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Laura Ingalls Wilder: Growing Up on the Prairie

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Laura Ingalls Wilder: Growing Up on the Prairie

February 4th, 2006

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Laura Ingalls Wilder is a professional ArtsPower production employing members of Actors’ Equity Association. Please check houseboards for any program changes. Taking pictures and making visual or sound recordings is expressly forbidden.
Laura Ingalls Wilder: Growing Up on the Prairie

A one-act musical based on the historic events in the life of the author Laura Ingalls Wilder with

Cecilia Ceresa Shannon McShane
Beth O'Bannon David Perlman

Stage Manager: Christina Hope Carter

Directed by Chris Clark
Adapted by Greg Gunning
Lyrics by Greg Gunning
Music and Orchestrations by Richard DeRosa
Incidental Music by Ron Drotos
Costumes by Fred Sorrentino
Set Construction by Tom Carroll Scenery

CAST
(in order of appearance)
Pa: David Perlman
Laura: Shannon McShane
Ma: Cecilia Ceresa
Mary: Beth O'Bannon
Stage Manager: Christina Hope Carter

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Overture
Laura's Little House  Laura
Pa's Little House  Pa & Laura
Move On!  Cast
Fishin'  Pa & Laura
Move On! (reprise)  Instrumental
Hoedown  Instrumental
Seein' Things I Never Saw Before  Cast
Seein' Things (reprise)  Pa
Finale  Cast

DAVID PERLMAN (Pa) is thrilled to be touring with Laura Ingalls Wilder. He has also toured the country as Joe in Schoolhouse Rock Live, Fred in A Christmas Carol, and has toured Europe as Woof in Hair. Regional favorites include Jesus in Godspell, Tulsa in Gypsy, Cousin Kevin in Tommy, and Matt in The Fantasticks. Every once in a while, you can catch David on TV in "Law and Order." David would like to thank the ArtsPower gang and his amazingly supportive parents and family. I love you so much Mom and Dad!

CECILIA CERESA (Ma) is very excited to be joining ArtsPower National Touring Theatre. Cecilia graduated from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and after that she decided to move to the big city to study a career in musical theatre, where she graduated from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. Some credits include, Tzeitle in Fiddler on the Roof, Lucy Lockit in The Beggars Opera, Iago in Othello, and Mrs. Lipshitz in A Stoop On Orchard Street. Cecilia has many theatre projects set up, including her new theatre company endeavor A.T.E. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support in getting her this far!

BETH O'BANNON (Mary): is honored and excited to be making her ArtsPower debut. Originally from Florence, Alabama, she recently earned her BFA in theatre from Stephens College in Columbia, MO and has lived in New York City for the past three months. She was most recently seen in the Boji Bantam Children's Theatre at the Okoboji Summer Theatre in Iowa. Her roles there included The Princess in The Sleeping Beauty, the Mouse in If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, and Seada in Peacemaker. Other favorite roles include Louise in Gypsy, Prudie in Pump Boys and Dinettes, and Claire in Proof. Beth would like to thank all of her family, friends and teachers for their love and support.

SHANNON MCSHANE (Laura) is delighted to be touring with ArtsPower in Laura Ingalls Wilder. A recent graduate of the University of Michigan's Musical Theatre Department, Shannon was last seen in Footloose and made her New York debut in The Pursuit of Persephone with Prospect Theatre Company. Favorite roles include Luise in The Fantasticks, The Narrator in Joseph..., and Monteen in Parade. Shannon would like to thank Sheila Dugan, Mark Madama, Garrett, and her family for their love and support.

CHRISTINA HOPE CARTER (Stage Manager): hails from teeny, tiny Mechanicstown, Ohio, so she is always excited about seein' things she never saw before! Christina has a BFA from Otterbein College. Thanks to her family and friends for their love and support, especially Jesse, Bailey, and Lizzie.
GARY BLACKMAN (Executive Producer) Gary, ArtsPower’s co-founder with his twin brother Mark, keeps ArtsPower’s productions on the road by working with theatres, cultural centers, and arts organizations who present theatre for young audiences from Alaska to Florida. Gary began his professional performing career on the road as a trumpet soloist with jazz great Clark Terry’s Big B-A-D Band during a whirlwind tour of 10 European countries, Iceland, and the United States. Gary received a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Columbia College, Columbia University and earned a Masters degree in Music Education from the School of Music, Florida State University. While a graduate student, Gary was a finalist in the International Trumpet Guild’s “Jazz Improvisation Competition” and later that year, won Downbeat magazine’s “Student Jazz Recording Award.” Gary is a graduate of the Commercial Theatre Institute. He has presented workshops and seminars at the Kennedy Center, Annenberg Center in Philadelphia, the Northeast Performing Arts Conference in Providence, and the ArtsMidwest Conference in Chicago. Gary, his wife Amy, an Assistant United States Attorney, and their 10-year old daughter, Emma, live in Glen Ridge, New Jersey.

MARK BLACKMAN (Executive Producer) Mark, ArtsPower’s co-founding director, is also a graduate of Columbia College, Columbia University and received his Masters of Music Education degree from Florida State University’s School of Music. While a musician, he was named a “Most Outstanding Jazz Instrumental Performance” winner in Downbeat magazine’s “Student Jazz Recording Award” and received the National Endowment for the Arts’ “Jazz Fellowship” and “Jazz - Special Projects” grant awards. Mark and his brother toured with their jazz quintet throughout much of the nation before they began producing Equity theatre in 1989. Presently, Mark serves as ArtsPower’s director of development and marketing. He is also a graduate of the Commercial Theatre Institute. In his spare time, Mark coaches his daughter’s softball team and is a member of Rand School’s Father’s Group. He and his wife Elizabeth, a professor of education at Queens College in New York, reside in Montclair, New Jersey with their 10-year old daughter, Alyssa.

GREG GUNNING (Artistic Director) hails from Chicago, Illinois and is the man behind ArtsPower’s on-stage magic. He has written and directed every ArtsPower production since 1989. Greg audits and rehearses ArtsPower’s theatre companies each semester in addition to creating at least one new production each year. A graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and a former actor, Greg has performed in 38 states across the country.

RICHARD DEROSA (Composer & Orchestrator) has orchestrated the scores to ArtsPower’s Olympic Spirit: The Jesse Owens Story, Beyond the Miracle, Anne of Green Gables, Laura Ingalls Wilder: Growing Up on the Prairie, Terrifically Tilly, A Little Princess, Caddie Woodlawn, Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great, Salem Justice, Are You My Mother? Anastasia Krupnik, Highlights for Children, Hans Brinker & the Silver Skates, Lily’s Crossing, The Little Engine That Could; Earns Her Whistle, From the Mixed Up Files Of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, Mike Mulligan & His Steam Shovel and The Rainbow Fish. Mr. DeRosa is a respected jazz drummer and arranger and has toured extensively with Gerry Mulligan, Jackie and Roy, and many other world-class jazz musicians. Recently, four of his arrangements for trumpet and chamber orchestra were premiered by Wynton Marsalis at Jazz at Lincoln Center. Rich recently joined the faculty of William Paterson University’s School of Music in Wayne, New Jersey where he teaches theory, arranging, and jazz improvisation. He is also an adjunct faculty member at the Juilliard School of Music.

FRED SORRENTINO (Costumer) has designed and built the costumes for ArtsPower’s Beyond the Miracle, Laura Ingalls Wilder: Growing Up on the Prairie, Anne of Green Gables, Hans Brinker & the Silver Skates, A Little Princess, Terrifically Tilly, Salem Justice, Caddie Woodlawn, Are You My Mother? Anastasia Krupnik, Highlights for Children, Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great, Lily’s Crossing, The Little Engine That Could; Earns Her Whistle, From The Mixed Up Files Of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, Mike Mulligan And His Steam Shovel and The Rainbow Fish. Fred is a gifted musician having earned a Bachelor’s degree in voice from Jersey City (NJ) State College. A veteran performer in both operatic and musical theatre productions, Mr. Sorrentino now maintains a busy schedule designing and building costumes.