



SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Volume 36-3
November 2002

Forum Set To Open

Tragedy tomorrow – Comedy tonight! Thus begins *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, SLOC's second production of the 2002-2003 season. SLOC's stage is transformed into a Roman street on which live some of the zaniest characters ever assembled in a Broadway musical. The play takes comedy back to its roots, combining situations from time-tested, 2000 year old comedies of Plautus with the infectious energy of classic vaudeville. The result is a non-stop laugh fest in which a crafty slave struggles to win the hand of a beautiful but slow-witted courtesan for his young master, in exchange for his freedom. Winner of 1962 Tony Award for Best Musical, it features a score by Stephen Sondheim and a witty, irreverent book by Larry Gelbart and Burt Shevelove.



Tim Koch, Sean Fagan, Eric Shovah, and Gary Hoffmann in ...*Maid*.

Director Michael Mensching has assembled a wonderfully talented cast of SLOC newcomers and veterans. SLOC newcomer Eric Shovah leads the cast as Pseudolus, a slave who longs to be free. He assists slave-in-chief, Hysterium (Sean Fagan) in tending to the needs of Senex (Gary Hoffmann) and his wife, Domina (Donna Gould Carsten). They have a son, Hero (Joseph Carusone), who longs to meet the girl of his dreams, Philia (Allison Fagan). She lives next door at the house of Lycus, the buyer and seller of beautiful women. Lycus is portrayed by SLOC veteran Tim Koch. Lycus has sold Philia to the great Roman captain Miles Gloriosus (Andrew Sullivan). Senex's other neighbor is Erroneus (Bill Hickman), an older man whose children were stolen in infancy by pirates. Adam Coons, Brian Sheldon and James Carter are the versatile threesome assisting in this madness as the Proteans. They play the parts of slaves, soldiers, eunuchs, buffoons, etc. Rounding out the cast are the lovely courtesans of the House of Lycus: Gymnasia (Elizabeth Mosall), Tintinabula (Julie Brooks), Panacea (Natalie Bain), Vibrata (Theresa Beswick) and the Gemini twins (Katie Campe and Laura Skladzinski).

Co-producers are Bonnie Williams and Mike McDermott; Vince Bonafede, musical director; Lee Ryan, choreographer; Crandall Rodgers, set designer; Brett Putnam, lighting designer, Connie Rowe, costumes; Marcia Lenehan, make-up; Peggy Moore, stage manager and Marlene Countermine, rehearsal secretary.

To discover what funny thing happened on the way to the forum..... and to witness all the madness that ensues, purchase your tickets now! Call Jean Clarke at 399-9359 (adult \$18 and child under 13, \$9). Evening performances are Friday and Saturday, December 6, 7, 13 and 14 and Thursday, December 12 at 8:00pm. Sunday matinees on December 8 and 15 are at 2:00pm.

826 State St.
Schenectady, NY 12307
393-5732

Web Site:
www.sloctheater.com



2002-2003 Season
Company
October 18-20, 24-27
Forum
December 6-8-12-15
Zombie Prom
March 7-9, 13-16
City of Angels
May 2-4, 8-11



Tom Heckert
President

Board of Directors
Peter J. Codella
Jodi Gilman
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Tom Heckert
Judi Merriam
Brett Putnam
Michelle Sausa-Gatta
Ted Vickery
Bonnie Williams



Next Newsletter
Deadline:
December 13

Spotlight on...

**Zombie Prom
Auditions
December 9 & 10**
(See story on page 3)

President's Notes...by Tom Heckert

Town Meeting - Show Selection

We held our first town meeting on September 21 to give members a forum to discuss company issues, the first being the show selection process. There were eight members who came out and two who sent correspondence. A lively discussion ensued and a lot of ideas were generated. These ideas were brought back to the Board, which started to form a set of guidelines for the Show Selection Committee to use. As this year's committee works through the process, we will further refine the guidelines. We hope to have a finished product to include in the official company operational guidelines.

Company Is a Success!

Congratulations to Joe Phillips, Jodi Gilman, Caren Chanley, Pat Douglass and Amy Hibber for bringing this production to fruition! Everyone I talked to agreed that it was a terrific opening to our season. Hopefully we will see everyone involved in the production back again at SLOC in the near future. Congratulations to Elizabeth Urbanczyk for winning the gift certificate to the Van Dyke for the most ticket sales.

Forum Is Off to a Rousing Start

Producers Bonnie Williams and Mike McDermott and Director Mike Mensching have been having a riotous time rehearsing for our December production, *Forum*. I'm sure that our audience will have as much fun watching the show as the performers are having in rehearsal. I urge everyone to order tickets now for comedy in December! (See related article on Page One)

WNYT Roundtable

SLOC was invited to participate in a roundtable discussion hosted by WNYT. Every month, public relations managers from major TV and radio markets gather to discuss an issue significant to their public relations. In November, the topic dealt with how TV and radio can better serve the not-for-profit arts community. As SLOC's representative, I was part of a six-member panel of people representing arts organizations selected to discuss this issue with the media. It was an interesting and enlightening discussion. I was the only representative from a volunteer organization; the other five organizations had paid public relations people. I was amazed at how much we accomplish with volunteers compared to organizations with paid staff! The panel generated several ideas regarding publicity practices and I will be presenting these to the Board for consideration.

Save the Date...Pot Luck Supper January 25th

I invite everyone to join us at the semi-annual potluck meeting. The event begins at 6:30pm and ends with an always fantastic assortment of foods that everyone brings to share. We eat, offer a brief financial report, announce next season's shows and the recipient of the Etta Moore Award. All in all, a great time! All RSVPs should be directed to Michelle Sousa-Gatta at either: sausa-gatta.m@nisk.k12.ny.us or by phone at 377 1905.

Festival of Trees

I encourage everyone to visit the Festival of Trees at Proctor's over Thanksgiving weekend. Deb Weiskopf and crew have been working hard to make this year's tree as spectacular as last year's. Kate Burns, Melissa Lacijan and I will be singing on Sunday, December 1, from 3:15 to 3:45 PM as part of the SLOC Outreach Program. Hope to see everyone there!

Forum Cleanup

"Everybody Ought To Have A Maid", but SLOC doesn't ...so come help clean-up the Opera House on Saturday, November 30 at 10:00am. The more the merrier. Let's get the theatre and green room looking "Lovely"!!!!

In Memoriam

Joan Vincent recently lost her long battle with cancer. Although I know Joan from Schenectady Civic Players, I understand that she also had a rich history with SLOC. The thoughts and prayers from everyone at SLOC go out to her family and their loved ones at this difficult time.

Reaching Out

SLOC's Outreach program has had a busy fall! Their first performance was at the Armory Center singing at a fundraiser for the Marjorie Doyle Rockwell Center, a facility for Alzheimer patients. Kate Kaufman Burns accompanied Judi Merriam, Christopher Trombley and Elisa Verb for two twenty minute segments of show tunes. We have three more events scheduled for November and December. If you have any interest in performing for the Outreach program, contact Judi Merriam at 346-5093.

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.

DEADLINE for submissions to **Vol. 36 Issue No. 4** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Friday, December 13, 2002**. Issue No. 4 will be mailed by January 7.

Please submit your articles to Jill Coloney at jac12661@aol.com or 92 Cooks Court, Waterford, NY 12188.

SLOC Board & Committee

Chairs 2002-2003

President	Tom Heckert	(374-9566)
Secretary	Melinda Zarnoch	(382-8497)
Treasurer	Mary Kozlowski	(482-1052)
Business Manager	Joseph Concra	(877-5340)

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Outreach (Community Entertainment Presentations)	Judi Merriam
Show Selection	Kate Kaufman Burns, Michelle Sausa-Gatta
Accompanists	Kate Kaufman Burns

VP AUDIENCE SERVICES

Benefactors/Subscribers/Group Sales	Paige Gauvreau
Mailing Lists	Paige Gauvreau, Peter J. Codella
Tickets for <i>Company</i> (Oct.), <i>Zombie Prom</i> (March)	Paige Gauvreau
Tickets for <i>Forum</i> (Dec.)	Jean Clarke
<i>City of Angels</i> (May)	Della Gilman
Ushers	Eunice Chouffi, Chris Pedersen, Nina Rindenello, Melinda Zarnoch

VP COMPANY OPERATIONS

Audition Arrangements	Deb and Eric Weiskopf
Company Membership	Eunice Chouffi
Playbill Editor	Della Gilman
Show T-Shirts	Madeline J. Codella
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Opening Night Parties	Deb and Eric Weiskopf
Strike Parties/Soda Machine	Deb Weiskopf and Melinda Zarnoch

VP FACILITIES

Set Construction Facility/Taurus Road	Ted Vickery
Opera House Sign	Ted Vickery
Electrical/Mechanical Assistant	Brett Putnam
Heating/Plumbing Assistant	Angelo Cerniglia, Steve Fredericks

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS

Newsletter	Richard J. Lenehan, Peter J. Codella, Jill Coloney, Tom Heckert, Jackie Mosher, Greg Rucinski
Print Advertising	Peter J. and Madeline J. Codella

VP TECHNICAL OPERATIONS

Sets	Brett Putnam
Lighting	Douglas Peek
Costumes	Greg Rucinski
Makeup	Connie Rowe
Properties	David Harrison
Sound	Joe Phillips, David J. Wilkinson

Zombie Auditions Scheduled

Zombie Prom, SLOC's third production of the season, will be holding auditions on December 9 and 10, 2002 at the Opera House. Auditions will begin promptly at 7:30 PM. Signup will begin at 7:00 PM with production staff available to answer any questions. Producer Ted Vickery, Director Tom Heckert, Musical Director Theresa Fitzmaurice and choerographer Heather D'Arcy are looking for ten energetic people to populate Enrico Fermi High.

Zombie Prom is a satire of the 1950's B monster movies. It revolves around Jo nny Warner, whose "undying" love for his girlfriend Toffee, lives on even after he dies by jumping into a nuclear reactor. When he returns as a teenage nuclear zombie, the school is sent into a tailspin while the principle, Miss Delilah Strict, strives to retain order. The cast is a tight ensemble; the singing is doo-wop 50's harmony in three parts with an occasional lead on the top.

We are looking for singers 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 cappella singing is discouraged since we need to evaluate your ability to follow a live accompanist. In addition to solo singing, people auditioning for the roles of the high school kids will be taught part of a musical number from the show. Auditioners will be asked to sing in groups of four to assess their ability to "hold a part" against other singers. There will also be a brief movement audition. Script readings will be kept to a minimum since most of the show is sung.

Roles to be cast include:

Jo nny Warner - A "rebel without an h". Age: teens to 20's. A slightly bad boy who falls in love with a girl from the right side of the tracks. When his girl is forced to break up with him, he jumps into the silo of a nuclear reactor only to have her love bring him back as a nuclear zombie. Now he to wants to finish his education...what could be wrong with that? Vocal requires a pop belt with a G# above middle C.

Toffee - Jo nny's true love. Age: teens to 20's. Her love brings Jo nny back from the dead as a nuclear zombie...but can she bring herself to go against all the rules and have a future with an undead? Vocal requires a high pop belt with an E above high C.

Miss Delilah Strict - The School Principal. Age: 30's to 50's. Her motto, "Rules, Regulations and Respect", sums up how she leads her life and runs her school. But she has hidden her wild side past for all these years and now risks exposure when Jo nny comes back as a zombie who wants an education. Vocal requires a mezzo with a pop belt.

Eddie Flagrante - The Expose magazine Reporter. Age: 30's to 50's. Eddie smells a story in a nuclear zombie coming back from the dead and will do whatever it takes to get the scoop. Vocal requires a "Bobby Darin" swing quality with an E or F above middle C.

The Boys - Josh, Joey and Jake - Jo nny's friends. Age: teens to 20's. The boys also perform all the incidental male roles through the show. As the high school kids, each character has a distinct stereotypical persona - the nerd, the jock and the academic. Vocal ranges are one tenor and two bass/baritones.

The Girls - Candy, Coco, and Ginger - Toffee's friends. Age: teens to 20's. The girls also perform all the incidental female roles throughout the show. As the high school kids, each character has a distinct stereotypical persona - the jock, the snitch, and the fashion plate sweater girl. Vocal ranges are two sopranos and one alto.

Questions concerning the auditions and requests for copies of the script can be directed to Tom Heckert (374-9566).



P.O. Box 1006
Schenectady, NY 12301-1006

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**A Funny Thing Happened
on the Way to the Forum**

December 6-8, 12-15
Thursday, Friday, and
Saturday at 8:00 PM
Sunday at 2:00 PM



TICKETS: 399-9359
Adults: \$18; Children under 13: \$9
Group rates available! Call for information.

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Membership Has Its Privileges

Are your dues paid? Here's your chance to become a member this season. SLOC by-laws state that membership dues must be paid by February 1st of each year to be eligible to vote during the Annual Meeting. Please use the convenient form below to remit your dues to our membership chair, Della Gilman. Checks and charges are both welcome. A list of paid members will be published in a future newsletter. If you are unsure of your status, contact Della at 280-8076.

2002 - 2003 New Membership/Membership Renewal Form

Please return by **February 1, 2003** to:
Della Gilman • 125 Glen Eddy Drive, Schenectady, NY 12309

PLEASE PRINT Name(s) _____

Address, incl. 9-digit zip _____

Phone _____ Today's Date _____

My/Our last show involvement was _____
(Membership 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 2003**.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____ Check # _____ payable to **SLOC**.
Credit Card number _____ MC/Visa Exp.date _____

Signature (Charges only) _____

Forum Factoids

- * Milton Berle was originally offered the role of Pseudolus, but turned it down. It was then offered to Zero Mostel, who also turned it down until his wife found out and sweetly stated, "If you don't take it, I'm going to stab you in the *****." The rest, as they say, is history!
- * George Abbott was the director of the original stage version, but problems with out-of-town tryouts resulted in Jerome Robbins being called in to help. His greatest contribution was the decision to begin the show with "Comedy Tonight," thus setting the proper tone for what followed.
- * The movie version of *Forum* was made in 1966 and starred Zero Mostel as Pseudolus, Phil Silvers as Lycus, Jack Gilford as Hysterium, Buster Keaton as Erronius, and Michael Crawford as Hero. It was not well received.
- * Whoopi Goldberg replaced Nathan Lane in the 1996 Broadway revival of *Forum*, the first time a woman has played the role of Pseudolus on Broadway.