

# SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the  
Schenectady Light Opera Company  
Volume 41-7  
May/June 2008

## Millie Auditions Flap Their Way to SLOC

AUDITION DATES: Monday, June 2 and Wednesday, June 4th at 7pm  
Dance Call Back: Thursday June 5th at 7pm

Show Dates: October 3,4,10,11 2008 @ 8PM, October 4,5,11,12 2008 @ 2PM, Third Weekend Possibility.

*Thoroughly Modern Millie* tells the story of a small town girl, Millie Dillmount, who comes to NYC to marry for money instead of love - a thoroughly modern aim in 1922 when women were just entering the work force. Millie soon begins to take to delight the flapper lifestyle, but problems arise when she checks into a hotel owned by the leader of a white slavery ring in China. This comedy won the 2002 Tony for Best Musical. Principle roles include:

**Millie Dillmount [age 17-25]**

- small town girl hoping to marry rich; vivacious and vibrant (mezzo)

**Jimmy Smith [age 16-25]**

- "free and easy" city-slicker, love Millie, pretends to be poor (tenor)

**Mr. Trevor Graydon [age 27-40]**

- Millie's boss and the object of her affection; rich, debonair, and vain (baritone)

**Miss Dorothy Brown [age 20-30]**

- Millie's friend and roommate; old-fashioned, prim and proper, slightly ditzzy (soprano)

**Mrs. Meers [age 30+]**

- sinister former actress and landlady, feigning Asian heritage; diabolical and bitter (belter)

**Ching Ho and Bun Foo [ages 16-30]**

- inept Chinese henchmen working for Mrs. Meers

**Muzzy Van Hossmere [age 30+]**

- rich and glamorous nightclub singer (alto)

**Miss Flannery [age 30+]**

- bossy, uptight office manager at Millie's office

**CHORUS [VARIOUS AGES] 10 MEN / 10 WOMEN**

All must be able to tap, have some ballroom dancing experience, and sing a variety of Roles. Audition requirements : Be prepared with 16 bars of a song in your range, and a comedic monologue. We will be reading sets from the show, and you may be asked to sing something from the show. Dancing auditions will be a separate call back on Thursday night.

If you have questions, contact Jeffrey Scott - Director at 518-596-6181. The Production Team: Director - Jeffery Scott, Producer - Melinda Zarnoch, Musical Director - Bruce A. Holden, Set Design - Duncan Morrison, Light Design - Ken Zarnoch, Costume Design - Joesph Fava, Set Construction - Varro Clarke and Bob Farquarson, Hair Design - Michael Jegabbi, Make-Up Design - Marcia Lenehan, Dance Captain - Tyler Massaroni, Publicity - Dave Dixon, Board Liason - Michelle Sausa-Gatta.



826 State St.  
Schenectady, NY 12307  
393-5732  
1-877-350-7378

Web Site:  
[www.sloctheater.org](http://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 Farquarson  
President

Board of Directors  
Regina Baker  
Donna Z. Baxter  
Marlene Countermine  
Mary Kozlowski  
Brett Putnam  
Michelle Sausa-Gatta  
Eric Shovah  
Ross Snyder

Next Newsletter  
Deadline:  
Wed. July 16, 2008

Spotlight on...

Annual Meeting  
(page 4)  
Board Election Bios  
(pages 3-4)

## President's Notes...by Robert Farquharson

### *President Bob*

Well, our 81<sup>st</sup> Season is just wrapping up with our terrific production of *Anything Goes*. Thanks to all who made this such a quality show. I am so glad we decided to add a third weekend to the run for this show. First, because it is a great production and second, because adding a third weekend really boosts the profit potential if it sells well. Our recent production of *Annie* proved this to be fact.

When I look back over this year, we have consistently provided high quality musical theater that varied significantly in musical style and book with a wide range of topics. While some seemed like pushing the envelope, we showed that we have a working mix of talent and interests that keep the company fresh and exciting. Thank you to all who made each of our productions successful. We have received numerous awards from the Theater Association of New York State and have been highlighted by local papers as best bets for entertainment choices several times. One has to remind people not in the know that we are all volunteers that do this work on the stage as well as behind the scenes, except for the orchestra. They are paid union scale wages. I must add that some of them enjoy SLOC so much that they have been with us for decades and are like part of the family.

It really is amazing what we accomplish because of our passion for theater. It is also very important to recognize the opportunity we provide children and adults to develop their theatrical talents. Many have progressed to professional careers in some aspect of theater both on and off stage.

Last month I reported on all the work the Board has been doing. We have added a second monthly meeting devoted mainly to relocating. We have looked at several potential properties and are patiently staying focused on our options to make the right decision. We are consistently doing business process improvement in a positive approach. We have changed or instituted new procedures to address issues. We have continued working with our consultant to develop a viable strategic plan for SLOC's future. All of this will be reported on at our Annual Meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>. So don't miss it. You'll hear the latest developments. Also, we need members present to have a quorum for voting on candidates for open board seats.

Now to next year, our 82<sup>nd</sup> Season looks like a winner. We have scheduled five productions: *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Seussical: the Musical*, *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, *Assassins*, and *the Scarlet Pimpernel*. You can become a season subscriber and save money, plus have the option of changing your reservations when needed. **The Board decided to offer more choices on how you can order season tickets.** You can save a lot of money by selecting all five shows or save a little less if you buy 4 out of 5 shows. We thought this would appeal to our customers in case you just can't attend all five or one is really not your cup of tea. You can order tickets on line via the website (sloctheater.org) or by telephone (1-877-350-7378).

Thanks to each of you for your support of this terrific company. While it has been a very busy term, I have enjoyed being President.

Robert C. Farquharson, President

## Calling All Volunteers!



### WANTED - SLOC MARQUEE COORDINATOR

Duties: Responsible for changing/updating each production title and performance dates on the theater's marquee. This duty requires immediate marquee updates following the closing date of a production. Volunteer duties will begin following the close of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (October 12, 2008). Questions? Interested? Contact Donna Z Baxter, VP/PR: 472-8189 or [dzbaxter@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dzbaxter@nycap.rr.com). **NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**  
- PROVIDE A HUGE CONTRIBUTION TO SLOC'S SUCCESS.

### WANTED - TICKET SALE VOLUNTEERS

Enjoy talking to people? Comfortable with computers? Then SLOC has the perfect volunteer opportunity for you! This season, SLOC upgraded to an electronic ticket sales system & has welcomed some new ticket sales volunteers. But we can still use more help taking and processing ticket orders. Basic duties include: answering phone calls (received via our #877 number); processing ticket sales using your home computer and/or the box office computer; staffing the box office during performances. Requirements: A computer with Internet access. Cable or DSL is preferable. If interested or just want to know more about how this works, please contact Mary Kozlowski at 253-2859 or [skozlow1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:skozlow1@nycap.rr.com).

\*WILL TRAIN\* NO PRIOR TICKET SALES EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

## 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 Concr. 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. 42 Issue No. 1** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT will be Wed., July 16, 2008. Issue No. 1 will be mailed by (approx.) Aug. 1, 2008.

Please submit articles to Dave Dixon at  
[luvsbabs@yahoo.com](mailto:luvsbabs@yahoo.com) or  
4 Hall Pl., Apt B, Albany, NY 12210

# BOARD ELECTION BIOS

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## Adam Coons

Adam Coons is very excited to be running for SLOC's Board of Directors. Adam has appeared in nine shows with SLOC. Most recently he has appeared in *Anything Goes*. He was also been seen in *Hello Dolly!* (TANYS award with Eric Shovah), *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (TANYS award), *Grease*, *Babes in Arms*, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. He has worked on various projects behind the scenes including Props, Set Construction, Film Editing, Usher, House Manager, and attended many strikes. Adam will be taking his first swing at directing this summer with *Footloose* with Colonie Youth Theater. Adam has worked with various Community Theater Groups in the Capital Region including ACT, Cohoes Music Hall, Upstage Productions, Proctor's, and Spotlight Players. If elected, he would like to start a designated Strike Committee. This committee would be charged with all necessary aspects of a strike (i.e. Taurus Rd runs, tearing down sets, cleaning the theater). He would also continue to support the implication of a SLOC Youth Program. Adam has been an active member of SLOC for the past two years. Thank you for your consideration.

## Robert C. Farquharson

Thank you for electing me to the Board two years ago. Time does fly, especially when we are so busy. And busy is just what this current Board has been. Two years ago I stated in my bio that I felt SLOC was on the threshold of stepping up a notch. I think this current Board has worked diligently towards this goal. I am excited about the possibilities for a new home for SLOC, with all or most of the functions in one location so that everyone feels more like a part of each production and the company. We have spent a lot of time looking at potential sites, having meetings, and working with the Metroplex and others to see if we can move into the arts district. This makes a lot sense for us and for the city residents. We have also created a new VP for Development to help us with SLOC's financial future, including funding a new location.

I am very honored to be the current President of SLOC and have devoted a great deal of time and effort to doing the best I can for the current and future health of the company. I think my career skills have been very helpful in being President, developing a strategic plan for the company as well as focusing on moving SLOC to a better location and facility.

I have been involved in SLOC since 1975 and worn many hats over that time including: business manager for 10 years, performer, set designer, board member and President in the 1980's. I am very committed to SLOC's future in all aspects and hope you will re-elect me to continue. Yes- I would also like to continue as President for another year. I think we are an outstanding community theater company and want to see us continue as such. Thanks for all of your support.

## Joseph Fava

Joe has previously served on the Board of Directors and as President of Schenectady Civic Players. He is currently Vice-President of Community Operations involved in finding SLOC a new location. He has directed or appeared in over 300 productions in virtually every theatre group in the area. Joe has directed *Company*, *A Little Night Music*, *1776*, *Carnival*, *Oliver*, *Funny Girl*, *Shenandoah*, and most recently *The Music Man* at Proctor's GE Theatre. He has appeared in *I Love My Wife*, *The King and I*, *Charlie Brown*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, and *Godspell*. At SCP he has directed *Cyrano*, *School for Scandal*, *Cat On a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Time of Your Life*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Private Lives*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Royal Family*, *Our Town*, and *Stage Door*. He has appeared there in several productions, most recently *Private Eyes* and *The Fantasticks*. Elsewhere, he has directed *Follies*, *Three Tall Women*, *The Fifth of July*, and *Side by Side by Sondheim*. Next season, he will be directing *Moonlight and Magnolias* for SCP and *Assassins* for SLOC.

## Kate Kaufman-Burns

I have been proud to be a member of SLOC Musical Theater since the fall of 1990 after appearing in my first SLOC show, *Sing for Your Supper*, a musical revue by Rogers & Hart. It was a pleasure to appear 17 years later in December of this past year in a similar show, *Beguiled Again*, another nostalgic Rogers & Hart revue, and to reflect on my history with the company. Having performed both on stage as an actor and off-stage as a musical director for the past 17 years, I have developed a profound appreciation of the company, a deeper understanding of its purpose, and recognition of the established goals for the future. I have co-owned the title of Vice President of Artistic Operations in the past and have coordinated rehearsal accompaniment for the company over the years. Most recently, I work directly with the VP of Artistic Operations as the company's Outreach Coordinator and am enjoying opportunities to bridge the gap between SLOC and the community at large.

When not busy in musical theater, I work as the Executive Director of my own adoption agency, "Adoption Resources & Counseling Center", a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Creating business plans, organizing fund raising events, initiating networking and marketing projects, evaluating short and long-term goals, and ensuring fiscal viability are just some of the tasks that my role requires. Many of these experiences and skills are directly applicable to becoming a productive member of the board of directors at SLOC – especially as it continues to move forward and anticipates exciting new growth and development in the near future.

I would be happy to be one of the many at SLOC who make a difference by sharing time, skills, experiences, and most importantly, a collective passion for providing quality musical theater in our immediate and surrounding communities.

## BOARD ELECTION BIOS (CONTINUED)

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### Michael C. Mensching

I have been working with SLOC for over 10 years now and have acted in, directed, or produced 9 shows with the company. I have also served the board and the membership as a past president of the company. I bring a wealth of experience through my past tenure with the board and my services as Vice President of Spotlight Players. I feel that the company is growing and in need of some direction. As SLOC is close to my heart I feel that I want to be part of that journey.

### Brett Putnam

Over the past twelve years, I have served SLOC as a member of the Board of Directors, Vice-President of Technical Operations, four-time Producer, and SLOC's Business Manager. I currently manage SLOC's financial assets, and I am a member of the new facility planning committee. I am committed to the long-term financial health of SLOC and to the cultivation of benefactors and business sponsors to this wonderful community organization. My other goals for the coming years are to enhance volunteerism, particularly in the technical departments, and to improve SLOC's role as a major cultural center in Schenectady. I would very much like to again serve on the Board of Directors, and I pledge to focus my volunteer theatre efforts exclusively in the service of SLOC.

### Sherri Strichman

Sherri Strichman, a native of Schenectady, is an elementary school music teacher with 3 choirs by day; a singer and music director by evening and during the summers. At SLOC she appeared as Yum Yum in the *Mikado* (1998), and music directed *Sullivan & Gilbert* (2006). She has been active as a soloist with many local groups, including Opera Excelsior (OE), Not So Common Players, Capital Hill Choral Society, Octavos and Burnt Hills Choral Society. She has sung chorus with NYC Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Lake George Opera Company; performed with Schenectady Civic Players and Forces Creative (Saratoga). She has been music director for a production of *Pirates of Penzance* and branched out into the musical theater repertoire with *They're Playing Our Song*, and SLOC's 2009 production of *Assassins*. She has worked backstage, and run lights for productions at Opera Excelsior. She would like an opportunity to use her 30-plus years of musical experience to serve Schenectady's premier musical theater organization as it continues to grow into a new home.



## ELECTION INFO AND ABSENTEE BALLOTS

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### June is Bustin' Out All Over! Saturday, June 7, 2007 at 6:00pm Annual Meeting!

Come join our Board President, Board of Directors, VP's & fellow members & friends and celebrate the end of an incredibly successful 81st season!

\*Sat., June 7th at 6pm (at the Opera House) is our  
ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER/MEETING

Agenda includes: SLOC members elect Board members, Strategic Plan presented, potential relocation updates, potential updates following *Thoroughly Modern Millie's* auditions, President/VP annual reports, LOTS of fun and laughs. We hope members will attend so we have the quorum required to elect members to the open Board seats.

Please RSVP to Michele Sausa-Gatta, 377-1905. Please confirm with her what item you'd like to share (entree, salad, or dessert) and how many members will attend. Soda, bottled water, coffee and tea will be provided.



**\*\*WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE\*\***  
SATURDAY, JUNE 7th - 6pm

### Absentee Ballots Available

A member qualifying as a Voting Member shall be entitled to personally request one (1) absentee ballot from the Secretary. The request must be made at least two (2) days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Secretary will provide the ballot and a covering envelope with instructions to vote for five (5) candidates. The ballot **must** be marked, sealed in the covering envelope which **must** be signed by the voter on the outside, and returned to the Secretary prior to the Annual Meeting. Any absentee ballots received after the voting process has commenced during the Annual Meeting, or in an unsigned covering envelope shall be declared void. Please contact Secretary Melinda Zarnoch at 382-8497 to obtain an absentee ballot.



## Did You Know...

... The first show in our current 826 State St. address was *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*. Now that we are in the midst of searching for a new home, it is making its return to the SLOC stage in January of 2009.

... SLOC was formed in 1926 when a group of Van Corlaer and Draper alumni joined together to "present short plays containing songs and comedy acts."

... Our Etta Moore award is named after Mrs. Etta Moore, a music teacher from Schenectady, who first directed SLOC's group, then known as the Bellevue Young People's Chorus.

... The first Gilbert and Sullivan piece presented by the company was *Trial by Jury* in 1933. The first Rodger's and Hammerstein piece was *Carousel* in 1955.

... Next season includes four company premiers: *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Seussical: the Musical*, *Assassins*, and *The Scarlet Pimpernel*.

... SLOC has had a variety of performing venues, including the our current building at 826 State St., Proctors, Mont Pleasant High School, Burnt Hills High School, Niskyuna High School, and the GE Blackbox Theater.

... The 826 State Street address was formerly the Beth Israel Synagogue.

## USHERS WANTED 2008-2009 Season

SLOC has been expanding its usher volunteer list but we still have space available just for you! Duties include: handing out playbills, seating patrons, serving concessions (intermission) & straightening the theater after the show. Head Usher could assign other duties based on the performance's needs. Please email Becky Straight (Usher Chair) at [SLOCushers@hotmail.com](mailto:SLOCushers@hotmail.com) if you are interested in ushering or have any questions. No prior experience necessary - Let your smiling face be the first they see next season!



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## 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 [hdarcy78@hotmail.com](mailto:hdarcy78@hotmail.com).

Also! Lock in now at this year's prices for next year! Early Bird Forms are being sent out now. Get four shows for the price of five! Order early and save money!



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

Non-Profit Org.  
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Schenectady, NY  
Permit No. 120

# ~ 2008 - 2009 Season ~

**Thoroughly Modern Millie (October)**

***Seussical: The Musical (December)***

*Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*  
(January - Cabaret-Style)

**Assassins (March)**

**The Scarlet Pimpernel (May)**

Season Tickets Available Now!

To order your tickets, please call 1-877-350-7378 or visit us on the web at [www.SLOCTheater.org](http://www.SLOCTheater.org).