

SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Volume 41-1
August 2007

Spider Woman Casts its Web on a Talented Cast

The cast and production staff of our season's opening show are hard at work preparing the local community theater premiere of *Kiss of The Spider Woman*.

Kiss of the Spider Woman, the 1993 TONY Award winning musical written by John Kander and Fred Ebb with book by Terence McNally, is based on the novel by Manuel Puig. Imprisoned somewhere in Latin America, cellmates Molina, an effeminate homosexual window dresser and Valentin, a militant Marxist revolutionary, share nothing in common except the overwhelming need to escape the daily degradation of prison life. They find this refuge in the telling of a stylized version of Molina's favorite grade B movie starring an alluring temptress, the Spider Woman. Over the course of their confinement, the two come to understand and respect one another and fall in love. Upon Molina's release from prison, he agrees to help Valentin's political cause by passing information to his fellow revolutionaries. These actions result in Molina's re-imprisonment and final reunion with The Spider Woman.

The extremely talented cast is under the direction of Michael C. Mensching. Michael previously directed *The Full Monty* (last season's sold out production), *Jane Eyre* & *Songs for a New World*. Michael is joined again by both Val Lord, Musical Director (*Monty & Songs*) & Michael McDermott, Co-Producer (*Monty & Songs*). Making her debut as Co-Producer is Dawn Ruggles. The rest of the talented production team include: Mary Kozlowski (Set Design), Ken Zarnoch (Lighting), Ric Bello (Sound), Chris Persans (Costumes), Ferne Dutkin (Props), and John Sutcliffe (Stage Manager). Olivia Smith, a SLOC newcomer, joins the team as the Choreographer.

The lead roles are portrayed by: Bill Harrison (Molina); last seen in *The Secret Garden* and the 80th Anniversary concert. Shawn Hawn (Valentin); from last season's smash, *The Full Monty*. Heather D'Arcy (Aurora/The Spider Woman): leading roles in SLOC's *Nine* and *Oliver!*. Returning to SLOC in supporting roles are: Eric Shovah (the Warden), Bill Depew and David Bachelder (Cell Guards), Gail Garrison (Molina's mother) and Laurie Larson (Valentin's girlfriend). The roles of prisoners & Aurora's men are portrayed by Peter Lacijan, Adam Coons, Michael Whitney, Aldo Scotto-Dicarlo, Joel Shapiro, Joe Kivlen and Rich Satterlee.

"This is one of the strongest casts you are going to find on a stage this season," states Mensching. "We were fortunate in auditions to have a strong group of very talented people to choose from, and the voices and acting talent of this cast is amazing."

Performances for *Kiss of The Spider Woman* run September 28th- 30th and October 4th to the 7th. Performances are for Mature Audiences. To reserve tickets, please call (1-877-350-7378) or purchase tickets on our WEBSITE - beginning August 15, 2007. DONT MISS OUT—Tickets are already selling fast!



826 State St.
Schenectady, NY 12307
393-5732

Web Site:
www.sloctheater.org

2007-2008 Season
**KISS OF THE
SPIDER WOMAN**
September 28-30,
October 4-7
MUSIC MAN
(Youth Prod. @ Proctor's)
November 15-18
ANNIE
November 30,
December 1-2, 6-9, 14-16
BEGUILED AGAIN
January 11-13, 18-20
BAT BOY
March 7-9, 13-16
ANYTHING GOES
May 2-4, 8-11



Bob Farquharson
President

Board of Directors
Donna Z. Baxter
Marlene Countermin
Dave Dixon
Mary Kozlowski
Brett Putnam
Michelle Sausa-Gatta
Eric Shovah
Ross Snyder

Next Newsletter
Deadline:
August 29, 2007

Spotlight on...

SLOC/SCP Bus Trip
(see article on page 2)

Auditions for Annie!
(see article on page 3)

President's Notes...by Robert Farquharson

♪ The President's Inaugural Message ♪

I am honored to be your new president for the 2007-2008 year. SLOC has meant a lot to my wife, Paula, and me over our 33+ years of involvement in this community theater company. You all know taking on an operational role impacts one's close family and even friends. I am very thankful for all the volunteers who have stepped up to the plate to accept other operational and/or artistic production roles. An organization totally run by volunteers doesn't exist for long without support and team spirit. Each one of you can make a difference by helping out with any of this year's SIX productions or with company operations. Just talk to either a VP or a show's producer to see what is needed and where you feel most comfortable. On the other hand, try something new! Many of us have learned so much by trying a new arena. That is one of the great benefits of SLOC. You get to learn something new that you most likely couldn't do in professional theater.

I am also excited about SLOC's current status. We produce quality theater providing audiences with a variety of great entertainment. The recent *Times Union* reader's poll ranked SLOC number 3 in area theater. Capital Rep and Cohoes Music Hall were number 1 and 2. What a great affirmation of our productions. Just look at the line up we have this season: *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Music Man*, *Annie*, *Beguiled Again*, *Bat Boy: the Musical* and *Anything Goes*. We will be presenting *Music Man* in the new GE Theatre at Proctor's featuring an all school-aged cast of 75 talented youths.

As to SLOC's future, the Board is avidly looking at potential new homes for us. Joe Fava has been busy working with community leaders to see what is the most appropriate location and space. If you know of a potential site, please let me know. Also related to SLOC's future, we have hired a consultant to lead us with strategic planning and development. The Board and VP's will be giving up one full Saturday in August to attend the first meeting.

SLOC/SCP Bus Trip Set for November 3rd, 2007

SLOC and Schenectady Civic Players have announced a co-sponsored Bus Trip to New York! A troupe of SLOC and SCP members and friends will invade the Big Apple on Saturday, November 3, 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 7:30 PM; plenty of time for shopping, shows, dinner or whatever else you may like to do! The bus will return to Albany at approximately 11:00 PM. 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! November is the time when we shorten the trip to invite members who may not want to spend an extended day in the city. For those who prefer the longer trips, never fear....one is being planned for April 2008. If you're



interested in going, please send a check (payable to SLOC) to: Tom Heckert at 11 Nottingham Way S, Clifton Park, NY12065. For more information, please email at tomh823@aol.com or call 877-6777. Our goal is to break even with the cost of the transportation. Let's fill the bus to allow us to continue to provide low cost transportation to New York!

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. 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.

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: Dave Dixon, Eric Shovah, Donna Z. Baxter, and Joe and Marianne Concra. 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. 41 Issue No. 2 of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT will be Wednesday, August 29, 2007. Issue No. 2 will be mailed by September 12, 2007.

Please submit articles to Dave Dixon at
luvsbabs@yahoo.com or
4 Hall Pl., Apt B, Albany, NY 12210



ANNIE AUDITIONS

Leapin Lizards! Our favorite comic strip orphan is back! Director Matthew T. Teichner, Musical Director Cathy Mele, and Producers Brett Putnam and Donna Z. Baxter are very excited about SLOC's third production in our 81st season! Auditions are being held at the Schenectady Light Opera House, 826 State Street, Schenectady at 7pm. Adult Auditions: September 4th and 6th - Children's Auditions: September 11th and 13th - and yes, if necessary, Dog Auditions: September 9th. Please prepare 16 bars of a musical theater selection (it does not have to be from the show). An accompanist is provided. No a cappella or self-accompaniment is allowed. Bring your calendars to coordinate with the rehearsal dates. Be prepared to read from a provided monologue (or bring your own) and to participate in a dance audition. You may also contact Director Matthew T. Teichner at 518-383-5423 with any questions regarding the auditions. Visit our website at www.sloctheater.org for pre-registration.

There are MANY featured and supporting roles in this show. Some include:

Oliver Warbucks – warm-hearted, stiff-collared host to Annie for 2 weeks at Christmas

Baritone: C - high F

Grace Farrell – faithful Assistant to Warbucks (soprano: A-high G)

Miss Hannigan – Cantankerous and mean old orphanage director (mezzo-soprano A-A flat)

Rooster – Miss Hannigan's no-good brother (baritone B-high G)

Lily – Rooster's floozy girlfriend (soprano D-high G)

Bert Healy – Radio Personality

Boylan Sisters: Bonnie, Connie, Ronnie – singing sisters, perform on "Oxydant's Hour of Smiles" radio program

Wacky – radio personality

Fred McCracken – radio personality

Radio Sound Effects Man

FDR, the President – (baritone C-flat - E-sharp)

Roosevelt Cabinet Members (Francis Perkins, Cordell Hull, Harold Ickes, Henry Morgenthau)

Associate to Roosevelt (Louis Howe)

Additional adult roles – Maids, butlers, ushers, police, immigrants, dog catcher, etc.

Annie – spunky, friendly, big-voiced, 11-yr old street-wise urchin (mezzo-soprano A-high F)

Duffy – the biggest orphan @ 13 years old

July – the quietest orphan @ 13 years old

Kate – the next to littlest orphan @ 7 years old

Molly – the littlest orphan @ 6 years old

Pepper – the toughest orphan @ 12 years old

Tessie – the cry baby orphan @ 10 years old

Additional orphans – up to 13 years old

Please note that the ages are the characters' ages – not necessarily the casting age.

If anyone is interested in helping out in any department on this production, please contact Producer Donna Z. Baxter at 472-8189. Production dates are Nov. 30, December 1-2, 6-9, and 14-16. We hope to see you there!

"And the Tony Award Goes to..."

On June 10, 2007 several SLOC members walked the red carpet & celebrated the TONY AWARDS at the Malt River Brewing Company in Latham. This Final 80th Anniversary Event was coordinated by Melissa Lacijan and Kate Kaufmann Burns. Malt River owners and SLOC performer Carrie Bee Weiss and husband Mark provided a cash bar & delicious finger foods. Don in festive clothes the attendees watched Broadway's biggest night on a projection TV screen and cheered on the winners!



Barry Corlew and Bonnie Williams perform at the SLOC TONY PARTY
(photo submitted by Mary Kozlowski)

"Seventy Six Trombones will lead the Big Parade."

(Meredith Willson's, *The Music Man* comes to town.)

SLOC may not have 76 Trombones, but we have a total cast of 75 talented students for our production of Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*.

In the span of three evenings SLOC auditioned over 175 talented young people, but that wasn't difficult compared to trying to decide who to cast from this talented pool of performers. However, our Co-Directors Joe Fava and Jeffrey Scott, and Andrea Merrill (Music Director) made all the tough decisions and a great cast was selected. The *Music Man* opens November 15th at the brand new GE Theater at Proctors. Co-Producers are Marlene Countermine and Ross Snyder. Bob Farquharson will design a set that can easily move in and out of the GE Theater. Publicity will be coordinated by Dave Dixon. We welcome 2 newcomers, Patrina Frederick (Costumes) and Nick Webb (Lighting) to this team. Regina Baker is handling props, and Michelle Sausa-Gatta is the "jack of all trades": helping out in all areas.

The list of the cast & character names is enormous therefore the Production staff would rather refer you to the SLOC website (www.sloctheater.org) for a complete review. This cast list will be available on our site within the next few weeks.

There isn't a limit to the amount of volunteers we'll need could welcome back stage! The production staff needs assistance in both the HAIR and COSTUMES Departments (can you imagine the number of costumes for a cast of 75?) If you would like to help in any area of the theatre process, please contact Ross Snyder at Goodnote@nycap.rr.com or 355-5466.

Tickets will be sold ONLY through Proctor's Theatre's Box Office. Please look in our September, 2007 Newsletter for the correct Proctor's Box office phone # for purchasing tickets. But mark your calendars NOW: November 15, 16, 17 & 18, 2007.

SLOC's devoted audience members are in for another treat this November! DONT MISS OUT!



Sticky Business

On Tuesday July 24, a "gung-ho" group of 17 SLOC members applied over 5,300 mailing labels to the '07-'08 Season Brochure... in 1 hour and 15 minutes!

Donna Z. Baxter and Dave Dixon (Brochure Designers) would like to thank: John Baxter, Varro & Jean Clarke, Paul & Rita Croteau, Bill & Jenny DePew, Della Gilman, Bill Hickman, Gioia Ottaviano, Larry & Chris Pedersen, Rita Russel, Bonnie Williams and Lil Zola. Special appreciation to Thomas D. Bambury (bulk mailing delivery) and Peter Codella (mailing labels).

WHAT'S NEW?



Our Logo!

SLOC has a new LOGO! Mary Kozlowski and Donna Z Baxter coordinated the LOGO design efforts while all the 2006-07 Board members and former SLOC president, Bonnie Williams, contributed both the technical and artistic suggestions. A final vote by the Board was taken and the sharp, new LOGO was introduced to SLOC members at the June 2, 2007 Annual Meeting.



Our Webpage and Web Address!

SLOC has a new web address: www.sloctheater.org
(originally: www.sloctheater.com)

Thanks to Mary Kozlowski, Webmaster, for managing & coordinating this tricky but beneficial transition and upgrade!

Surf SLOC's new web address today for our new 2007-08 season!!
Why not even research your favorite past productions too?

Our New Board Appointments

At our Annual Meeting (June 2, 2007), the SLOC Membership voted in the following slate of Board Members: Marlene Countermine, Dave Dixon, Michelle Sausa-Gatta, Eric Shovah and Ross Snyder.

Remaining on the Board is Donna Baxter. At the June meeting, the Board voted in the following slate of officers: Secretary - Melinda Zarnoch, Treasurer - Mary Kozlowski (Board Member) and Business Manager - Brett Putnam (Board Member). A complete list of company VP's will appear in the next issue of *Spotlight*.

NEWS FROM THE VP OF FACILITIES

ROSS SNYDER



New Telephone System

Remember this Phone Number: 1-877-350-7872.

This is the number for our new electronic telephone receptionist. She is really cute and has a very pleasant voice so I'm sure you will like her. I know she will improve patron service and communications with our membership. Her name by the way is "May I help you." So you call her number and she will greet you with her pleasant voice, and ask you to press 1 for Box office, 2 to leave a message for the Board, or 3 if you want audition information. Your call will then be forwarded to the appropriate number. If no one is available you will be sent to voice mail. Now if you leave a voice mail, an e-mail notification will be sent to the appropriate person. The cost of E-Voice receptionist is essentially the same as the cost of adding a new telephone line for the Opera House but it provides features that a new telephone line does not. The implementation of E-Voice Receptionist solves several problems.

- * We will have one phone number for patrons to call for tickets: This number will not change from one show to the next.
- * In conjunction with Vendini (our new box office software), it will allow ticket sales to be handled by a team rather than one person. This will improve our customer service and be especially helpful during high volumes sales
- * The email notification feature will improve communications with the Board. So, if you leave a message for the Board, someone will respond promptly.

If you need to call someone at the Opera House our existing is still there, 393-5732. The new number should be used for all other needs.



Purchasing Tickets on the Website

Ticket sales for each show begin on the following dates:

Kiss of the Spider Woman - August 15, 2007

Annie - October 15, 2007

Beguiled Again - November 15, 2007

Bat Boy: The Musical - January 15, 2008

Anything Goes - March 15, 2008

New Box Office Software

We have purchased and are in the process of implementing Vendini Box Office software. This software is a fully functionally Electronic Box office that allows patrons to purchase their tickets on-line using a credit card. Here is how it will work from a patron perspective:

- * From the SLOC Website the will click on the "Purchase Tickets" link. They will be transferred to the SLOC ticket purchasing site on the Vendini Web Server
- * The ticket purchaser selects show and show date
- * The ticket purchaser is provided with seating options based upon the seats available, The ticket purchaser selects the desired seats and proceeds to check out
- * The ticket purchaser enters the necessary identification and credit card information to complete the transaction
- * The system processes the ticket order and credit card transaction immediately, stores the necessary information, and provides the purchaser a confirmation. There is an option to print an E-Ticket but we have not decided whether to implement this feature.
- * The funds from the credit card purchase are immediately deposited into the SLOC account. The box office team can print the tickets at a later time.

In addition, our ticket agents will use the software when they are selling tickets on the phone or at the box office. Every ticket sold will be processed through the Vendini software whether it's a patron purchasing a ticket on the internet, or whether one of our ticket agents is processing an order on the phone or at the box office. This software, combined with our new telephone service "E-Voice Receptionist" will not only provide better service to our patrons, but will also allow the duties of selling tickets to be shared by a team of ticket agents rather than being done by one person. The software will also allow us to collect and analyze information about ticket sales and our patrons so we can better focus our marketing efforts and better serve our patrons.

SLOC selected the Vendini system because it both offered our ticket sale needs and the cost was the most reasonable.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2007-2008 Season	
<i>Kiss of the Spider Woman</i>	September 28-30 and October 4-7
<i>The Music Man @ GE Theater at Proctors</i>	November 15-18
<i>Annie</i>	Nov 30, Dec 1 and 2 and 6- 9 & 14-16
<i>Beguiled Again</i>	Jan 11-13 & 18 -20
<i>Bat Boy</i>	March 7-9 & 13-16
<i>Anything Goes</i>	May 2-4 & 8-11

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SLOC's High School Music Award Committee Reviews a Record 19 Shows!

The High School Musical Awards Committee critiqued a record 19 shows during the 2006-2007 season. The winning schools and productions are Shenendehowa High School for "Kiss Me, Kate" (1st Place), Mohonasen High School for "The King and I" (2nd Place) and the New Winner award went to Christian Brothers Academy for "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." Three Outstanding Performer Awards were presented to Hannah Corneau from Shenendehowa High School, who portrayed Lilli/Katharine in "Kiss Me, Kate", Claudia DeMartino from Mohonasen High School for the role of Anna in "The King and I", and Christopher Huntley who played Fagin in Albany High School's "Oliver". Special Awards were presented as follows: Outstanding Artistic Vision to Albany High School for "Oliver", Outstanding Choreography to Albany High School for "Oliver", and Outstanding Construction and Manipulation of the Baby Audrey II Plant to Scotia-Glenville High School for "Little Shop of Horrors". Co-Chairs Sue and Greg Rucinski thank this year's committee: Dave Dixon, Jodi Gilman, Ted Rucinski, Ken Zarnoch, and Melinda Zarnoch for their dedication, time and adjudication skills.



"JOIN THE CROWD! HAVE YOUR NEWSLETTER EMAILED!"

SLOC would like to migrate the newsletter to an electronic format.
If you'd prefer to receive future issues of the newsletter electronically please
contact:

DAVE DIXON, Editor
luvsbabs@yahoo.com