



SLOC

# Spotlight

SCHENECTADY LIGHT OPERA CO. NEWSLETTER • VOL. 35-3

NOVEMBER 2001

## The Melody Lingers On



Pictured left: Judy Merriam, Bonnie Williams & Alix North.  
Pictured above: Michael Mensching and Peter Lacijan.

**What? You've never heard of this show?** Don't worry – you're not alone! But, perhaps you've heard of "Easter Parade", "Alexander's Ragtime Band", or "There's No Business Like Show Business". Did you know they were all written by Irving Berlin?

Join us for SLOC's second show, *The Melody Lingers On - The Songs of Irving Berlin*, and let over 45 of Berlin's songs lead you down memory lane or perhaps delight you for the first time. There is no story line – just hit song after hit song with a few anecdotes thrown in for good measure, all to celebrate the music of one of our greatest composers.

Twelve talented SLOC performers are "Puttin' On the Ritz" to lead you through the

Berlin songbook. "You Can't Get a Man With a Gun", and director Orlando Pigliavento didn't even have to try. The enticement of great music, a fabulous production team, and six lovely ladies to perform with "Cheek to Cheek" was enough for the male cast members to sign on. They are: Zach Berger, Conner Gallagher, Michael Mensching, Peter Lacijan, Mark Slaver and Ross Snyder.

The leading ladies (or "Snookey Ookums") will not be "All Alone" – they're saying "Let's Face the Music and Dance". While "Marie" is not in the cast, Liza Groat, Carol Jurs, Judi Merriam, Alix North, Laura Skladzinski, and Bonnie Williams are "Always" ready to perform for you.

(Con't page 3)

# RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL

Auditions for *Ruthless!*, the third show of SLOC's Diamond Anniversary Season, will be held on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Opera House, 826 State Street, beginning at 7:00 PM. *Ruthless!* is a musical farce based on two melodramatic cinema classics, *The Bad Seed* and *All About Eve*. It is the story of Tina Denmark, a talented girl who doesn't get the lead in her school play. The dialogue is fast, witty and biting, and the situation outrageous. (Con't page 3)

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7 pm, Tuesday, December 11**

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✓ Check out our Website at <http://www.sloctheater.com>



## President's Part — by Melissa Lacijan

### Congratulations to *Camelot*

The final curtain has fallen on *Camelot* and I would like to extend congratulations to the cast and crew of this wonderful production. *Camelot* played to sold out houses and was met with appreciative enthusiasm from its audiences. I attended the opening night performance and was enchanted right along with everyone else. Thanks to Ted Peck and his staff and cast for weaving their magical spell at the Opera House.

### *The Melody Lingers On*

Orlando Pigliavento is busy "Puttin' On the Ritz" with his 12 member cast of *The Melody Lingers On - The Songs of Irving Berlin*. I stopped by the Opera House recently to watch a rehearsal. The cast members look and sound lovely! It's nice to see an even mix of SLOC veterans and fresh newcomers on the stage performing Irving Berlin's timeless songs. Order your tickets now!

### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Our Diamond Anniversary Celebration preparations are going strong. Deb Weiskopf, Co-Chair of the 75<sup>th</sup> committee, reports that sales of raffle tickets for the diamond drawing have been very successful so far. They raised over \$700 during *Camelot*, and hope to at least match that amount for each of the remaining three shows this season. Look for Deb and other committee members

during intermission and after performances to get a look at the beautiful pendant from Mayfair Jewelers. The prize drawing will be held at the end of the final intermission of *Damn Yankees* in May. Buy your tickets (\$3 each or two for \$5) for your chance to win!

### SLOC Holiday Activities

SLOC will be participating in the Schenectady Christmas Parade the evening of November 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have booked the Trolley and are looking for volunteers to represent SLOC. Please contact Bonnie Williams (459-4985) if you are interested.

Speaking of volunteers, Tom Heckert is still looking for people to help with the holiday tree for Proctor's Festival of Trees. If you have an artist's flair, or a vehicle that can transport a decorated tree, let Tom know (374-9566).

### Semi-Annual Meeting/ Pot Luck Supper

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002 – the date of the semi-annual meeting and pot luck supper. Co-VP Company Jodi Gilman (869-4074) and Ron Fish (887-5509) will be needing help with set up, clean up, and other preparations. Let one of them know if you can lend a hand.

### Correction

David Harrison's phone number was listed incorrectly in the 2001-2002 Committee Chairs list. The correct phone number should be 882-9294.



### Opera House Cleanup Day

Clean up day for *Melody* will be Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10:00 AM. Mark your calendars and plan to join us to work off that extra turkey and pumpkin pie! Call Thelma Zeh (374-2407) for details.

### Did you know...

- ◆ Berlin's "God Bless America" was first introduced on the radio on Armistice Day in 1938 by Kate Smith. Berlin felt it was the most important song he had ever written.
- ◆ The song "Blue Skies" was written to celebrate the birth of his oldest daughter, Mary Ellin Barrett, author of *Irving Berlin: A Daughter's Memoir*. *The Melody Lingers On* is based on this book.

## SLOC Spotlight

SLOC Spotlight is a newsletter of the Schenectady Light Opera Company, P. O. Box 1006, Schenectady, NY 12301. SLOC is a community volunteer musical and theatre arts incorporated, nonprofit organization. Governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership, SLOC's purpose is to foster light opera and related arts for the people in and around Schenectady County, NY.

Newsletter Staff: Jill Coloney, Jennifer S. Depew, Tom Heckert, Jackie Mosher, and Greg Rucinski.

Subscription Rates: \$5 per year, check payable to SLOC. Send subscription inquiries and address changes to the address listed above.

**OPERA HOUSE Phone: 393-5732**

**DEADLINE** for submissions to **Vol. 35 Issue No. 4** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is December 13, 2001. **Issue No. 4** will be mailed by January 8, 2002.

Please submit your articles to Jill Coloney at [jac12661@aol.com](mailto:jac12661@aol.com) or 92 Cooks Court, Waterford, NY 12188. If you would like help with your article, please feel free to contact any of the newsletter staff.

**Show Selection for 76<sup>th</sup> Season (2002-03)**

The Show Selection Committee has announced a deadline of December 1<sup>st</sup> for prospective directors to submit shows for consideration in the 2002-2003 season. If you are interested in submitting, please contact Elisa Verb, Show Selection Chair at 373-9255.



**Melody (Con't)**

So whether you're in the mood to show your patriotism with "God Bless America" or want to get into the holiday spirit with "White Christmas", *The Melody Lingers On* is sure to be "Shaking the Blues Away".

Show dates are November 30, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows start at 8:00 p.m. while the Sunday matinees are at 2:00 p.m. So call Della Gilman (355-1699) for tickets today and "Let Yourself Go"!



SLOC would like to extend deepest sympathy to the friends and family of **Lillian Kline**, who recently passed away. Our friend Lillian was a member of SLOC and a talented makeup artist who worked on many shows. She will be missed but always remembered in our hearts.



**Ruthless! (Con't)**

All the characters in the show are women. One character, Sylvia St. Croix, is traditionally played by a man in drag and we will be auditioning the part as such. Drag is optional at the audition. The actor must be able to convincingly portray the character as a woman. If a suitable male actor is not found, the part will be cast with a woman. Vocal ranges for the parts are standard for Broadway show tunes. Most songs are character songs with a belt quality. Please come prepared to sing 16 bars from a show tune that will demonstrate your vocal abilities. An accompanist will be available. A Capella singing is discouraged since we need to evaluate your ability to follow a live accompanist.

Roles include:

**Sylvia St. Croix** - The Agent. Male role performed in drag. Age 40's to 50's. Take "Auntie Mame" and add a little "Mama Rose" and you have Sylvia. She is the agent who wants to propel Tina to stardom... but why? She has a deep dark secret that makes her push Tina to the limit.

**Judy Denmark** - Tina's Mother. Age 30's. Judy starts out as your typical "50's" TV mom, until a terrible "accident" forces her to make a choice. As a result, she transforms herself into "Ginger DelMarco" and becomes a successful Broadway star. Vocal range needs to include a high soprano.

**Tina Denmark** - The Talent. Age 8 - 14. Tina is the perfect child, until she doesn't get cast in the lead of the school play. Then Tina shows how *Ruthless!* she can be. The actress playing this role must be able to tap.

**Miss Myrna Thorn** - The Teacher. Any age. Miss Thorn is the director of the school show. She appears to be well centered but proceeds to almost have a nervous breakdown relating the story of her past. Role may be doubled with Eve or Emily Block.

**Louise Lerman** - The Competition. Any Age. Louise wins the lead in the school show because her father owns a lumberyard. Role may be doubled with Eve or Emily Block.

**Lita Encore** - The Critic. Age 40's to 60's. Just imagine Ethel Merman as a critic...that is the best description of Lita. She has a show stopping number, "I Hate Musicals".

**Eve** - The Assistant. Age 20's to 30's. Eve is the personal assistant to Ginger DelMarco. Eve has her own agenda (to become a star) and she is not above using Ginger to achieve it. Role may be doubled with Louise or Miss Thorn.

**Emily Block** - The Reporter. Any age. A lesbian investigative reporter - National Enquirer style - out to get the real story on Ginger.

If you have questions concerning the auditions or would like to preview the script, call Director Tom Heckert(374-9566) or Producer Brett Putnam (456-0056).



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# The Melody Lingers On

November 30, December 1, 2 and 6-9.  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday @ 8:00PM  
Sundays @ 2:00PM  
(See Feature article on page 1)

TICKETS: 355-1699



Adults - \$18  
Children under 13 - \$9  
Group rates available! Call for Information.

### Is Your Membership Current?

It's not too early to be thinking about renewing your membership. In order to be eligible to vote in the June elections, your dues must be paid by February 1<sup>st</sup> of every year. Membership not only gives you a vote, but also allows you to run for a position on the Board of Directors. New people are always needed to keep the company moving into the future. A

convenient form is printed below for remitting payment. Just fill out the form and drop it in the mail with your check. Annual SLOC dues are \$10. New members as well as current members are welcome to use this form for payment. If you have any questions about whether your dues are current, please give Della Gilman a call(355-1699).

**2001 - 2002 New Membership/Membership Renewal Form**

Please return by February 1, 2002 to:  
Della Gilman • 1066 Manas Drive • Schenectady, NY 12303-4424

PLEASE PRINT Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address, incl. 9-digit zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

My/Our last show involvement was \_\_\_\_\_  
(Memebership requires participation in some aspect of a recent production.).

I/We have enclosed my/our \$10 membership fee *per person*.  
Dues paid now will make me/us a member **through June 2002**.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ payable to **SLOC**.

**SLOC Potluck Supper  
Semi-Annual Meeting**  
Saturday, January 26, 2002  
Time: 6:00PM, Dinner  
served at 6:30 PM  
RSVP to Michelle Sausa-  
Gatta(377-1905)  
Details to follow in the  
January *Spotlight*.

**Reminder!**  
Please e-mail Tom Heckert  
(TomH823@aol.com) if you  
are interested in recieving  
the SLOC Spotlight by e-mail  
(sole source or additional  
copy).