

LESLIE FITZWATER has been acting and singing professionally for 30 years and has performed with the Milwaukee Symphony, the Racine Symphony, the Florentine Opera, Skylight Opera Theatre, Present Music, Milwaukee Dance Theatre, and Milwaukee Choral Artists. She and Paula Foley Tillen have been working together since 1992. Leslie has had a multi-faceted career spanning opera, theater, music theater, cabaret, and mime, and her roles have been as diverse as Paddington Bear and Carmen. While Leslie has played her share of well-known characters such as Desiree Armfeldt (*A Little Night Music*), Golda (*Fiddler on the Roof*), Fraulein Schneider (*Cabaret*), Agnes (*I Do, I Do*), Irma (*Irma la Douce*) and Marmie (*Little Women*), her real passion is being in on the ground floor of new works. Leslie sang in workshops for James Valcq's enormously popular *Spitfire Grill*, she recorded selections from Josh Schmidt's new musical based on *Candida*, and was in world premier performances of *Dark Pony* by Donald St. Pierre, "Songs of the Portuguese" by Sigmund Snopek III, and *Ballymore* by Richard Wargo (which aired on PBS). Ms Fitzwater is best known, however, for her portrayal of the French chanteuse, Edith Piaf. Leslie's one-woman show *Edith Piaf Onstage* played to sold-out houses at the Skylight Opera Theatre. Ms. Fitzwater is a private voice and acting coach, has given seminars on vocal production for the young singer, has taught Voice and Speech at First Stage Theatre Academy, and is an adjunct voice faculty member at Pius XI High School.