



# SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of  
SLOC Musical Theater  
Volume 45-3 85th Season  
November 2011

## **SLOC's Second Company Premier of the 85th Season, AIDA, opens in December!!**

427 Franklin St.  
Schenectady, NY  
1-877-350-7378

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

2011-2012 Season

Ragtime  
Oct 14-16, 20-23  
Directed by Joe Fava

Aida  
Dec 2-4, 8-11  
Directed by  
Michael Mensching

Baby  
Feb 10-12, 16-19  
Directed by Sev Moro

Fiddler on the Roof  
Mar 16-18, 22-25  
Directed by Laura Andruski

Hairspray  
May 11-13, 17-20  
Directed by  
Michael Gatzendorfer

Kate Kaufman Burns  
President

Board of Directors  
Kate Kaufman Burns  
Tom Della Sala  
Robert Farquharson  
Jane Figueroa  
Michael Gatzendorfer  
Sev Moro  
Doug Peek  
Brett Putnam  
Nancy Stone

Next Newsletter  
Deadline:  
Friday,  
November 25

Schenectady Light Opera Company is proud to present the Capital District Community Theater premiere of Elton John's *AIDA*, under the direction of Michael Mensching. *AIDA* features music composed by pop legend Elton John and lyrics by Tim Rice, who wrote the lyrics for hit shows like *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Evita*. *AIDA* has incredibly notable songs as "Written in the Stars", "My Strongest Suit", and "Elaborate Lives", among others.

We are honored to have some of the best talent in the capital region, with Dashira Cortes in the title role, Nick Abounader as Radames and Maggie Ecker as Amneris. Rounding out the cast is local magician Jeffrey Jene as Zoser, local area favorites Brandon Jones as Mereb, Kevin McNamara as Pharaoh, Emmett Ferris as Amonasro and Jennifer Payeur as Nehebka. The brilliant choreography by Gregory Theodore Marsh features an exceptional dance team in multiple roles. The music, under direction of Jason Dashew, will be raised to a new level with the addition of a luminous 24 person Egyptian chorus.

"I'm delighted to return to SLOC, after we had the honor of opening the new theater last year, with *Drowsy Chaperone*," says Mike Mensching. "This is an exciting production to helm at SLOC, as I have the opportunity to work with many new members on the creative team, and introduce a lot of new people to the SLOC creative community. This is the kind of show that will appeal to a wide range of our local arts audience, and most especially to people who are familiar with Elton John's musical contributions to Broadway— *The Lion King* and *Billy Elliot*. I encourage all SLOC members to talk up this show and sell tickets.... you won't be disappointed!"

Set in ancient Egypt, the story focuses on the Nubian princess, Aida, who is captured by an Egyptian captain, Radames. He saves her from a life of hard labor by giving her as a handmaiden to the Egyptian princess Amneris, his future bride. Amneris and Aida become close friends, even as Radames and Aida secretly fall in love. When this dangerous love triangle clashes with a plot to kill the Pharaoh, it shakes the ancient world to its core. A tale of love, loyalty and betrayal, *AIDA* is ultimately the story of three people who are forced to make difficult choices for love, choices that will alter the course of history forever.

*AIDA* is scheduled to be performed December 2-3, 8-10 at 8 pm and Dec. 4 and 11 at 2 pm. Tickets are available at the Box Office by calling 1-877-350-7378 or on-line at <http://www.sloctheater.org/season-AIDA.html>

Part Broadway musical, part dance spectacular and part rock concert, *AIDA* is a story about the power and timelessness of love.

Don't miss *AIDA*! Contact our Box Office very soon!

### **AIDA Factoids**

\**AIDA* is based upon Verdi's Italian Language Opera by the same name.

\*The musical originated from the children's story book version of Verdi's opera written by the Soprano Leontyne Price.

\**AIDA* won four 2000 TONY Awards including Best Musical Score and Best Performance by a Leading Actress, Heather Headley (Headley also won the Drama Desk Award for the same category).

\*TIME MAGAZINE(2000) named *AIDA* one of the top ten theatre productions of the year.

\*Grammy Award - Best Musical Show Album.

## President's Notes... by Kate Kaufman Burns

Dear Friends,

A heartfelt "thank you" to the talented cast and crew of *RAGTIME*, a sensational opening performance of our *Season to Remember*. With sold out performances, standing ovations, stunning vocals, compelling character portrayals, and a production team devoted to a successful outcome, *RAGTIME* set the perfect tone for more extraordinary performances to come. Special thanks to Joe Fava, Michelle Sausa-Gatta, Jane Figueroa, Mike Gatzendorfer, Andrea Merrill, and all of the production team and crew members who helped to deliver such a beautiful theatrical product. I am also pleased to report that four of the cast members have decided to officially join our company. Each new volunteer, member, patron, and audience member makes a difference – a warm welcome to all!

Behind the scenes, the Board has been busy as well. One of the new administrative initiatives recently established is our Executive Committee, comprised of the Board's President and Vice President, Executive Director, pro bono legal counsel and past President(s). The Executive Committee will help to streamline organizational communication and resolve day-to-day operational management issues with greater efficiency.

In the coming months, we will launch a new marketing initiative that will take show publicity and all our other marketing efforts to the next level. We are reviewing resumes from qualified people interested in the part-time events coordinator position, a contracted position that will be "self-funded" from a portion of revenues from new events and facility rentals.

The Semi-Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2012, at the new SLOC Performing Arts Center located at 427 Franklin Street, in the Cabaret Room, starting at 6:00 p.m. We plan to keep our pot-luck tradition going and ask that if you are able to bring an entree or dessert, please RSVP by Wednesday, January 25th to Dave Dixon at [luvsbabs@yahoo.com](mailto:luvsbabs@yahoo.com) or 436-8295. Please let Dave know what entree or dessert item you can contribute and how many people will be attending. If you can, we'd appreciate if you could provide your own serving utensils. Water, sodas & coffee/tea will be provided. We hope to have some entertainment performed by some of SLOC's finest, and we look forward to announcing our 2012-2013 SLOC Season as well as updating everyone on new administrative initiatives and company goals.

Up next is the four-time Tony Award Winning Musical (2000), *AIDA*, directed by Michael Mensching opening December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. Treat yourself, your family and friends to a new kind of holiday magic at SLOC this year where it is "*Written in the Stars*" that this will be another brilliant moment in a *Season to Remember*.

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE - Play a Part....

Having recently surpassed the \$1 million mark in our Capital Campaign, we are now within reach of our phase one goal of \$1.2 million. Consider playing a part in our most important production to date by donating to the Capital Campaign. Pledges can be planned over five years, and all donations over \$500 will receive permanent recognition in the new lobby. Learn more about the project and donate online at [slocheater.org](http://slocheater.org) OR call SLOC at 1-877-350-7378 and leave a message for the Committee. Someone will gladly contact you & assist you in making a pledge. Every donation and every dollar is making our dream a reality. Thank you.

### Welcome to: "Archives Avenue"

Created by Alan Angelo

What was first show that the company produced, as Schenectady Light Opera Company? (Hint: It was a Gilbert & Sullivan show.)

Answer in Next Issue

Here are the answers to last issue's TRIVIA questions:

1. What year was the Schenectady Light Opera Company founded?  
*FOUNDED in 1926; RENAMED in 1936*
2. What was the original name of the company?  
*BELLEVUE YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHORUS*
3. Who founded the company?  
*ETTA MOORE*
4. Name one show between the years 1941-1946?  
*THERE WERE NO SHOWS(due to WWII). IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE REASONABLE ASSUMPTION FOR THIS SITUATION WAS THAT THERE WAS A SHORTAGE OF MEN.*

### SLOC Spotlight

SLOC Spotlight is the newsletter of SLOC Musical Theater, a community volunteer musical theater arts incorporated non-profit 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, N.Y.

Newsletter Staff: Dave Dixon, Thomas Dalton Bambury and Greg Rucinski. To become a member(members receive the newsletter) please contact us: [www.slocheater.org](http://www.slocheater.org); 1-877-350-7378.

**DEADLINE** for submissions to **Vol. 45, Issue #4** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Friday, November 25, 2011**. Approximate mailing date for Issue #4 is December 5, 2011.

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

## JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP --- RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

The number of SLOC Members is consistently increasing following each newsletter mailing! Thank you for your support! This is very encouraging!

Annual Dues became payable on July 1, 2011 but it is never too late to join us!

Please send your check to:

SLOC  
PO Box 1006  
Schenectady, NY 12301-1006

Have you been receiving e mail notices and communications from SLOC? If not, we need your current e mail address? Please send it to: nzstone@aol.com.

Paid SLOC Members receive the SPOT-LIGHT Newsletter. If you would prefer the newsletter emailed, please let Dave Dixon know(luvsbabs@yahoo.com). If you know of a current member who is not receiving the newsletter, please let Dave know.

## SLOC Membership Application

In order to become a voting member of Schenectady Light Opera Company, within the last two years you must have participated on a Company committee, participated in a company production or event, or volunteered time to the benefit of the company as determined by the Board or its designee. In addition you must pay dues of \$10.00 per year. Dues are owed from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. To remain a voting member you must participate in a qualifying activity at least once every two years.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address and Apt # \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

How have you qualified for membership in SLOC? Include the nature of the commitment including the production or event or volunteer activity and the approximate date.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

Activity/ Approximate Date

2) \_\_\_\_\_

Activity/ Approximate Date

3) \_\_\_\_\_

Activity/ Approximate Date

4) \_\_\_\_\_

Activity/ Approximate Date

With your application please submit a Check for \$10.00 for dues made out to SLOC and Mail to: SLOC; PO Box 1006; Schenectady NY 12301-1006

## RAGTIME received accolades from our local media!!

\*\*Highlighted congratulations from Michael Eck (*The Albany Times Union*) & Paul Lamarr (*The Schenectady Gazette*) included:

"The current production of the play makes good on much of the promise of the script and score, with a strong leading cast and a huge ensemble doing their work on a bare stage." - *TIMES UNION*

"If you've not seen RAGTIME before, do take the opportunity. It's an important entry in the American Musical Theatre canon, and (Joe) Fava and company are making it shine." - *TIMES UNION*

"...a trip to SLOC's successful production of "RAGTIME" is in order: it's thought provoking as well as entertaining." - *THE GAZETTE*

"..the show is nearly sung through, but these performers have the chops to negotiate a long and demanding night....they also look period perfect in costumes..." - *THE GAZETTE*

"...the rear-wall projections of black-and-white photos from the turn of the century beautifully complement the action on stage." - *THE GAZETTE*

CONGRATULATIONS to the cast & crew!! Thank you to our members & community theatre supporters who came to see RAGTIME - SLOC is glad you were a part of our success! RAGTIME production dates were October 14-16; 20-23, 2011

## BABY AUDITIONS continued from p. 4

Here is a partial character breakdown with ages and vocal ranges:

**Danny Hooper** (Male, Late teens-Mid 20s) (Tenor) – Young, idealistic musician. Wants to do the right thing in his new role as a father.

**Lizzie Fields** (Female, Late teens-Mid 20s) (Mezzo) – Young, extremely independent student and, soon-to-be, new mom.

**Alan McNally** (Male, Mid 40s-Early 50s) (Baritone) – College administrator, married to Arlene, with a new "surprise" on the way.

**Arlene McNally** (Female, Mid 40s-Early 50s) (Mezzo) – Married to Alan. Experiencing "empty nest" until a new "surprise" changes everything.

**Pam Sakarian** (Female, Late 20s-Late 30s) (Mezzo) – Slightly neurotic and married to Nick. Wants to be a mother more than anything in the world.

**Nick Sackarian** (Male, Late 20s – Late 30s) (Baritone) – A coach. Married to Pam. His sense of humor gets he and his wife through the struggles of trying to become parents.

In addition, an **Ensemble** of approximately 6-10 males and females will be cast to play a variety of different characters, with ages ranging from college age and up.

E-mail or call Sev Moro at sevmoro@hotmail.com or 698-7430 with any questions. The production team looks forward to seeing you at auditions!!



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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Mark your Calendars!  
Remaining AUDITION DATES  
for 2011-2012 Season**

**BABY**

**November 14 & 15, 2011 - 7pm**

**FIDDLER ON THE ROOF**

**January 2 & 3, 2012 - 7pm**

**HAIRSPRAY**

**February 20 & 21, 2012 - 7pm**

**Non-Profit Org.  
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Albany, NY  
Permit #767**

## **SLOC Will Soon Be Hearing The Pitter Patter Of Little Feet!! We're so proud to announce ...Auditions for *BABY*!**

**Audition Dates:** November 14 and 15 (Callbacks November 16, if necessary) Sign in begins at 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Schenectady Light Opera Company, 427 Franklin Street, Schenectady, NY

**Performance Dates & Times:** February 10-12 and 16-19, 2012 (Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8p.m./ Sunday at 2 p.m.)

**Director:** Sev Moro    **Assistant Director:** Jane Figueroa

**Musical Director:** Nathan Meredith    **Producers:** Michael Gatzendorfer & Sandy McCarthy

### **ABOUT THE SHOW:**

Is there anything more exciting, frightening and utterly transformational than impending parenthood?

*"Baby"* tells the story of three couples on a university campus as they deal with the painful, rewarding and agonizingly funny consequences of this universal experience. There are the college students, barely at the beginning of their adult lives; the thirty-somethings, having trouble conceiving but determined to try; and the middle aged parents, looking forward to seeing their last child graduate from college when a night of unexpected passion lands them back where they started.

With a book by Sybille Pearson, the original production, nominated for 7 Tony Awards and 6 Drama Desk Awards (winning two), hit Broadway in 1983. Performers included Liz Callaway, Beth Fowler, and future screenwriter Todd Graff (*Used People, The Beautician and the Beast*). The writers, Richard Maltby, Jr. (lyricist of *Miss Saigon* and *The Pirate Queen*) and David Shire (Academy Award-winning composer of "It Goes Like It Goes" from *Norma Rae*) have created numerous on- and off-Broadway shows, including *Big, Closer Than Ever, Starting Here, Starting Now* and *Take Flight*.

SLOC originally "delivered *"Baby"* in 1991.

### **AUDITION INFORMATION:**

Auditioners should come prepared, with sheet music, to sing 16 bars of music, not necessarily from the show. An accompanist will be provided. *There will be no a capella singing.* In addition, auditioners may be asked to read from the script and, possibly, participate in a simple movement audition. Please wear comfortable clothing.

*(Character breakdown continued on page 3)*