



SLOC

Spotlight

SCHENECTADY LIGHT OPERA CO. NEWSLETTER • VOL. 35-6

APRIL 2002

Spring Training Begins at SLOC



Young Joe (Andy Maycock), Welch(John Quinan), and VanBuren(Joe Malone) from the Washington Senators are grilled by cub reporter Gloria Thorpe(Pat Brady).

Director Deb May and a very talented cast and crew began spring training for what promises to be one heck of a season as the Washington Senators try to beat those *Damn Yankees* in Schenectady Light Opera Company's final production of its 75th Diamond Anniversary Season.

Old Joe(Frank Pickus) learns that you should be careful what you wish for when he wishes that the Washington Senators could beat those *Damn Yankees* just once. His problems begin when he meets up with a devilish charmer, Mr. Applegate(Steve Leifert). Applegate shows Joe a way to make his wish come true by transforming him into a young ballplayer. Young Joe Hardy(Andy Maycock) joins the Senators and becomes their star player. Add to the mix a sexy vixen, Lola(Heather D'Arcy), and you are in for a devil of a good time. The season begins on Friday evening, May 3rd and continues thru May 12th with afternoon starts (2:00 PM) on Sundays and a double header on Saturday, May 11th. For game ticket information and orders please call Della Gilman at 280-8076.



Audition Dates Set for Breast Cancer Research Benefit

Auditions for The Breast Cancer Research Benefit Concert will be held Monday May 6 and Tuesday May 7 at the Opera House. Beginning at 7 PM, auditions will be on a first come first served basis. The production team is looking for a variety of polished acts that can be blended into an evening that celebrates life from the female perspective. Actors, singers, dancers, comedians, and poets are invited to audition. New and original material is welcome. Singers and dancers must have their own music and/or accompanist. Due to copyright restrictions, please avoid recreation of scenes from a musical. For more information call director Laurie Larson at (518) 373-2088 or e-mail at llarson@ballstonspa.k12.ny.us.

What's Inside

**NEXT SLOC BOARD MEETING:
7 pm, Tuesday, May 14**

President's Part	2
Producer/Director meeting	3
Breast Cancer Fundrasier Added ..	3
75th Gala Celebration	3
Annual Meeting	3
Membership List	4

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



President's Part — by Melissa Lacijan

Damn Yankees Set to Open

A baseball diamond becomes the setting of SLOC's final production of our Diamond Anniversary Season as *Damn Yankees* takes the stage in May. The cast and staff are hard at work and plan to deliver a grand slam production you won't want to miss! I know Debbie May and her team are planning some wonderful surprises for the show, which sports fans and theater fans alike will enjoy.

Breast Cancer Fund-raiser

SLOC has a special event coming up at the end of May. *Preludes, Pleasures and Portraits*, a variety show for breast cancer research, will be performed on May 31st and June 1st in honor of the memory of Paula Selkis. Paula was a SLOC volunteer who lost her battle with the disease last fall. I invite you all to read the articles in this newsletter for audition and performance information. It's a wonderful opportunity to help a very worthy cause and enjoy some performance styles not usually seen on the SLOC stage.

Congratulations to *Ruthless!*

I want to congratulate the cast and staff of *Ruthless* on the huge success of their show. Critics and audiences alike raved about this fun, quirky production and its very talented cast. I want to thank Tom Heckert, Andrea Merrill, Brett Putnam and Nicole Levesque, along with the rest of the *Ruthless!* staff for putting together a first-class production.

Casts Clean Up

A very special thank you goes to the casts of *Ruthless* and *Damn Yankees* for their upkeep of the Opera House. VP Facilities Ted Vickery reported that his job has been made easier lately due to casts cleaning up after themselves and always being willing to help take out trash. It's nice to see our "short-term residents" taking an interest in Opera House upkeep!

Fun for All at the 75th Anniversary Gala

The 75th Anniversary Gala was held on April 13th, and what an evening it was! Over 140 SLOC members, past and present, gathered to reminisce, eat, drink and dance the night away. The 75th Anniversary committee, led by Deb and Eric Weiskopf and Bonnie Williams, did a beautiful job decorating the Edison Club ballroom and organizing the evening's festivities. Revelers were treated to dancing to the music of keyboardist Mike Purcell, accompanied by Jeff Kirstie on saxophone, and a comedic retrospect of SLOC history by Ross Snyder. Ross had contacted several SLOC members before the event to collect humorous stories about their experiences throughout the years. It's a good thing Thelma Zeh has a sense of humor – the speech turned into a bit of a "roast" for her! As President, it was my honor to give an address that evening. I was overwhelmed as I looked

around the room and saw such a diverse gathering of members. I was equally moved by the presence of the people I've known for years, and the new faces of those I have yet to meet. I realized that we were all in attendance to celebrate this wonderful organization we call SLOC. With such a strong support system of members, I am confident that SLOC's next 75 years will be even more successful.



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, 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. 7** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is May 11, 2002. **Issue No. 7** will be mailed by May 23, 2002.

Please submit your articles to Jill Coloney at 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.



**Producer/Director Meeting Set
Mark Your Calendar!**

The meeting for next season's producers and directors has been set for Tuesday, May 21 at 7:00 PM at the Opera House. All members of the production staffs are invited.

**SLOC ANNUAL MEETING
June 7, 2002, 7:00PM at
the Opera House**



Come hear the financial summary and accomplishments of the Diamond Anniversary Season. Elections will be held for the board vacancies. Come help plan the future of the company! Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

**Board Positions for the
2002-2003 Season**

The SLOC Nominating Committee has presented their list of recommended candidates to fill four open slots on the Board of Directors. The new board members will be elected during the annual meeting on June 7th. The members running for the board are: Vince Bonafede, Jackie Mosher, Brett Putnam, Michele Sousa-Gatta, Debra Weiskopf and, Bonnie Williams.

If there are any company members who wish to be added to the ballot, a petition with the signatures of five eligible voting company members must be submitted to the SLOC Secretary (Melinda Zarnoch) 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Information about the candidates will be published in the next issue of Spotlight.

If you are unable to attend the meeting on June 7th, you may still vote in the election for the Board of Directors. An absentee ballot may be obtained after May 7th by calling Melinda Zarnoch at 382-8497. All absentee ballots must be received by the secretary prior to the beginning of the annual meeting.



Did you Know.....

- *Damn Yankees* was based on the novel *The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant* (written by Douglas Wallop) and broke the long-held injunction against showing deals with baseball.
- The show made Gwen Verdon a Broadway star.
- *Damn Yankees* was a stylistic follow-up to *The Pajama Game*, as many of the creative team members were the same.

Company Auditions Set

Director Thomas Dalton Bambury has set the dates for auditions for *Company*, the first show of SLOC's 76th season. Audition dates are Thursday, June 13th and Friday, June 14th beginning at 7:00 PM at the Opera House. Details will be featured in the next issue of Spotlight.

***Breast Cancer Benefit Added to
Diamond Anniversary Season***

On May 31st and June 1st, 2002, SLOC will present a variety show, *Preludes, Pleasures, and Portraits*, as a benefit for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Tickets will be \$15 (general admission) and available at the box office. From your \$15 admission, \$13 will go directly to the Foundation. Showtime is at 8:00 PM. This promises to be a great evening of entertainment to support a worthy cause. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!



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"damn yankees"



May 3-5 and 9-12.
Thursday, Friday, Saturday @ 8:00PM
Sundays and Saturday, May 11 @ 2:00PM
(See Feature article on page 1)

TICKETS: 280-8076



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

Current SLOC Membership Eligible to Vote at the June Annual Meeting * denotes first year member

Please report any discrepancies to Della Gilman at 280 - 8076

Joe Agostine	Tom DellaSala	Bob Harrison	Judi Merriam	Ted Rucinski
Barbara Aldershoff	Gail Denisoff	Dick Harte	Drew Mills	John W. Ryan
Alan Angelo	Bill Depew	Tom Heckert	Ginnie Mills	
Dale Atwell	Jenny Depew	Charlie Hepburn	Patricia Mion*	Ruth Salter
	Tom Detweiler*	Grace Hepburn	Victor Mion*	Kathy Sargalis
Barbara Baehr	Jean Dillenbeck	Len Herman	Sev Moro*	Michelle Sausa-Gatta
Thomas Bambury	Debra Ann Draper	Alicia Hermance*	Jackie Mosher	Argie Serras
V. Dalton Bambury	David Dixon*	Myron Hermance*	Debra Moyer	Mark Slaver*
Nancy Bell	Carol Dziamba	Bill Hickman	Howard Moyer	Jane Stewart
Frank Blum		Maxine Hilderley	Marguerite Murtagh	Peter Stewart
Vince Bonafede	Bob Farquharson	Mimi Hilderley	Pat Murtagh	Joan Sticher
Pat Brady	Paula Farquharson	Pat Hoffman*		Susan Swithenbank*
Edwin Brown*	Sally Farrell	Paul Hooker	Michael O'Brien	
Eileen Bush	Linda Fetherston		Marty O'Connor	Eli Taub
	Allan Foster	Janey Johnson*	Gioia Ottaviano	Meg Tedesco
Michelle Cairns*	Marion Foster	Kenneth Johnson*		
Angelo Cerniglia	Dolores Fragomeni		Donna Panzl*	Elisa Verb
Caren Chanley*	Ron Fragomeni	Bill Kornrumpf	Chris Pedersen	Ted Vickery
Sandra Chizzolin*	Lisa Passono Franklin*	Gina Kornrumpf	Larry Pedersen	
Eunice Chouffi	Paul R. Franklin*	Mary Kozlowski	Barbara Peterson	Tom Watthews
Jean Clarke	Gwen Fraser		Joe Phillips	Debra Weiskopf
Varro Clarke	Barbara Fuller*	Melissa Lacijan	Margot Phillips	Eric Weiskopf
Madeline Codella		Peter Lacijan	Eleanor Pigliavento	Don White
Peter Codella	Gail Garrison	Pat LaFleur	Michelle Pigliavento	David Wilkinson
Jill Coloney	Richard Gatta	Marcia Lenehan	Michelle Pigliavento	Bonnie Williams
Joe Concra	Art Gauvreau	Richard Lenehan	Brett Putnam	Barbara Winch*
MaryAnn Concra	Paige Gaubreau	Larry Lessner*		Nancy Wozny
Dale Conklin*	C. Gerstenberger	Jim Lovell	Timothy Raab*	
Paul Croteau	Della Gilman	Guido Loyola	Walter Raab	Ken Zarnoch
Rita Croteau	Ira Gilman		Nina Rindenello	Melinda Zarnoch
Sue Culver	Jodi Gilman	Barbara Mahlmann*	Connie Rowe	Thelma Zeh
	Thom Gonyeau	Bill McColl	Greg Rucinski	Lil Zola
Aileen Decker*	Bill Gray	Jo-Ann Menzer	Sue Rucinski	