acting, voice, speech, movement and dance, and also learning direction and design for theater. At DLOC, Graham performed in the company's main stage productions of *The King and I*, *West Side Story*, *My Fair Lady*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and *The Music Man*. With Stars 2000, he performed in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Dames at Sea*, and *The Pajama Game*.

Cabrina Lett attends Saint Mary's College where she is working toward a teaching credential. She previously double majored there in Performing Arts and Women's Studies. She plans to go on to graduate school and study either theater at American Conservatory Theater or music through the American Orff-Schulwerk Association. She says, "I hope to master the skills to act and teach performing arts professionally."

Six other students shared \$1,000 in scholarships funded as part of a grant from the Leshner Foundation for Stars 2000, DLOC's teen theater program. The students, all of whom appeared in the Stars 2000 production of *Les Miserables* last summer are:

- Sacha Spitzer of Walnut Creek says she loved having the chance to work on Stars 2000 shows.
- Anthony Finley of Concord assisted Diane Kamrin, Stars 2000 founder, music director, and choreographer in the production.
- Tadev Vello of Concord says she's "always been interested in Stars 2000, from the fun-loving thespians in a professional atmosphere to the shows that are full of energy."
- Pablo Jara of Concord says the Stars 2000 experience will further the realization of his "dream of becoming a performer." He is the twin brother of Joaquin Jara.
- Joaquin Jara of Concord appeared in the show because "my passion for acting and singing couldn't stop me."
- Jordan Smith of Antioch says Stars 2000 "is key in molding and training me for the future."

## DLOC Presents 2009-10 Musical Season

Planning is already under way for our expanded 2009-2010 season. We are celebrating the beginning of our second 50 years of bringing the music and magic of Broadway right to your doorstep. It's a season you won't want to miss. Subscription information will be available soon. [Click here](#) for more details.

Here's what's coming:

***Funny Girl*** (concert version) - August 27-29, 2009

***On the Town*** - September 11-October 3, 2009

***Curtains*** - February 12 - March 14, 2010

***Into the Woods*** - June 4 - June 27, 2010

## Firehouse Rocks! Is (What Else?) Rocking

Over the years, DLOC's professional staff has guided more than 1,500 students of all ages in the techniques of theater, including character development, vocal stamina, dance and choreography, audition techniques, and theatrical production, as well as enhancing team building and leadership skills. **Our exciting curriculum includes youth summer camps, year-round workshops for students of all ages, and Saturday morning musicals. Spring enrollment is open. [Check out the classes now.](#)**

DLOC, P.O. Box 5034, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 925-944-1565 Visit us at [www.dloc.org](http://www.dloc.org).