

SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Volume 41-2
September 2007

Kiss of the Spider Woman Opens its Web

The production team for KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN are hard at work preparing for opening night! This 1993 Tony Award winning musical presents a unique love story within the conflicting dualities of love & brutality. This company premier features SLOC veterans: Director, Michael Mensching, Music Director, Val Lord, Choreographer, Melissa Lacijan and Mike McDermott, Producer. SLOC warmly welcomes first timers, Dawn Ruggles, Producer and Olivia Smith, Assistant Choreographer to the cast. Leading the cast are Bill Harrison(Molina), Shawn Hahn(Valentin) & Heather D'Arcy(Aurora/the Spider Woman). Supporting roles and ensemble include: Eric Shovah, Bill Depew, David Bacheldor, Gail Garrison, Laurie Larson, Peter Lacijan, Adam Coons, Micheal Whitney, Aldo Scott DiCarlo, Joel Shapiro, Joe Kivlen & Rich Satterlee.

The entire cast helps weave a story that's relevant in other parts of our world. Somewhere in Latin America, cellmates Molina and Valentin both share the need to escape the degradation of prison life. They find this refuge in the telling of a version of Molina's favorite "B" movies starring the Spider Woman. During their confinement, the two come to respect one another & 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 & final reunion with the Spider Woman. The "B" movie presentation featuring the Spider Woman are among the high points of SLOC's production. "I couldn't imagine doing this story without seeing what the movies looked like. When you see the Spider Woman, you understand why Molina fell in love with her & her hypnotic beauty," said Mensching. "The movies help weave fantasy and illusion into this production, but make no mistake, the themes in this show did & do happen in the other countries. Hopefully, people will also come to feel for these characters and it will help them think about the real people somewhere in this world who are going through the same things."

To help the SLOC audience learn how they can make a difference, the production team have invited AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL to host an informative table display(during intermission) for the Sept. 30 matinee performance. "I urge you to become more aware of what happens beyond our community, in the dark part of our world, that is only too real to many people. We can be only as good as we are in how we treat those with opposing ideas and values," shares Mensching. Performances run Sept. 28-30 and Oct. 4-7. Tickets are selling very fast! To reserve tickets please call: 1-877-350-7378 or on our web: www.sloctheater.org. DONT WAIT ANOTHER DAY! Order your tickets now!



Heather D'Arcy is the Spider Woman (Photo by Tim Raab)

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 Counterline
Dave Dixon
Mary Kozlowski
Brett Putnam
Michelle Sausa-Gatta
Eric Shovah
Ross Snyder

Next Newsletter
Deadline:
October 19, 2007

TICKETS for THE MUSIC MAN!

Production Dates: November 15-18, 2007

(performed at Proctor's GE Theatre)

On Sale NOW through October 31st: at the SLOC Box Office

1-877-350-7378 OR www.sloctheater.org

On Sale at Proctor's Box Office: November 1-18th ONLY!

Call: 346-6204 OR www.proctors.org

GENERAL ADMISSION seating only. DON'T WAIT!

Be a part of history as SLOC becomes the first community theatre to produce a show in this state of the art theater!

Spotlight on...

**Audition Information
for *Beguiled Again* and
Bat Boy: The Musical
(see both articles on page 3)**

President's Notes...by Robert Farquharson

As I write this message, I have mixed emotions. First of all, I am saddened by the recent passing of Drew Mills. He was an active member of SLOC, great supporter of the company and one who encouraged so many of us. His gentle manner and smile will be greatly missed. His wife, Ginnie who is also an active SLOC member, is in my thoughts and I am sure yours, too.

On the happier side, I am filled with excitement as there is much going on right now at SLOC. The first production of our 81st season, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, is well into production with rehearsals under way and sets, lights, costumes and props nearing completion. Our November show in Proctor's new GE Theater, *Music Man*, just started rehearsals and the production team is focused on their responsibilities for this show. I recently toured the new GE Theater and saw the framework being installed for the 50' wide by 40' high Iwerks screen. BIG is all I could think. The production team for our December show, *Annie*, is busy completing their auditions and much more. I am sure the production teams for *Beguiled Again*, *Batboy: The Musical* and *Anything Goes* are also working on their respective responsibilities.

Along with all of this, the SLOC Board of Directors and VP's just attended a full day of strategic planning lead by our consultant, Jon Samatulski. This was an eye-opening as well as affirming experience for us. Our new on-line ticket ordering system should be working and making ticket purchases much more convenient for our customers and for us. We are diligently working on the search for a new SLOC home that would bring most or all the production staff under one roof. All of these efforts are positioning SLOC for another 80 plus years of providing quality musical theater.

I encourage you to support SLOC in what ever way you can: be in a show, volunteer to work on a production, provide financial support as a patron and be in our audience.

Come – enjoy the season and invite others!

In Memoriam

SLOC mourns the passing of "Drew" Mills, 79, while vacationing at his summer home in Cape Cod on August 7th. He spent most of his life in the Capital District and showed talent in both art education and music.

His rich baritone voice was heard on SLOC's stage beginning in the 1950's. His favorite roles included Emile in *South Pacific*, Nicely Nicely in *Guys and Dolls* and Pooh Bah in *The Mikado*. Drew was also a SLOC Past President and Board Member. His artistic talents extended to both painting sets and many signs for SLOC.

Our condolences are extended to his wife and longtime member & volunteer, "Ginnie"; 3 children & 9 grandchildren.



~ ~ ~ ~ "IT'S TIDY TIME!!!" ~ ~ ~ ~

Mark your calendars NOW! Saturday Sept 22, 2007 at 9am SLOC members & friends, SLOC Board Members and the Cast and Crew of *Kiss of the Spider Woman* will be working together & getting the entire theatre & grounds in "TIP TOP" shape for the show's Sept 28th opening night....and we'll need your continued support & energies! Indoor Projects include: Building 4 new "Season Boards"; thorough dusting & cleaning of: The Green Room, Kitchen, Dressing Rooms, Restrooms, stairways; Outdoor Projects: weeding; planting of mums & picking up garbage in parking lot areas. SLOC will supply all cleaning supplies. But you can bring along your own rubber gloves and gardening tools. And remember, if you have any extra plastic bins that you would like to donate for props and costumes, feel free to bring those along for Donna Baxter.

In appreciation of all your hard work SLOC will be providing hot dogs & all the fixins!! We ask that you bring a salad, chips or a dessert to share. Let's lunch together! SLOC needs to make this event a CLEAN SWEEP! See Old friends! Meet the cast of *Spider Woman*! Please RSVP to Michele Sausa Gatta, 377-1905...See you there! Let's make SLOC shine!!



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 Condra. 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. 3** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT will be Friday, October 19, 2007. Issue No. 3 will be mailed by November 1, 2007.

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

UPCOMING SHOWS - AUDITIONS AND CASTING

***Beguiled Again* - Enchanting Auditioners on October 15 and 16, 2007**

Director Barry Corlew, Co-Producers Jodi Gilman and Jan Baird and Musical Director, Vince Bonafede are looking for 3 men and 3 women singers/actors to portray an assortment of characters in this Rousing Musical Revue. *Beguiled Again* spotlights the 24 year collaboration of Rodger and Hart. This SLOC premier features 50+ selections from their incomparable song books.

There are no set age requirements for these Auditions.

The production's scenes are composed almost entirely of music and segue smoothly from one to the next. There is very little dialogue in this show. The scenes range from a game of musical chairs to a live radio broadcast. The production staff will be looking for upbeat, outgoing, high energy singer/actors. Each auditioner is asked to prepare two[2] pieces of music (one upbeat or comic and one ballad). An accompanist will be provided. No a cappella singing please.

There will be no line readings but be prepared for both a dance/movement audition and performing group songs from the script.

Beguiled Again will be performed in the Cabaret style with no amplification. So, the songs will be sung "as written" with no transposition. Commitment to this show will be essential as the schedule will be hectic. Please bring along a calendar & any conflict rehearsal dates. Performance dates are Jan. 11-13 and 18-20, 2008.

Audition SIGN IN is 7pm. Auditions to begin at 7:30pm. Any questions? Please call the Director, Barry Corlew, at 459-4985....see you in October!!!

***Bat Boy: The Musical* - Auditions Flying in on November 4 and 6, 2007**

Auditions for *Bat Boy – The Musical*, the third show of the season, will be held on November 4 and 6 at the Opera House, 826 State Street, with sign-in beginning at 7:00 PM. Auditions will begin promptly at 7:30pm. *Bat Boy* is based on a character created by the satirical newspaper *The Weekly World Report*. Ever since introduction during the 1980's, *Bat Boy's* adventures have been a favorite feature for their readers. *Bat Boy - The Musical* begins with the discovery of the half-bat/half-boy in a cave in a West Virginian cattle ranching town. The wild uncivilized creature is spared death and educated and assimilated into society. But can you truly remove the beast from the creature? Cows and then townspeople start to die and fingers and clues all lead to *Bat Boy*. Secrets kept for years are revealed but can the bloodshed be stopped?

Bat Boy has richly textured characters that are normal persons placed in extraordinary circumstance providing conflict and the source of the humor in the piece. It is another example of a true ensemble show - each person being as important as the next. The production has a 50's meets the 90's feel of pop rock anthems and catchy lyrics provided by Laurence O'Keefe – most recently known as the composer of *Legally Blonde* currently running on Broadway. Each person will be asked to prepare 16 bars of a Broadway song that showcases your vocal talents. Readings will be from the script. A cappella singing will not be permitted since we need to evaluate your ability to follow a live accompaniment. An accompanist will be available. Production dates are March 7, 8, 9 and 13 through 16, 2008. Questions concerning the auditions and requests for copies of the script can be posed to Director, Tom Heckert at 877 - 6777.

(Character Descriptions on the Right)

Roles available are:

Bat Boy a/k/a Edgar (M) – Age late teens to 30's. Athletic build. Actor portrays a character that goes from grunting to eloquence. This half-bat/half-man creature, uncivilized at first with a thirst for fresh blood, is transformed into a member of society by a teenage girl and her mother. Must move well. Must dance (tap experience preferred) and be able to perform some athletic tricks (chin-up, hanging upside-down from cage).

Shelley Parker (F) – Age late teens to 20's. Daughter of the town veterinarian asked to euthanize the creature. Shelly and her mother convince her father to spare *Bat Boy*. Shelly transforms from a spoiled brat who taunts *Bat Boy* into a young woman who falls in love with him and protects him from the town's wrath.

Meredith Parker (F) – Age 30's to 50's. Shelley's mom; the veterinarian's wife. Meredith is convinced by Shelly to keep *Bat Boy*. She picks out a name for him, teaches him manners and educates him. She does everything that the mother he did have would do, but in the process, a deeply kept secret is disturbed and her world starts to crumble around her. Can she save the ones she loves?

Tom Parker (M) – Age 30's to 50's. The town veterinarian. A Desperate man with a secret and a loveless marriage. Seeing the attachment growing between *Bat Boy* and Meredith, Dr. Parker manipulates the situation using his veterinarian skills to his advantage, even at the price of human life.

Sheriff Reynolds (M) – Age 30's to 60's. The town Sheriff. The Sheriff brings *Bat Boy* to Dr. Parker's house to be "taken care of". The Sheriff is called upon by the town folks to deal with the situation whenever the situation goes awry. Always the mediator and tries to do the right thing... long as its good for his career!

The Ensemble

We are looking for a group of 5 to 10 singer/actors who move well. All ensemble roles have solo singing. All ages needed. Some may be doubled or tripled with men or women playing opposite gender parts:

The Taylor Family

Ms. Taylor - The mother

Rick Taylor – Shelley's Boyfriend

Ruthie and Ron – Rick's siblings – discoverers of *Bat Boy*

The town Council:

Maggie – Council President

Daisy – Council Secretary

Lorraine, Bud, Ned and Roy – Councilpersons

Rev. Billy (ie) Hightower – Revival Minister – gospel number in Act 2

Pan – the Shakespeare character - leads the Act 2 song with the animals in the woods.

Assorted townspeople, councilpersons.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2007-2008 Season

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

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“IT’S A HARD KNOCK LIFE” casting Annie!

At printing time for this newsletter the production staff for *Annie* were diligently making their final casting decisions! The turnout was fabulous & a great wealth of talented performers attended auditions! A complete cast & crew list will be printed in the next issue of the SPOTLIGHT (Nov, 2007) but for now please visit SLOC’s website (www.sloctheater.org) within the next few days to review the cast list! The production staff is also looking for a set builder & set designer! If you’re interested or know of anyone that’s interested please call, Director, Matt Tiechner, 383-5423. If you’re also interested in helping in ANY other production capacity (props, stage crew, painting, costumes etc) please contact the web (www.sloctheater.org) and sign up now. To purchase tickets, you can call 1-877-350-7378 or you can log onto the SLOC web & experience our amazing new ticket system! Ten performances over three weekends from which to choose! Productions dates are: Nov. 30, Dec. 1-2, 6-9, and 14-16. Don’t wait ‘til “TOMORROW” to buy your tickets!

“SLOC/SCP NOVEMBER BUS TRIP”

The Saturday November 3rd co-sponsored Bus Trip to New York (with SLOC and Schenectady Civic Players) still has some seats available! Bus leaves Crossgates Mall at 7:30am & arrives in NYC at @10:30am. Bus departs NYC at 7:30pm, returning at @11pm. Cost is \$30/members; \$35./non-members. Please send a check (payable to SLOC) to: Tom Heckert, 11 Nottingham Way South; Clifton Park 12065; for more info: email at tomh823@aol.com OR 877-6777. Reserve your seats NOW! DONT MISS OUT! Leave the driving to us!

“PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF IT!”

Last months SPOTLIGHT newsletter printed SLOC’s brand new phone number incorrectly! The **CORRECT NUMBER is 1-877-350-7378 (and NOT 1-877-350-7872)**. We apologize for any inconvenience.

REMEMBER: this new number is used for: Purchasing tickets, receiving Audition information, and leaving a message for the Board.

***** AND *****

Anything Goes Auditions are Jan. 29 and 31, 2008 and NOT Jan. 30 as previously printed in the Season Brochure- Sorry for any inconvenience. See you there!

