

SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of
SLOC Musical Theater
Volume 45-5 85th Season
January 2012

hairspray

— BROADWAY'S BIG FAT MUSICAL COMEDY HIT —

Welcome to the 60's

Auditions: February 20th and 21st at 7:00pm
Callback (if necessary): February 22nd at 7:00pm

Audition/Callback Location: NEW THEATRE - 427 Franklin St. Schenectady, NY

Director- **Michael Gatzendorfer**; Producers- **Jane Figueroa and Joanne Dame Peal**;
Music Director- **Ming Aldrich-Gan**; Choreographer- **Gregory Theodore Marsh**

Performance Dates: May 11th- 13th and May 17th-20th

Those auditioning should prepare to sing 16-32 bars of music and bring the sheet music. An accompanist will be provided. No monologue necessary. Selected actors will read directly from the script. In addition, there will be a dancing segment and we ask that you show up in appropriate clothes to dance in (no boots, no sandals, no jeans, etc.). Due to the nature of the show about 95% of the cast should expect to dance at some point.

HAIRSPRAY delighted audiences by sweeping them away to 1960's Baltimore, where the 50's are out — and change is in the air! Loveable plus-size heroine, Tracy Turnblad, has a passion for dancing, and wins a spot on the local TV dance program, "The Corny Collins Show." Overnight she finds herself transformed from outsider to teen celebrity. Can a larger-than-life adolescent manage to vanquish the program's reigning princess, integrate the television show, and find true love (singing and dancing all the while, of course!) without mussing her hair?

Character Descriptions:

Tracy Turnblad A pleasantly plump teenager with a big heart who has dreams of being a dancing star ... as soon as she's out of detention for her big hair. Tracy isn't afraid to be herself and stand up for what she believes in. She must be friendly, relentless, and goodhearted with a vibrant, lovable personality and love to sing and dance. Tracy is on stage for a LOT of the show so she must have stamina and talent – she performs in 10+ numbers including "Good Morning Baltimore," "I Can Hear The Bells," and many more! It is truly a BIG role! Mezzo Belt Stage Age: 16-19

Edna Turnblad Tracy's kind, plus sized mother; runs a laundry business out of her home but hasn't been out in a while. Played by Harvey Fierstein on Broadway, and John Travolta in the movie, this drag role requires a strong comic male performer who is ready for his inner woman to take the spotlight Edna is not a man pretending to be a

woman, she is all woman! Just, you know, with a distinctive voice. Performs in 5+ numbers including "You're Timeless To Me." Tenor. Stage Age: 40+

Wilbur Turnblad Tracy's goofy father, who owns the Har De Har Hut joke shop and is still madly in love with his wife, Edna. He encourages Tracy to follow her dreams. Performs in 2+ numbers including "You're Timeless To Me." Baritone. Stage Age: 40+

Corny Collins the exciting, confident dancing and singing host of his own TV dance show. Corny is in favor of Tracy with racial integration. Performs in 4+ numbers including "Nicest Kids In Town" and "Hairspray." Tenor. Stage Age: 25+

Penny Pingleton Tracy's slightly dorky, but lovable best friend who is often by her side (when not grounded for life by her mother, Prudy). Falls head over heels for Seaweed. Performs in 4+ numbers including "Mama, I'm A Big Girl Now" and "Without Love." Belt. Stage Age: 16-19

Amber von Tussle bratty, selfish resident princess of The Corny Collins Show. Her mother's daughter through and through, she is willing to do anything to win the Miss Teenage Hairspray pageant. Council Member. Performs in 7+ numbers including "Cooties." Belt. Stage Age: 16-19

Velma von Tussle – Amber's slim and attractive but overbearing mother who pushes her daughter to seek stardom. Velma is the scheming producer of The Corny Collins Show who tries to steer it in the "white" direction. Her sensitivities are offended at the very sight of Tracy. A great villainess role. Performs in 4+ numbers including "Miss Baltimore Crabs". Belt. Stage Age: 40+

Link Larkin Teenage heartthrob, aspiring young Elvis, and male lead dancer on The Corny Collins Show. Falls in love with Tracy (Amber is sooooo jealous!). Council Member. Performs in 7+ numbers including "It Takes Two." Crooning Baritone. Stage Age: 16-21

Seaweed J. Stubbs Motormouth Maybelle's son and a talented dancer on The Corny Collins Show, but only allowed on "Negro Day." Ends up in detention with Tracy. Falls in love with Penny. Performs in 4+ numbers including "Run And Tell That." Tenor. Stage Age: 16-19

(continued on page three)

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

Web Site:
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:
Monday,
February 27, 2012

President's Notes... by Kate Kaufman Burns

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! And what an exciting year it promises to be for all of us at SLOC. We've taken a very careful and deliberate look at the process by which we select shows for any given season. We've created new timelines, as well as short and long-term goals, that increase the interace between the Show Recommendation Committee and the Board of Directors at critical points during the process. We are also looking carefully into the way in which our season is publicly announced and marketed in the larger community in order to ultimately fulfill our mission of providing quality musical theater. We have dedicated a special Board meeting for the final discussions related to show selection, and I am pleased to report that this year was particularly successful under the skilled leadership of Jane Figueroa, our Show Recommendation Chairperson. As always, it is a delicate balance trying to create a season that features musicals that speak to the hearts of our long-time members and audience-goers while also serves to compete effectively within the larger Capital Region theater community where so many entertainment options are now readily available. As always, we welcome your feedback as to how we are doing in this area, and we look forward to your continued support in the remainder of this season and our exciting new season to come. Our 2012-2013 season will be announced at our Semi-Annual Meeting on January 28th.

I am very pleased to announce that we had the kick off meeting of our new Marketing and Publicity Team on January 8, 2012, and we are ready to launch new initiatives in these vital areas of communication. Thanks to Matt Teichner, Amanda Jo Marshall, John Samatulski, Tara Burnham and Jonathan Pate for their meaningful participation at this pivotal meeting. In our next newsletter and at our semi-annual meeting this month, I look forward to introducing our talented new team of leaders who include: Tara Burnham, our new Director of Marketing and current marketing professional with Media Logic; and Jonathan Pate, our new Publicity Coordinator who comes to us with a long experience of work with professional venues as NYC's Carnegie Hall and the Berkshire Theater Company. We also welcome Amanda Jo Marshall to the position of Events Coordinator at SLOC and feel confident that she will round off our new leadership team with energy and enthusiasm.

I look forward to talking to all of you in greater detail about the new programmatic initiatives and the growth of our organization over the past six months at our semi-annual meeting on January 28, 2012. In the meantime, don't forget to secure your tickets for **Baby** which opens on February 10, 2012. **Baby** is a musical with a book by Sybille Pearson, based on a story developed with Susan Yankowitz, music by David Shire, and lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr. Join in the lives of three couples in the story as they experience the emotional stresses and triumphs, the desperate lows and the comic highs, that accompany the anticipation and arrival of a baby. Directed by Sev Moro, this is a show that is meant to touch the heart of every audience goer in ways expected and unexpected. Don't miss it!

With Sincere Sympathy

The SLOC family send our prayers and caring thoughts to former board member, and current/longtime member and performer, Judi Merriam and her family (husband, Brian, & children, Tyler and Kalina) on the sudden passing of their 18 year old son and brother, Jenson, on December 23, 2011. Jenson accompanied his mother to many SLOC productions. Jenson was a vital member of the cast and crew of our production of BEGUILED AGAIN (January, 2008). Cards of sympathy may be sent to Judi and the family: 1043 Ardsley Road; Schenectady, NY 12308-3011.

Welcome to: "Archives Avenue"

Created by Alan Angelo

Who played Marion Paroo in SLOC's 1983 version of The Music Man?
Where was this show produced(what theatre?)
Answers in our next issue.

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

Question: "Where was the location of SLOC's first "Opera House?"

Answer: The Old Craig School. (Note: Alan Angelo drove by recently & did not see it anymore, there is construction going on.)

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.sloctheater.org; 1-877-350-7378.

DEADLINE for submissions to **Vol. 45, Issue #6** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Monday, February 27, 2012**. Approximate mailing date for Issue #6 is Wednesday, March 7, 2012.

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

WITH LONG AWAITED JOY, WE ANNOUNCE THE BIRTH OF... **BABY, the Musical!**

BABY, with book by Sybille Pearson, based on a story developed with Susan Yankowitz, music by David Shire, and lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr., will open at SLOC on Friday, February 10, 2012!! The long-awaited bundle of joy will be delivered February 10-11 and 16-18 at 8:00 p.m. and February 12 and 19 at 2:00p.m.

This heartwarming musical opened on Broadway in 1983 and had its SLOC premiere in 1991. In fact, this BABY's Director, Sev Moro, and cast member, Ed Graham, were part of the original 1991 cast.

BABY tells the story of three couples on a university campus as they deal with the painful, rewarding and agonizingly funny consequences of expecting a child. Lexi Rabadi and Frank Archina are Lizzie and Danny, college students, barely at the beginning of their adult lives, whose future plans have taken a sudden alternative path, Amanda Jo Marshall and Michael Bellotti portray, Pam and Nick Sakarian, the thirty-somethings who are having trouble conceiving but are determined to keep trying. Karen Kolterman and SLOC's 1991 "Nick", Ed Graham, portray Alan and Arlene McNalley, the empty nesters whose night of unexpected passion lands them back where they started. Rounding out this multi-talented cast are Peter Caracappa, Mary Darcy, Bob Farquharson, Jane Figueroa, Shelby Hoehne, Zack McKeeby, Anna Starr, Janice Walz and Seana Munson.

Working hard behind the scenes are: Director – Sev Moro, Assistant Director – Jane Figueroa, Director Intern – Grace McCarthy, Choreographer – Christine Marcella, Producer – Michael Gatzendorfer, Assistant Producer – Sandy McCarthy, Music Director – Nathan Meredith, Vocal Coach/Audition Accompanist – Jess Crisci, Production Stage Manager – Kathy Schechtman, Costume Designer – Susan Preiss, Lighting Designer – Matthew Teichner, Lighting Technician – Bob Healey, Projections – Michael Gatzendorfer, Scenic Designer – Doug Peek, Sound Designer – Erik Keating, Hair Designer – Joseph Austin Kennedy, Make-up Designer – Marcia Lenehan, Props – Maryann and Joe Concra, Board Liaison – Bob Farquharson and Publicity Coordinator – Thomas Bambury.

Director, Sev Moro, told us, "I've had a love affair with BABY since I played "Danny" in SLOC's 1991 production. It's time to retell the story. Audiences will be extremely moved by this piece and will be able to relate to each of these characters and their real-life experiences. The cast and crew are overwhelmingly talented and, together, they masterfully bring this story to life. I couldn't be prouder of our team." He also offered this advice, "You may want to bring tissues."

Tickets for "Baby" are \$18, \$22 and \$28 and are on sale now at the Box Office, or by calling 1-877-350-7378. Tickets may also be purchased, on-line, at www.sloctheater.org.

HAIRSPRAY continued

Motormouth Maybelle the sassy Corny Collins "Negro Day" DJ. Owner of a record store and mother to Seaweed and Little Inez. Plus sized, she helps Edna find pride in herself. Performs in 3+ numbers including "Big, Blonde & Beautiful" and "I Know Where I've Been." Soulful Alto. Stage age 40+

Little Inez – Seaweed's little sister and just as talented a dancer. Tries to audition for The Corny Collins Show but is turned away by Velma because Little Inez is black. Performs in 3+ numbers including "Run And Tell That." Belt. Stage Age: 13-15

The Dynamites Judine, Kamilah, and Shayna – Talented black vocal trio a la The Supremes. Featured in many numbers together and usually in tight harmony. May double for other ensemble roles like 'Cindy Watkins,' etc. Stage Age: 25+

Council Members Tammy, Brad, Fender, Brenda, Sketch, Shelley, IQ, Lou Ann – Dancers and singers on The Corny Collins Show. Perform in 5+ numbers including "Nicest Kids In Town" and "You Can't Stop The Beat." Stage Age: 16-19

Other Students Gilbert, Duane, Lorraine, Stooie, Thad – Kids we find in detention, and most in Motormouth Maybelle's record shop. Perform in 4+ numbers including "Welcome to the 60's" and "You Can't Stop The Beat." Stage Age: 16-19

Female Authority Figure – The roles of Prudy Pingleton (Penny's uptight mother), the sadistic gym teacher, and the prison matron are often played by one cameo performer. Stage Age: 40+

Male Authority Figure – The roles of Harriman F. Spritzer (President of Ultra Clutch cosmetics, Corny Collins show sponsor), the high blood pressure principal, and Mr. Pinky (owner of a plus sized dress shop) are often played by one cameo performer. Stage Age: 40+

For additional information, please contact the director Michael Gatzendorfer at gatzendorfer@gmail.com

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF Cast Announced

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF is a musical with music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, and book by Joseph Stein, set in Tsarist Russia in 1905. It is based on *Tevey and his Daughters (or Tevey the Milkman and Other Tales)* by Sholem Aleichem. The story centers on Tevey, the father of five daughters, and his attempts to maintain his family and Jewish religious traditions while outside influences encroach upon their lives.

He must cope with his three strong-willed daughters—each one's choice of husband moves further away from the customs of his faith—and with the edict of the Tsar that evicts the Jews from their village. SLOC is proud to present this production March 16-18 and 22-25, 2012.

Director, Laura W. Andruski, says, "I am looking forward to working with the incredibly talented cast of *Fiddler on the Roof*. I find myself particularly connected to the show, as the characters find themselves leaving their home, uncertain with what the future holds, but knowing there is a strong binding tradition holding them together. Likewise, I will be moving from the home I love, the Capital District, to a new and unfamiliar place after the closing of this production."

After an overwhelming audition turnout, Laura and her production team proudly announce the 2012 *Fiddler on the Roof* Cast! Tevey- Joe Phillips, Golde- Amy Birchler, Tzeitel- Amanda Contrupi, Hodel- Meighan Esmond, Chava-Virginia Reed, Shprintze-Anna Stoneman, Bielke-Stefani DeFronzo, Yente-Debbie May, Motel-David DiPaola, Perchik-Paul Dederick, Lazar Wolf-Rick Reed, Rabbi-Ray Burns, Grandma Tzeitel-Sherry Strichtmen, Fruma-Sarah-Judi Merriam, Fyedka- Jimmy Pierce, Sasha-Jake Rafferty, Russian Priest-Bill Sanderson, Constable-Marc Destefano, Russian Soloist- Bobby Ruggles and Shanidel- Melissa Putterman-Hoffman.

Talents rounding out the cast as "Papas, Mamas, Daughters and Sons" include: Papas- Bill Depew, John Birchler, John Fowler, Bill McColl and Jonathan Riven; Mamas- Mary Beth Hampshire, Anne Gallagher, Margot Phillips, Chris DeCarlo and Kara DiCaterino; Sons- Henry DiMaria, Eric Morte, Zach Hecht-Levitt, Chad Miller, Jackie Smith and Carly Anders and as Daughters- Julie Singer, Heather Swallow, Maureen Gallagher, Lauren Dicoco and Kayla Wheeler.

Working hard behind the scenes of "*Fiddler*" are: Director – Laura W. Andruski, Music Director Elizabeth Sears, Producer/Choreographer – Sara E. Fittizzi, Production Stage Manager – Elise Charlebois, Costume Designer – Debbie Lummis, Scenic Designer – Peter Kantor, Lighting Designer – Nick Webb, Lighting Operator- Robert Healey, Sound Operator- Jonathan Janssen, Make-up Designer – Marcia Lenehan and Board Liaison – Kate Kaufman Burns.

Tickets for "*Fiddler*" are \$22 and \$28 and are on sale now at the Box Office, or by calling 1-877-350-7378. Tickets may also be purchased, online, at www.sloctheater.org



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark your Calendars!
**SEMI-ANNUAL
POTLUCK DINNER MEETING**
Saturday, January 28, 2012 - 6pm
RSVP by Wednesday, January 25, 2012

DUE DATE for MEMBERSHIP DUES
February 1, 2012

AUDITIONS FOR "HAIRSPRAY"
February 20 & 21, 2012 - 7pm

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Albany, NY
Permit #767

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

According to our bylaws a person shall qualify for a voting membership by at least once every 2 years participate on a company committee or participate in a company production or event, or volunteering time to the benefit of the company, as determined by the board or its designee, and having so participated, paid their dues on or before February 1st.

Upon meeting and maintaining the qualifications for membership, a member shall be eligible to vote at the June, 2012 Annual Meeting.

Listed below are all members who paid their dues PRIOR TO THE FINAL LAYOUT OF THIS NEWSLETTER. Thank you to those who paid their dues following this final newsletter layout but, with regret, did not get listed below. There will be a company representative at the 1/28/12 semi-annual meeting to collect dues or you can send your \$10./member check to SLOC: PO BOX 2006; Schenectady 12301-2006. Any membership dues questions, contact Nancy Stone, nzstone@aol.com.

Angelo, Alan
Burns, Kate
Burns, James
Burns, Ray
Bush, Eileen
Cakouros, Arji P
Casey, Patricia
Chouffi, Eunice
Clark, Lori
Clarke, Jean
Clarke, Varro
Concra, Joe
Concra, Mary Ann
Culver, Sue
Della Sala, Thomas
Depew, Bill
Depew, Jenny
Farrell, Sally
Figueroa, Jane
Foster, Allan
Foster, Lois
Fragomeni, Dolores
Fragomeni, Ron
Gatta, Richard
Gatta, Tom
Harrington-Verb, Elisa
Harrison, Chris
Harrison, Robert
Hickman, Bill
Hooker, Paul
Huntley, Winn
Julian, John

Kozlowski, Mary
Krumal, Frank
Lenehan, Marcia
Lenehan, Richard
Levey, Shirley
May, Debbie
McCull, William
Mion, Patricia
Moros, Sev
Moyer, Debra
Moyer, Howard
Parillo, Ann M
Peek, Doug
Putnam, Brett
Raab, Walter
Rayome, John
Rayome, Suzanne
Reheuser, John
Rindenello, Nina
Ryan, John W (Jack)
Salon, Corine
Sausa-Gatta, Michelle
Schechtman, Kathy
Snyder, Ross
Springstead, Florence
Sticher, Joan
Victor, Cara
Wilkinson, David
Wozny, Nancy
Zarnoch, Melinda
Zeh, Thelma
Zola, Lil

LET'S EAT and GREET!!
**Semi-Annual
Meeting/Potluck Dinner**
Saturday, January 28, 2012 - 6pm
New SLOC Performing Arts Center
427 Franklin Street, Cabaret Room

RSVP by Wednesday, Jan. 25th to:
Dave Dixon, luvsbabs@yahoo.com OR 436-8295. Please let Dave know if you'll share either a DINNER ENTREE or a DESSERT. Please let him know how many will be attending. If you can, please provide your own serving utensils & cooking pots etc. Thank you. Paper goods, water, soda and coffee/tea will be provided.

Meeting Highlights:

- *Etta Moore Award Recipient Announced
- *Updates on the Capital Campaign
- *Possible Entertainment by SLOC's finest
- *Announcement of the 2012-2013 Season

IMPORTANT NOTE: Membership dues collected(see current "paid member" list in this issue; membership dues forms provided, if needed).

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE! - January 28, 2012 at 6pm.

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT"

"On behalf of the Board of Directors at SLOC, John Samatulski our Executive Director, and Bob Harrison, our Chairperson of Fundraising & Development, we want to thank those of you who have made such generous financial donations to our organization. As we continue to track, record, and follow up on these much needed and deeply appreciated gifts, please know a personal and heartfelt acknowledgement is on its way."