

SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Volume 40-1
September 2006

The Full Monty is Fully Cast

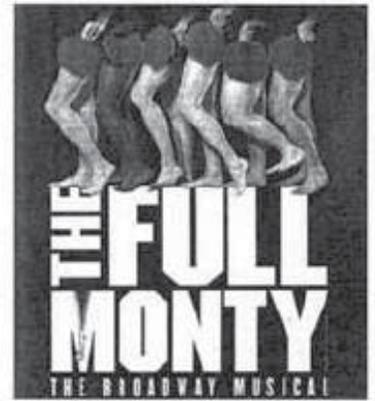
Rehearsals for *The Full Monty* are underway. This very funny and poignant musical will start off SLOC's 80th Anniversary Season. And what a way to begin this special year!

The SLOC production has a cast of new and returning voices, including Shawn Hahn (Jerry Lukowski), Brian Sheldon (Dave Bukatinsky), Joseph Curasone (Malcolm McGregor), Peter Lacijan (Harold Nichols), Donald Hyman (Noah "Horse" Simmons), Eric Weiskopf (Ethan Girard), Barb Mahlmann (Jeanette Burmeister), Kim Orlando (Pam Lukowski), Stephan Tarantelli and Bobby Ruggles (Nathan Lukowski), Meagan McCarthy (Georgie Bukatinsky), Melissa Lacijan (Vicki Nichols), John Sutliff (Teddy Slaughter), Marlene Conlan (Molly McGregor), Marcus Rogers (Buddy "Keno" Walsh), Christine Marcella (Estelle Genovese), Bill Depew (Reg Willoughby), Michael A. McDermott (Tony Giordano), Alana Sangiacomo (Susan Hershey), and Rachel Walker (Joanie Lish).

Supporting this exciting cast behind the scenes is a talented production team, including: Co-Producers Ferne L. Dutkin and Marlene Countermine, Stage Director Michael C. Mensching, Music Director Valerie A. Lord, Choreographer Christine Marcella, Set Designer Dale Conklin, Costume Designer Chris Persans, Lighting Designer Ken Zarnoch, Sound Designer Eric Bello, Stage Manager Peggy Moore, Rehearsal Secretary Marlene Countermine, Properties Manager Alex Talon, Public Relations Michael A. McDermott, Make-Up Marcia Lenehan, Opening Night Party Eric Shovah and Thomas Bambury, T-Shirts Ferne L. Dutkin, and Auditions Eunice Chouffi.

Show dates are October 13-15 and 19-22. Tickets can be purchased by calling Paige Gauvreau at 377-5101. Make sure you place your orders soon-we expect this show to sell out quickly!

One more thing-we could use extra helping hands with our set building. No expertise is necessary! Please call our set designer, Dale Conklin, at 330-0907 to volunteer.



826 State St.
Schenectady, NY 12307
393-5732

Web Site:
www.sloctheater.com



2006-2007 Season
The Full Monty
October 13-15, 19-22
Oliver!
December 1-3, 7-10
Once On This Island
March 9-11, 15-18
Hello Dolly
May 4-6, 10-13



Bonnie Williams
President

Board of Directors
Donna Z. Baxter
Peter Codella
Marlene Countermine
Bob Farquharson
Mary Kozlowski
Brett Putnam
Michelle Sausa-Gatta
Ross Snyder
Ken Zarnoch



Next Newsletter
Deadline:
September 8

SLOC Fall Bus Trip Planned

The annual fall bus trip to New York is set for Saturday, November 11, 2006. The bus will leave from Crossgates Mall at 7:30 AM and will leave Manhattan at 7:30 PM, allowing enough time for a show and dinner!

Gas prices being what they are, there is a slight increase in the fee. The cost for members is \$30 and non-members will be charged \$35. Even with the increase, this remains a fabulous deal!

If you would like to take advantage of this offer, contact Tom Heckert TOMH823@aol.com or 877-6777. Seats will go quickly so make your reservations early to avoid disappointment.

Spotlight on...

*Auditions for
80th Anniversary Concert
September 19 & 26
(see article page four)*



President's Notes...by Bonnie Williams



♪ I'm baaaack!!!

At the June board meeting, I was honored to be re-elected to another term as SLOC President. So I guess you'll have to suffer through another year of these chatty little President's notes! Seriously, I'm happy to be back and excited to be a part of SLOC's 80th season. We have a great season ahead-not just theatrically; special events are planned in celebration of our 80th birthday. These events are for us loyal SLOC members, benefactors and patrons, to join together in fun and friendship. The 80th committee has been hard at work all summer. Please read their articles beginning on page three and join in the fun.

♪ Full Monty "takes off"

Auditions for *The Full Monty* were held in late May. Mike Mensching and his team have put together a great cast and crew. We are looking forward to a wonderful opening to our 80th season!

♪ Recent Board News

At the June meeting, the Board voted in the following slate of officers: President: Bonnie Williams; Secretary: Melinda Zarnoch; Treasurer: Mary Kozlowski (board member) and Business Manager: Brett Putman (board member). The complete list of VPs will appear in the next edition of Spotlight.

Instead of Board Liaisons to the four shows, this year we are trying something different. In an effort to relieve the Board from dealing with so many show-related issues, the Board decided to have an Executive Producer oversee the four productions. This person reviews the artistic budget, set design, attends occasional rehearsals, and reviews post-show issues with the production team. The Executive Producer reports directly to the President. Since this is such a big job, for the first year two people have offered to fill the bill: Peter Codella and Bob Farquharson.

The VPs are still in the process of finding committee chairs and volunteers for the coming season. If someone contacts you, please don't say no! SLOC needs help behind the scenes all year long to keep the company humming. We all have special skills. Give it a try!

♪ What ZIP code do you have?

That was the question of the evening on Friday June 16, when an energetic staff of faithful SLOCers got together to prepare the season brochure for mailing. In addition to Rich Lenehan (brochure design) and Pete Codella (mailing labels) thanks go out to: Dale Atwell, Donna Baxter, Sue Culver, Jean and Varro Clarke, Madeline Codella, Rita and Paul Croteau, Paige and Art Gauvreau, Grace Hepburn, Mary Kozlowski, Chris and Larry Pedersen, Michelle Sausa-Gatta, Ken and Melinda Zarnoch and yours truly.

♪ It's an Honor

Two SLOC members were recently honored for their talents and creativity in their "real" job: teaching. Robert Whiteman was selected from among 75,000 nominees as a recipient of the National Disney Education Award for outstanding teaching. Robert teaches first grade at Westmere Elementary. John Lopez was honored by the Voorheesville Community and School Foundation for his service and creative talents to the community and schools.

♪ And Now A Word From Our Sponsor

Do you own a business that needs a little more exposure? Do you work for a company that would like to support the arts and promote the business as well? Do you go to the same restaurant or tavern where everybody knows your name? How about talking to the owner about advertising in the SLOC playbill? For a minimal investment, an ad appears four times and has an audience of up to 7000 potential customers!

For more information please contact Laura Andruski at lwandruski@aol.com or Donna Baxter at dzbaxter@nycap.rr.com.

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 present quality musical theater to the people in and around Schenectady County, NY.

Newsletter Staff: Jill Coloney, Tom Heckert, Greg Rucinski, Pat Endries and George Endries. 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. 40 Issue No. 2** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Friday, September 8, 2006**. Issue No. 2 will be mailed by September 29.

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

A Rose by Any Other Name.....

Have you ever had this conversation, "I'm doing a show at SLOC," and someone asks, "What's SLOC?" You reply,, "Schenectady Light Opera Company." And then they say, "What's light opera?" OR "I don't like opera!" Then you try to explain that we don't do opera-we do musical theatre, etc, etc, etc. Because of this, at the June meeting, the Board made a business decision to align our name with what we do and change the name of the company from Schenectady Light Opera Company to ??????. We're asking for your help. If you have suggestions for a new name, there are several ways to submit a name:

- 1) Email your suggestion to comments@sloctheater.com. Please put "SLOC Name Change" in the subject line.
- 2) Complete the form below and mail to PO Box 1006 Schenectady NY 12301
- 3) Come to the 80th Season kickoff breakfast on September 30 or to a performance of *The Full Monty* and put your suggestion in the box.

You can make more than one suggestion. The Board will narrow the choices down to the top 10 and put them out on the web site, newsletter and the *Oliver!* playbill for further voting. The Board will make the final decision on the new name and announce it at the semi-annual meeting in January.

This is a huge step for SLOC and we want to have our members, patrons, benefactors and general audience take part in the process. Please consider what a new name would look like, how it would sound, what it conveys and what it means to the Company and to Schenectady. Put your creative thinking caps on and go for it!

SLOC NAME CHANGE SUBMISSION FORM

To align our name with what we do

My suggestion is: _____

My reason is (optional): _____

Name & Address (optional): _____

80TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The 80th Anniversary Committee is working hard to bring you events throughout the year that will be fun celebrations of our 80th year. Our first event is a breakfast scheduled for late September (see article on page four). Next, Allan Foster is hard at work as Producer of the 80th Anniversary Concert which will take place at the Opera House on January 19, 20 and 21, 2007. Orlando Pigliavento is the Director and Vince Bonafede is Musical Director for the concert. If you are interested in helping with this production or would like further information, please contact Allan at 438-5540.

Our third and final event is a Tony Party to be held the night of the Tony Awards in June 2007. This will be a lively and fun evening for everyone. Watch the Spotlight for more details throughout the year.

If you are interested in joining the committee or would like to help on the events, please contact any of the committee members listed: Donna Baxter, Kate Burns, Sue Culver, Jenny Depew, Sally Farrell, Jodi Gilman, Mary Kozlowski, Mary-Ann Muth, and Deb Weiskopf.

REGISTER FOR THE 80th ANNIVERSARY BREAKFAST (9/30/06)

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Check enclosed: \$ _____

_____ I'd like to help with set up or clean up of the breakfast

_____ I know of a business to contact for a raffle prize:

Name of Business: _____

Type of prize: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Mail this form and your check to: Sue Culver, 15 Crescent City MHP, Clifton Park, NY 12065-6401

CELEBRATE THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF SLOC...

...with breakfast, entertainment and prizes....

Come join us as we kick off the celebration of our 80th season with an Anniversary Breakfast on Saturday, September 30th. SLOC is hosting a scrumptious breakfast at the Opera House from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. A continental breakfast will be available at 9:00 a.m. followed by a full hot breakfast at 10:00 a.m. The food is being prepared by Schenectady's City Squire Restaurant.

You won't want to miss a minute of the entertainment being supplied by SLOC singers. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., short intervals of entertainment will take place approximately every 30 to 45 minutes, including the casts of *The Full Monty* and *Oliver!*. There will also be a sing-a-long, so bring your favorite sheet music.

Prizes will be raffled off throughout the morning highlighting local businesses and their products/services. If you know of a business that would like to donate a raffle prize, please let Sue know when you register for the breakfast.

The cost of this appetizing and entertaining morning is only \$12 per person. You can call Sue Culver for reservations at 383-9350, or e-mail her at campingsusieq23@yahoo.com, or complete the form below and mail it in. Seating is limited, so please get your reservation in as soon as possible.

The Committee thanks you and hopes to see everyone at the first of three wonderful events during this 80th Anniversary year.

SLOC's 80th Anniversary Concert Holds Chorus Auditions

SLOC's Anniversary celebration continues with an 80th Year Concert Special to be held at the Opera House on January 19-21, 2007. Director Orlando Pigliavento, Music Director Vince Bonafede, and Producer Allan Foster are planning an eclectic group of audience-pleasing songs and have invited SLOC performers, past and present, to participate. All of this will be a tribute to an 80-year old Company that has given many of us our first exposure to community theater. So mark the dates in your calendar for this entertaining event!

Group auditions for the singing chorus for this Concert Special will be held on Tuesdays, September 19th and 26th, at the Opera House. Sign-ups begin at 7:00 p.m. No prepared songs are needed and there are no dance auditions. Preference will be given to people who have participated in any way in a previous SLOC show (on- or off-stage). People who have previously been contacted about possible availability for solos in this Concert are also more than welcome to participate in this Chorus and do not have to audition.

There will be 1-2 rehearsals a week November through December, a number during Concert week and the week before, but none during the Christmas-New Year week. Call Al Foster (438-5540) if you need further information.

"Oom-Pah-Pah" *Oliver!* Auditions are Almost Here

Would you "Consider Yourself" someone who wants to try out for the classic musical *Oliver!* at the Schenectady Light Opera Company? Then come on down to 826 State St September 5-7, 2006 at 7:00 for the auditions!

Director Thomas Dalton Bambury, Musical Director Cathy Mele, and Producer Marlene Counterline are very excited about SLOC's second production in its 80th Anniversary season!

Please prepare 16 bars of a musical theater selection. It does not have to be from the show. Accompanist will be provided.

There are MANY featured roles in this show. Some of the principles include:

Oliver Twist-Casting 9-14 years old, Tenor. Quiet, shy, but with a heart of gold.

Artful Dodger-Casting 10-15 years old, Baritone. Wiley, energetic street urchin.

Fagin-Casting 35+ + . Baritone. Leader of the street boys. Quite the character role.

Nancy-Casting 25+ + . Wide range of singing. Has had a bad upbringing; a survivor; shares Oliver's heart of gold.

Bill Sikes-30+ + . Bass/Baritone. Street thug; very much a loner with intentions. Another great character role.

Other roles include **Mr. and Mrs. Sowerberry**(40ish+), and **Mr Bumble**(40+).

We are planning to have auditions for the adults on September 5th and 7th, with children's auditions (7-15 years of age) on September 6th. If for some reason an adult or child cannot make these 'specific' evenings, please feel free to show up any of the nights. We will be casting up to 28 people in this show, including children and adults!

Production Staff also includes Doug Peek (Set Design/construction), Greg Rucinski (Lighting Desing/Execution), Jodi Gilman (Props), Joel Lord (Sound Design), Regina Baker (Stage Manager), and Donna Z. Baxter and Dave Dixon (Publicity). If anyone is interested in helping out on any committee, please contact Producer Marlene Counterline at 383-2050, or Director Thomas Bambury at 436-8295. You can also contact Thomas with any questions you have about the auditions.

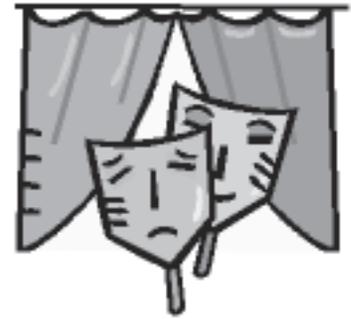
We hope to see you there!

80 Memories for our 80th Anniversary!

We at the SLOC Spotlight are looking to compile some of the most memorable moments from the past 80 seasons. So, we would like all of you to reminisce and send us your favorite story from a SLOC experience. Whether it comes from selling a ticket, serving a drink, sewing/searching for a costume, performing, or any other part of a production, we know the stories are out there! We will compile them and publish them in our final issue of this season, though you may find some appearing in other places or spaces. Our goal is to compile 80 memories.

All you have to do is write up your story (keep it brief, please) and e-mail it to Jill Coloney at jac12661@aol.com. We would appreciate it if you would "sign" your name, but we will accept an anonymous entry if you would prefer.

We look forward to memorable stories from as many different seasons as possible!



In Memoriam

SLOC mourns the passing of Peter Tyger, who lost his battle with pancreatitis on July 23. Peter was a talented performer, composer, author and director. He was last seen on the SLOC stage in *Tommy*. Peter wrote three musicals, which premiered at Albany Civic in the late 1990's: *Clinton's Ditch*, *Nelly Bly* and *American Dream*. Our condolences go out to his family and his many theatre friends who are left to mourn his passing.

SLOC also send its condolences to long-time member Eunice Chouffi on the death of her husband, Tom. Tom passed away on June 21. Our thoughts are with Eunice and her family during this time.

The Full Monty Factoids

* "The Full Monty" first appeared as an independent British film in 1998.

*The film received 3 Oscar nominations for Best Picture, Director and Screenplay.

*This small tale became an international phenomenon- the most successful film in British history.

*It first opened on Broadway on October 26, 2000 at the Eugene O'Neill Theater. It received 10 Tony nominations and played 770 performances.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Full Monty
October 13-15 and 19-22
Thursday, Friday, and
Saturday at 8:00 PM
Sunday at 2:00 PM

TICKETS: 377-5101
Adults: \$20; Children under 13: \$10
Group rates available! Call for information.

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Schenectady, NY
Permit #120

High School Musical Award Winners

The High School Musical Awards Committee critiqued a record 18 shows during the 2005-2006 season. The winning schools and productions are: Albany High School for *Carousel* (1st Place), Academy of the Holy Names for *The Melody Lingers On* (2nd Place) and the New Winner award went to Cobleskill-Richmondville High School for *Good News*.



The winner of the Outstanding Performer Award is Clint Johnson from Shenendehowa High School, for his portrayal of King Arthur in *Camelot*. Clint is the only student ever to be nominated in all 4 years of his high school career and he has won the Outstanding Performer Award 3 of those 4 years.

Special Awards were presented as follows: Outstanding Set Design for "The Telephone Hour" to Galway High School for *Bye Bye Birdie* and Outstanding Choreography to Guilderland High School for *Steel Pier*. The committee consisted of Sue Rucinski, Greg Rucinski, Ted Rucinski, Thomas Bambury, Dave Dixon, Ken Zarnoch, Melinda Zarnoch, Jenny Depew, Bill Depew, Della Gilman, and Jodi Gilman. Anyone interested in joining the committee for the coming year should call Sue Rucinski at 785-3530.

Shop For A Cause – SLOC!!

SLOC will be participating in "MACY's Shop For A Cause", to be held on Saturday, September 16, 2006 from 9am to 10pm. On "Shop For A Cause Day", we have the opportunity to participate in a unique shopping experience while supporting our Company. Shoppers purchase a special pass which is good for the 16th only at any Macy's. This pass, which costs \$5, gives shoppers access to discounts, entertainment, special events and the opportunity to win hundreds of dollars worth of prizes. Discounts will not be given to anyone without a shopping pass. In order for SLOC to benefit from the \$5 per pass, passes must be purchased in advance. You can get yours by contacting Donna Z. Baxter at 472-8189.

