

SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
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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:
April 10

Once On This Island Set to Captivate

Once On This Island is in full swing with rehearsals! The talented cast is being overseen by the creative team of Director Laura W. Andruski, Musical Director Pat Douglass and Choreographer Melissa Lacijan.

This highly theatrical and original Caribbean adaptation of the popular fairy tale "The Little Mermaid" sings and dances the story of Ti Moune, the peasant girl who rescues, nurses and falls in love with Daniel, a young man from a wealthy family. After Daniel is returned to his people, the gods who rule the island guide Ti Moune on a quest to test the strength of her love against the powerful forces of prejudice, hatred and death.

The four gods, who maneuver the meeting of Ti Moune and Daniel, are portrayed by Kate Kaufman-Burns (Asaka, Mother of the Earth), Tom Warner (Agwe, God of Water), Sev Moro (Pape Ge, Demon of Death) and SLOC newcomer Jessica Crisci (Erzuli, Goddess of Love). The young lovers are played by Jalissa Watson (Ti Moune) and John David Ganther (Daniel). Liana D. Martino (Mama Euralie), Patrick Doyle (Tonton Julian), Gabrielle Straight (Little Ti Moune), Alana Sangiacomo (Andrea) and Bradley Lamoureux (Armand) round out the supporting roles. The production would not be complete without storytellers David Bachelder, Noah Busman, Bill Depew, Kathleen Dunham, Shanna MacLasco, Drew Van Genderen, Christine Verderese and Tiffany Pinard Westendorf.

Kara A. DiCaterino is keeping things on track as Assistant Director and Stage Manager. Lighting Design is provided by Ken Zarnoch. Set Designer Mary Kozlowski is creating an enchanting Caribbean Island on stage. Co-Sound Designers Joel Lord and Justin Opotzner are making sure the story is heard. Costume Designer Pat Casey and her crew are creating the colorful and unique costumes. Newcomer Becky Straight is providing the props. Jodi Gilman and Donna Z. Baxter are Co-Producing *Once On This Island*.

In order to see "why we tell the story," call Jenny Depew at (518) 456-5504 to order your tickets now! Performance dates are March 9 – 11 and 15 – 18. Evening performances begin at 8:00 and Sunday matinees begin at 2:00. Ticket prices are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under the age of 13. Group rates are also available.

Anyone wishing to assist the cast and crew for the Saturday clean-up, come join us on March 3rd at 9:30am.



Tom Warner, Jessica Crisci, Gabby Straight, Sev Moro and Kate Kaufman-Burns enjoy going over lines.

Spotlight on...

Etta Moore Award
Recipients:

Ken & Melinda Zarnoch

Congratulations!



President's Notes...by Bonnie Williams



🎵 80th Anniversary Concert a Hit

The Opera House was full of merriment and memories as packed houses enjoyed the 80th Anniversary Concert in January. I know the audiences enjoyed it, but speaking as a cast member, I think the performers had as good a time! We welcomed back to the SLOC stage some performers we haven't seen in a while including: Jean Foster, Carrie Bee Weiss, Ed Graham, Howie & Deb Moyer and Gail Garrison, to name a few. Bob Boggs and Marilyn Abrams won the prize for the longest commute and the most glamorous costumes!

Much thanks to Orlando Pigliavento and Vince Bonafede for handling the artistic and music chores and to Allan "I Want to be a Producer" Foster for managing all the other details. Early reports indicate a tidy profit, too! Let's do it again in 10 years!



🎵 Semi-Annual Update

On Saturday February 3, forty SLOCers attended the yearly, semi-annual pot luck. In between the food and fellowship (yes, at one point I thought I was at church) we learned about our finances (great), plans for re-locating (on-going- but nothing concrete to report) name change (SLOC will remain, but watch for a new logo), next season and the Etta Moore winners (see separate article). Thanks to co VP of Company Eric Shovah for the set-up, including a clever theatre quiz. He was assisted by Heather, Gail and Jim D'Arcy.

🎵 Thinking of You

Several SLOCers have been missing in action due to recent health issues. Co-VP of Company and Board member Marlene Countermine is recuperating from a recent surgery. Audience co- VP Paige Gauvreau is home recovering from a fall. Gracie Hepburn is home continuing to gain strength from her heart surgery.

We miss you all. Hope to have you back in the swing of things real soon.

SLOC Memories *(more to follow as space permits)*

I Remember -

One of the old SLOC traditions before the 1980's was the "sing-around-the piano" after Friday night rehearsals or at After-Show parties. Cast, crew, husbands/wives of the current show gathered every Friday night and sang, mostly show-tunes. The sessions typically lasted three hours, but the record for non-stop singing was from 10pm to 5am, using three "play-by-ear" accompanists. Fun. Allan Foster

Once On This Island Facts

* *Once On This Island* is based on a novella called, "My Love, My Love, or the Peasant Girl: A Fable", which was in turn inspired by Hans Christian Anderson's "Little Mermaid".

* Lynn Ahrens wrote the book and lyrics to *Once On This Island* and Stephen Flaherty composed the score. They are also the team behind *Ragtime* and *Seussical*.

* *Once On This Island* opened on Broadway on October 18, 1990 following a run at Playwrights Horizon. The Broadway version received 8 Tony nominations.

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, and Carole Mann. 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. 6** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Tuesday, April 10, 2007**. Issue No. 6 will be mailed by April 24.

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

It's Time to Say *Hello, Dolly!*

The cast is chosen, the crew is gearing up, rehearsals have begun in earnest and everything is coming together to make this *Hello, Dolly!* the best ever...this is the Company's third rendition. The production staff is proud to announce cast members from years gone by as well as brand new to SLOC. We welcome Jean Foster back to the SLOC stage as Dolly Gallagher Levi; with Ken Zarnoch, recently seen on stage in *Oliver!*, as the bumbling Horace Vandergelder. Rounding out the main characters in this wonderful production are Eric Shovah as Cornelius Hackl, Jessica Vadney playing Irene Molloy, Adam Coons as Barnaby Tucker, and Casey Dinkin as Minnie Fay. Lisa Franklin is understudying Dolly and also in the ensemble with her children, Emily, Charles, Julia and George Franklin. Also in the ensemble are: Laurel Burns, Ray Burns, Cindy Campbell, Kody Carpenter, Olivia Cox, Rachael Cox, Ruth Cox, Colin Foster, Jeff Foster, Kristin Kvam, Joe Kevlin, Karen Kolterman, Emily LaFrance, Matt Lopez, Grace Loughney, Sue Rucinski, Marcia Smith, Bobby Ruggles, Pam Spicer, Emily Stewart, and Holly Wilke. Other parts went to Brittanie LaFrance – Ermangarde, Paul Smith – Ambrose Kemper, Regina Baker – Ernestina, and Adrien Gleason – Rudolph.

The production staff is led by Suzanne Rayome as Director with Corie Rowe as her Assistant Director. Amy Clark and Jenny Depew are Co-Producers with Andrea Merrill as Music Director and Heather D'Arcy working the choreography. The set is being designed by Peter Codella and will be built by Richard Lenehan. Lighting Design is by Ken Zarnoch. Connie Rauhauser has a large crew to work on all the wonderful costumes for this large cast.

There is a lot to be done for this production, and Amy and Jenny would love to hear from anyone who would like to help. Feel free to call them at 858-7977 or 456-5504 respectively to volunteer your talents. With such a large cast and crew, tickets are going to sell quickly, so call Sue Culver today (383-9350) to reserve your seat – Before the Parade Passes By!

Anniversary Concert A Success

What a celebration! Previous SLOC's Anniversary Specials have gone over like gangbusters, both from the performers' standpoint and that of the audience. The 80th was no exception. From the festive Lobby with all the pictures and cast comments, to the talent and enthusiasm of the performers onstage, to the backing of the support and technical people backstage, this was a hit. The dancers sure "added", and I don't think I have ever seen as effective a closing number at SLOC. I'd look over and see 50 people, singing and hamming to the limit but, mostly, the smiles on the faces of the audience. That was energy!

Another nice thing was that there was not a single weak act in the concert - every one was quality, had something to say, and was different from its neighbors. Those 20-second cast comments (was there even one that short??) extended the show, but certainly brought an intimacy that was appreciated by the audience. The obvious work that Bob and Marilyn had put into improving their sax and violin playing and the chance to catch up with people we hadn't seen in a while: all of these were bonuses. And thinking that the some-60+ people up on stage after the Sunday performance was among the largest, if not the largest, number of people ever on that stage - Wow!

So, thanks to Orlando and Vince. And also to all of the participants and audience. Hopefully SLOC will keep the record running for the 90th!!!

Zarnochs Win Etta Moore Award

This year the Etta Moore award went to Ken and Melinda Zarnoch. Ken and Melinda have been active in SLOC since 1988, when Ken was literally dragged to SLOC by Pete Codella for call backs of *Once Upon A Mattress*. Ken found himself trying to sing tenor, learning a dance called the Gavotte costumed in a short tunic and tights. Iris Barkowski got her claws into Melinda and before she knew it, Melinda was ushering and organizing strike parties. A few years later, Melinda made her one and only SLOC stage appearance as Miss Willa Jean in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Melinda was shaking so hard, she couldn't walk or talk (her character didn't have any lines, thank goodness) and after that Melinda has been happily working behind the scenes. Her flair for Opening Night parties is most welcome!

Ken is currently VP of Technical Operations and Board member. He is also the go-to person in the SLOC lighting booth. Melinda has been Company Secretary for several years now, and speaking for myself (Bonnie Williams), I could not do the President's job without her expertise. She is literally the president's right-hand.

So thanks Ken and Melinda for your years of dedicated service to SLOC and here's to many more!





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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Once on This Island

March 9-11, 15-18

Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 PM
Sunday at 2:00 PM

TICKETS: 456-5504

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

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Bus Trip Set for April 14, 2007

The Board of Directors has approved another spring bus trip to New York. The troupe of SLOC members and their friends will invade the Big Apple on Saturday, April 14, 2007. The bus will leave from Crossgates Mall at 7:30 AM, arriving in NYC approximately 10:30 AM. The day in New York is on your own, with the bus leaving New York at 11:00 PM; plenty of time for shopping, shows, dinner or whatever else you may like to do!

The cost is \$30 for members, \$35 for nonmembers. Seats are available on a first come, first served basis so it's good to get your check in early. Twenty seats are already paid, leaving 35 still available at press time.

If you're interested in going, please send a check payable to SLOC to Tom Heckert at 11 Nottingham Way S, Clifton Park, NY 12065. For more information, please email at tomh823@aol.com or call 877-6777.

Our goal with the pricing is to break even with the cost of the transportation. The November trip had twenty empty seats resulting in a small loss, placing future trips in jeopardy. Let's fill this bus to insure that the Board will approve trips in the future!

New SLOC Ad Manager

VP Publicity Dave Dixon and Donna Baxter would like to welcome Heather D'Arcy as the new SLOC Ad Manager. Heather is very excited with this new position.

And to Laura W. Andruski, we extend our thanks to you for all the hard work that you undertook as the previous Ad Manager.

If there is anyone performing in any Outreach projects and need PR assistance, please contact Dave Dixon or Donna Baxter. We always wish to assist in promoting such endeavors. (luvsbabs@aol.com or dzbaxter@nycap.rr.com).

AD FOR ADS!!!

Do you or anyone you know own your own business? Looking for some extra advertising? If so, SLOC is looking for ad patrons for our playbill. We have a variety of sizes and prices to fit any company or business needs. Since we've added a January special for next season, patrons receive five ads for the price of four. In addition, most packages include complimentary tickets. Advertise for your business and enjoy quality musical theatre. If interested, please contact Heather at harcy78@hotmail.com.