



SLOC

# Spotlight

SCHENECTADY LIGHT OPERA CO. NEWSLETTER • VOL. 35-4

JANUARY, 2002

## RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL

**Ruthless!** makes its area premiere as the third gem of the Diamond Anniversary Season. Producer Brett Putnam, Director Tom Heckert and the *Ruthless!* crew have assembled a "cut throat" cast. Cast members include: Meredith Bull (Tina Denmark), Joan Horgan (Judy Denmark/Ginger DelMarco) Tom Detwiler (Sylvia St. Croix), Barb Mahlmann (Miss Thorn / Emily Block), Laurie Larsen (Eve), Gwen Fraser (Lita Encore) and Courtney Halsdorf (Louise Lerman). Also working on the production are: Andrea Merrill (Musical Director), Nicole Levesque (Production Intern/Choreographer), Marlene Coutermine (Rehearsal Secretary), Kristen Becker (Stage Manager), Mary Koslowski (Set Designer), Greg Rucinski (Lighting Designer), Pat Casey (Costume Designer), David Harrison, (Makeup Designer), Kathy Friscic (Properties), John Fowler (Hair and Wigs), Joe

Auditions for *Damn Yankees*, the last production of our Diamond Anniversary Season, will be held on February 5th and 7th 2002 with sign in beginning at 7:00 P.M. and auditions beginning promptly at 7:30 P.M. Joe Boyd, passionate fan of the Washington Senators, is tired of his

team always losing to those "Damn Yankees!" He swears he'll sell his soul to the devil for one long ball hitter. The Devil is more than happy to oblige, and transforms Joe into the ballplayer he always wanted to be. If you love baseball, seeing the underdog win, or seeing the bad guy lose, you'll love this show!

Auditioners should bring a prepared vocal selection that will showcase their vocal ability. They should also wear comfortable shoes and clothing for the dance auditions. Roles to be cast include:

**JOE BOYD** (Old Joe): Passionate sports fan., in love with his wife. Average guy. Medium Tenor, High Baritone, Age: 40-50

**MEG BOYD**: Joe's Wife. Totally in love with him, homemaker. Alto Age: 40-50 (Con't on page 3)



and Mary Ann Concra (Publicity), Melinda Zarnoch (Opening Night Party).

Opening night is March 8, 2002 and you can be sure that everyone who is anyone will be in the audience on opening night. Why not get a little *Ruthless!* yourself and call Paige at 377 - 5101 to reserve the best seats in the house now....before someone else beats you to it!



## What's Inside

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7 pm, Tuesday, January 15

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✓ Check out our Website at <http://www.sloctheater.com>



## President's Part — by Melissa Lacijan

### Melody Lingers On

The stage may be empty but the melody lingers on at the Opera House. SLOC's Irving Berlin revue was a critical and financial success for the company. Several audience members approached me during intermission to rave about the wonderful show, and to praise the talented cast. Director Orlando Pigliavento, his staff and cast are to be congratulated on a beautiful production.

### Albany League of Arts Award

SLOC has another reason to celebrate – we have been awarded a 2001 Capital Region Arts Award by the Albany/Schenectady League of Arts. Thanks to Brett Putnam's heartfelt essay, we were one of five winners chosen from 15 nominees. Several members attended the awards ceremony on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Please take the time to read excerpts from Brett's essay, printed in this issue. Thanks to Brett for an eloquent contribution!

### Show Selection

Show selection 2002-2003 is underway! We received submissions from more than 12 directors this year. Chairperson Elisa Harrington-Verb and her committee are busy reviewing the choices and hope to have Board approval of a season in time for the semi-annual meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Pot Luck/Semi Annual Meeting

If you haven't made your reservations for the semi-annual meeting and potluck supper yet, please give Michelle Sausa-Gatta a call – and remember to bring your favorite sheet music for the open mic! (See related article page 3)

### Sound Baffles

One of the hot topics at our last Board meeting was newly installed sound system. While we are

able to get more volume out of our mics than before, the structure of our theater causes so much "bounce" that articulation is lost, making it very difficult to understand the performers. Peter Codella has consulted with a sound company from Syracuse to design a baffle system for the theater to cut down on the echo. We hope to move on this project within the next year.

### Excerpts from the Essay Submission to the Albany League of Arts

For 75 years, the Schenectady Light Opera Company (SLOC) has provided high-caliber musical theater presentations to Capital District audiences. Throughout this time, the company has consistently provided to amateur actors, directors, technical craftsmen, and musicians, an opportunity to work collaboratively in a richly rewarding community theater environment. SLOC's philosophy is to aggressively and persistently encourage new people, young and old, with a broad array of interests, to come in and join our community, to audition, and to help with sets, lighting, costumes, props, or any other area of interest they might have. We work to nurture and train people who wish to improve their skills and talents as they help with our productions, and we encourage people to return again and again to participate in the amazing experience only community theater can provide.

The fundamental skills of communication, collaboration, and appreciation of chain of command are at the core of the theatrical experience. Our directors are skilled craftsmen who work with each person in the organization. They coach, cajole, and encourage their performers to stretch their conceptions, to improve their skills, and to grow in to their parts. They work closely with the designers and

technicians to bring together all of the myriad components of the theatrical presentation to produce an artistic experience which is unique, powerful, and entertaining for the audience.

There is a tremendous opportunity for people to express themselves artistically, and we seek to bring out the best in each person who works on a production. The skills and perceptions gained from experiences at SLOC can then be shared throughout the community. Tolerance, cooperation, hard work, and effective communication are attributes which extend far beyond the scope of the theatrical world. These are values which benefit an entire community.

I believe that SLOC fosters these values, and it is for this reason that I nominate this organization for a commendation by the Albany/Schenectady League of Arts.



## 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 foster light opera and related arts for the people in and around Schenectady County, NY.

Newsletter Staff: Jill Coloney, Jennifer S. Depew, Tom Heckert, Jackie Mosher, and Greg Rucinski.

Subscription Rates: \$5 per year, check payable to SLOC. Send subscription inquiries and address changes to the address listed above.

**OPERA HOUSE Phone: 393-5732**

**DEADLINE** for submissions to **Vol. 35 Issue No. 5** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is February 7, 2002. **Issue No. 4** will be mailed by February 26, 2002.

Please submit your articles to Jill Coloney at [jac12661@aol.com](mailto:jac12661@aol.com) or 92 Cooks Court, Waterford, NY 12188. If you would like help with your article, please feel free to contact any of the newsletter staff.

Membership List as of December 15, 2001

Joe Agostine	Jenny Depew	Larry Lessner*	Joan Sticher
Barbara Aldershoff	Sally Farrell	Judi Merriam	Elisa H.-Verb
Alan Angelo	Linda Fetherston	Drew Mills	Tom Watthews
Dale Atwell	Allan Foster	Ginnie Mills	Debra Weiskopf
Barbara Baehr	Marion Foster	Sev Moro*	Eric Weiskopf
Frank Blum	Dolores Fragomeni	Jackie Mosher	David Wilkinson
Vince Bonafede	Ron Fragomeni	Gioia Ottaviano	Bonnie Williams
Edwin Brown*	Gwen Fraser	Donna Panzi*	Barbara Winch*
Eileen Bush	Richard Gatta	Chris Pedersen	Nancy Wozny
Michelle Cairns*	C. Gerstenberger	Larry Pedersen	Ken Zarnoch
Jean Clarke	Della Gilman	Brett Putnam	Melinda Zarnoch
Varro Clarke	Ira Gilman	Walter Raab	Thelma Zeh
Joe Concra	Jodi Gilman	Greg Rucinski	
MaryAnn Concra	Bill Gray	Sue Rucinski	
Dale Conklin*	Bob Harrison	Ted Rucinski	
Paul Croteau	Dick Harte	Mich. Sausa-Gatta	* denotes first
Rita Croteau	Tom Heckert	Argie Serras	year membership
Aileen Decker*	Charlie Hepburn	Jane Stewart	
Tom DellaSala	Grace Hepburn	Peter Stewart	
Bill Depew	Pat LaFleur		

Yankees, Con't.

**MR. APLEGATE** (Devil): Intelligent and witty – always gets what he wants. Medium Tenor, high Baritone. Age: 40- ?

**JOE HARDY** (Young Joe): Boyish, innocent, excellent ball player, in good shape. Medium Tenor, High Baritone Age: 21-28.

**LOLA**: The temptress – beautiful and “experienced”. Needs to dance. Alto, Age - ?

**GLORIA THORPE**: Brassy reporter – not afraid to be a woman in a man’s world of sports. Mezzo. No age preference, but needs to be life ‘savvy”.

**SISTER**: Gossipy friend of Meg. Mezzo. Age 40-50.

**DORIS**: Gossipy friend of Sister. Sings with groups. Age 40-50.

**VAN BUREN**: Coach. Baritone. Age 40-50.

**BALL PLAYERS and OTHER EXTRAS**: Wives, Husbands, Commissioner, Lynch, Welch, Bryant, Bouley, Lowe, Mickey, Miss Weston, Postmaster, Guard,

Fans. Some roles may be doubled. All ages, all vocal ranges.

Exact number of the ensemble will be determined at the time of the auditions. So get out and "Play Ball"!

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>,  
7:00 pm

It's time for our **Pot Luck Dinner and semiannual meeting** – this year with a twist! Since this is our 75th season here at SLOC, we thought we'd add a little pizzazz to our party. So dig into your closets and find your favorite t-shirt, sweatshirt, bag, mug and/or pin from any of our shows (you've got 75 years from which to choose!). Then sort through your old sheet music and bring a few favorites with you. After we meet, greet, and eat, we'll all head upstairs for a fun-filled evening of “OPEN-MIC-NIGHT!” Our very own Kate Burns has agreed to lend us her keyboard talents. Contact Michelle Sausa-Gatta at 377-1905 to RSVP. We want to see our SLOC family up on stage to Celebrate 75 Years of Musical Theater!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Outreach Performances

The SLOC Outreach group performed two programs this fall. The first was in October at the Jewish Community Center in Albany, for the Hadassah fund raiser. Kate Burns, Melissa Lacijan and Elisa Harrington-Verb entertained the ladies with a half hour of musical theater selections. Then, in November, Kate Burns, Thom Gonyeau and Melissa Lacijan provided the talent at the Proctor’s Christmas Tree Festival. This is the second year Proctor’s has asked local performers and groups to entertain while people are enjoying the many trees throughout the theater. They were pleased to have SLOC participate, and it has also become a favorite of our performers.

Thank you to those who have given their time and talent to this program. If you are interested in participating with the group, call Judi Merriam at 346-5093.



Congratulations to Orlando and Eleanor Pigliavento, who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in December.

Special thanks to Tom Heckert and Bryan Empie for decorating the SLOC tree exhibited in Proctor’s Festival of Trees this November. This year’s theme was Blue Diamonds - Celebrating 75 years of Community Theater.





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## Ruthless! The Musical

March 8-10 and 14-17.  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday @ 8:00PM  
Sundays @ 2:00PM  
(See Feature article on page 1)

TICKETS: 355-1501



Adults - \$18  
Children under 13 - \$9  
Group rates available! Call for Information.

### Membership Has Its Privileges...

Are your dues paid? This is your last chance to remit your membership dues for this season. SLOC by-laws state that membership dues must be paid by February 1st of each year to vote during the Annual Meeting. So far, 71 people are paid at this time (see listing on page three). If your name is not on this list, please use the convenient form below to remit your dues to our membership chair, Della Gilman. Checks and charges are both welcome. **Please note the new address and phone number for the Gilmans.** If you believe you have paid your dues but your name does not appear in the listing, contact Della at 280-8076 to report the discrepancy.

#### 2001 - 2002 New Membership/Membership Renewal Form

**Please return by February 1, 2002 to:**

Della Gilman • 125 Glen Eddy Drive, Schenectady, NY 12309

PLEASE PRINT Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address, incl. 9-digit zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

My/Our last show involvement was \_\_\_\_\_

(Membership requires participation in some aspect of a recent production.).

I/We have enclosed my/our \$10 membership fee *per person*.

Dues paid now will make me/us a member **through June 2002.**

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ payable to **SLOC.**

Credit Card number \_\_\_\_\_ MC/Visa Exp.date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Charges only) \_\_\_\_\_

#### SAVE THE DATE!

SLOC Pot Luck/Semi Annual Meeting  
RSVP to Michelle Sausa-Gatta  
@377-1905

Bring a dish to share and music to  
sing!

Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm

