



SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Volume 36-1
September 2002

Company Cast Announced

826 State St.
Schenectady, NY 12307
393-5732

Web Site:
www.sloctheater.com



2002-2003 Season
Company
October 18-20, 24-27
Forum
December 6-8-12-15
Zombie Prom
March 7-9, 13-16
City of Angels
May 2-4, 8-11



Tom Heckert
President

Board of Directors
Peter J. Codella
Jodi Gilman
Dick Harte
Tom Heckert
Judi Merriam
Brett Putnam
Michelle Sausa-Gatta
Ted Vickery
Bonnie Williams



Next Newsletter
Deadline:
September 10

Welcome to the cast members of our first show, *Company*, as selected by Producer Jodi Gilman and original Director Thomas Dalton Bambury (see President's Notes): Peter Tyger as Robert; Pat Brady and Allan Foster as Joanne and Larry; Bonnie Williams and Mark Jones as Sarah and Harry; Danya Israels and Carl Kovatch as Jenny and David; Rebecca Bryden and David Dixon as Susan and David; Michele MacShane and Justin Ruchalski as Amy and Paul; and Laura Skladzinski, Heather D'Arcy, and Elizabeth Urbanczyk as April, Marta, and Kathy - Robert's girlfriends.

In addition to Jodi, *Company's* crew includes Nicole Levesque (Choreographer), Doug Peek (Set Designer), Ken Zarnoch (Lighting Designer), Gary Carter (Costumer), Loretta Romero (Hair Designer), Donna Baxter (Stage Manager/Properties Designer), Marlene Countermine (Rehearsal Secretary), Jenny Depew (Prompter), Carole Alawi and Meg Tedesco (Publicity), Paige Gauvreau (Tickets) and Melinda Zarnoch (Opening Night Party).

Company runs October 18 - 20 and 24 - 27. Call Paige Gauvreau at 377-5101 to reserve your tickets today!



Danya Israels and Elizabeth Urbanczyk hard at work during the first *Company* rehearsal.

Forum Auditions Set

Auditions for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" are scheduled for September 10th and 12th at the Opera House. Sign-in for the auditions will begin at 7:00 PM and auditions will start at 7:30 PM. Production dates for the show are Dec 6-8 and 12-15.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum is the first Broadway production to boast music *and* lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. The plot revolves around Pseudolus, a slave who will do almost anything to gain his freedom. When Pseudolus is left in charge of his owner's young son who has fallen madly in love with a beautiful courtesan, the fun begins. The young boy promises Pseudolus his freedom if he can arrange a marriage before his father returns. Pseudolus, of course, agrees. But not even the conniving slave can foresee the tangled web that he is about to weave.

Director Michael C. Mensching, Music Director Vince Bonafede and Choreographer Lee Ryan will cast the following roles: (continued on page three)



Spotlight's New Look

As you may have noticed, Spotlight has changed! After months of meetings, we are excited to present our new design!

We've incorporated some new features and graphics on our front page and little changes throughout. Let us know what you think!

Spotlight on...

Town Meeting
September 24, 7:30 PM

Topic: Show Selection
(See story on page two)



President's Notes...by Tom Heckert



Let's Get Started!

Welcome back! I hope everyone has enjoyed his or her summer and time away from SLOC. For those who may not have heard, I have been elected President for the 2002 – 2003 season. I am very pleased to be back as President following Melissa Lacijan, who did a tremendous job as president last year. I look forward to another exciting year!

I would like to extend my congratulations to the newly elected Board members. Elected to the Board in June were: Brett Putnam, Ted Vickery, Bonnie Williams, and Michelle Sausa-Gatta. The Board VP's are almost fully staffed and we are currently working on a proposal to add a new VP to address quality assurance needs of the company.

For those who could not attend the annual meeting in June, SLOC enjoyed another excellent year financially and artistically. We maintained a small profit as in past few years and hopefully, the trend continues this season. The Board has been meeting through the summer planning its agenda for this year. We will seek to finish some projects started with Melissa at the helm as well as start some new initiatives to address concerns expressed by the members at the annual meeting. If anyone has an idea, suggestion or comment for improvement, please feel free to contact any board member or myself.

Company! Starts Rehearsals

For those who may not have heard, Thomas Bambury has decided that he cannot continue as director of *Company* for family reasons. His father, Duffy Bambury who is a staunch SLOC supporter, has become ill and Thomas has decided to spend time with his family. The Board of Directors is currently searching for a replacement director to continue with the fantastic cast that Thomas and his production staff has assembled. The Board supports Thomas in his decision and sends their prayers to the Bambury family. I am sure that Duffy would appreciate mail from SLOC members during this difficult time.

Best Wishes

One of our most stalwart members, Ira Gilman, has recently tackled some major health issues. I am pleased to let everyone know that he is doing much better and is off to Maine for a well-deserved vacation. I'm sure he would appreciate receiving a card or note wishing him well and a continuing speedy recovery.

Technical Workshops Planned for January

We are in the early planning stages of hosting some technical workshops (set building, lighting, sound, etc...) for people who want to learn a new skill or hone an existing talent. Brett Putnam and Mary Kozlowski have agreed to spearhead this effort. They are looking at dates in January. If you are interested in assisting in planning or possibly conducting a workshop, please give one of them a call. Any help would be appreciated.

If you are interested in attending, watch for more details in upcoming issues of Spotlight.

Breast Cancer Benefit A Success

Thanks to all those who participated and attended, the June benefit concert, *Pre-ludes, Pleasures, and Portraits* raised \$4000 for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Congratulations to Director Laurie Larson, her cast, and her crew!

Town Meeting

September 24, 7:30 PM



One of the new initiatives I would like to try is bringing company members interested in a specific issue together to brainstorm. The first issue we are going to explore is show selection. As long as I can remember, show selection has always been the center of controversy. The process is difficult at best. On September 24th, I will be hosting an open forum, brainstorming ideas to modify our current process. The information distilled from this meeting will be presented to the Board and hopefully a consensus policy will result. I encourage everyone who has an interest in this subject to attend. If you cannot attend, feel free to e-mail me (tomh823@aol.com) or call me (374-9566) with any ideas or suggestions. As the year progresses, I will try to schedule more meetings on other subjects. If you have a subject you think is important, let me know. Hope to see you on the 24th.

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, 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.

DEADLINE for submissions to **Vol. 36 Issue No. 1** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is September 10, 2002. **Issue No. 1** will be mailed by September 26, 2002.

Please submit your articles to Jill Coloney at jac12661@aol.com or 92 Cooks Court, Waterford, NY 12188.



Congratulations to Sue and Ted Vickery on the birth of their son, Andrew, on May 13th, and Melissa and Peter Lacijan on the birth of their son, Peter Henry on August 2nd. Our SLOC family will be extended once again with an anticipated arrival for Christine and John Vermilyea!



Joint Cast/SLOC Party

Don't forget to join us for our first joint cast/SLOC party of the year. The casts of *Company* and *Forum* will be hosting an after rehearsal party on Friday, September 27, starting after rehearsal at approximately 10:00 PM. All members and friends are also invited. Please bring a snack to share, enjoy a preview from *Company*, and get the SLOC social season started with a bang.

Season Brochure Mailed

Did you know that over 1000 people in Niskayuna alone receive our annual season brochure? That's just one of the interesting facts that the people who helped with this year's mailing learned! Fortunately, we were having too much fun to count! Those residents of Niskayuna and 4000 other theater-lovers who received their brochures, would like to thank the following people for their efforts: Alan Angelo, Dale Atwood, Eunice Chouffi, Madeline Codella, Jill Coloney, Rita and Paul Croteau, Paige and Art Gauvreau, Dick Harte, Tom Heckert, Jackie Mosher, Gioia Ottaviano, Chris and Larry Pedersen, Brett Putnam, Greg Rucinski, Debra and Eric Weiskopf, Bonnie Williams, and Melinda Zarnoch.

High School Musical Award Winners

The 2001 – 2002 season marked the 10th year that SLOC has presented its High School Musical Theater Awards. The Awards Committee, chaired by Sue and Greg Rucinski, is pleased to announce the winners. The First Place award of \$300 goes to Niskayuna High School for their production of *Into the Woods*. The Second Place award of \$200 goes to Albany High School's production of *Big*. New this year is a Third Place award of \$100 which goes to the best production by a school that has not previously won a SLOC award. This award goes to South Glens Falls High School's production of *Guys & Dolls*. In addition to the cash award, each school also receives a plaque to commemorate their achievement. Our committee also presents an "Outstanding Performer Award" as a way to recognize exceptional individual performances. This year's recipient is Allyson Schettino for her portrayal of "Susan Lawrence" in Albany High's *Big*. Each student who was nominated for the award receives a "Certificate of Recognition as a Nominee for Outstanding Performer" in acknowledgment of his or her wonderful efforts. Sue and Greg would like to extend a HUGE "Thank You" to their committee members: Jenny and Bill Depew; Ira, Della and Jodi Gilman; and Ted Rucinski, along with substitute Sally Farrell, for their time, dedication, mileage, and flexible schedules as we adjudicated our 14 shows.

Forum Auditions continued

Pseudolus- Baritone/Tenor, (age 30-50), Slave of the house of Senex. He is a robust character with an ingenious sense of comic timing and cutting sarcasm, a schemer who desperately wants to obtain his freedom and will go to great comic lengths to attain it.

Senex- Baritone, (age 45 – 70), Father to Hero. Senex is a lovable, witty but henpecked older man who has a wandering eye for the ladies.

Domina- Alto/Mezzo, (age 40 – 55), Wife of Senex and mother to Hero. She is a broad character who clearly dominates the stage as well as her husband.

Hero- Baritone/Tenor, (age 18-20). Hero is a wide-eyed innocent that falls in love with the beautiful Philia. He is the son of Senex and friend to Pseudulous

Hysterium- Baritone/Tenor, (age 30-45). Hysterium is the favored slave of the house of Senex and confidant of Domina. His nervous demeanor adds an additional dimension of comic flavor to the scenes.

Erronius- Baritone, (age 30-75, could be non-singing). Erronius is neighbor to Senex. His children were stolen in infancy by a band of pirates, and so he searches the Earth to find them.

Miles- Baritone/Operatic quality, (age 23- 30). Miles is a great, pompous warrior who comes to Rome to claim Philia as his bride. His vocal quality should be operatic and dominating.

Lycus- Baritone, (age 40-55). Lycus is the owner of a house of courtesans next door to the house of Senex. Lycus is a crafty, seedy, but spineless businessman

Philia- Soprano, (age 18-25). She is the beautiful virginal courtesan recently sold to the warrior Miles Gloriosus. Philia has the IQ of lint but the face of an angel. It should be noted that the parts of Philia and Miles Gloriosus will be cast as the same age.

Proteans- Baritone/Tenor, (ages 18-35). The three proteans play a number of different roles in the play. They should be goofy, athletic and agile in nature. The Proteans also represent the only male chorus in the show.

Courtesans- No specific vocal range, Pannacia, Tintinabula, The Gemini, Gymnasia, and Vibrata. Each of the Courtesans has a solo dance role, except for the Gemini who dance together. The Courtesans represent the only female chorus in the show, but do not sing solo lines. We strongly encourage good dancers to audition for these roles. We will cast an additional female chorus member in the show for every non-singing dancer that we cast. Please note that the roles of the Gemini are identical twins. We will be taking dancers with similar looks into consideration for these roles.

Auditioners should prepare 16 bars of music, not necessarily from the show. An accompanist will be provided. **There will be a dance audition only for those auditioning for the Courtesan roles.** For any questions please call Producers Bonnie Williams 459-4985 or Mike McDermott 283-1229.



Company Factoids

In this space, we will share with you interesting facts about the Broadway production of our upcoming show. We hope you enjoy our trip down memory lane!

- * Dean Jones originated the role of Robert, but was replaced by Larry Kert after just one month due to illness.
- * Elaine Stritch created the role of Joanne and is still known for her rendition of "Ladies Who Lunch". She was followed by Jane Russell and Vivian Blaine.
- * The choreographer for *Company* was Michael Bennett.
- * *Company* was the first of six musicals created by the dynamic team of Stephen Sondheim and Harold Prince. Coincidentally, it won six Tony Awards in 1971.



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

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October 18-20, 24-27
Thursday, Friday, and
Saturday at 8:00 PM
Sunday at 2:00 PM



TICKETS: 377-5101
Adults: \$18; Children under 13: \$9
Group rates available! Call for information.

Season Playbill Ad Solicitation

Would you like to have your company's ad seen by over 1000 people 4 times per year? If so, please call Laura Andruski at 383-8277 for information on inclusion in this year's playbills. Our audiences are encouraged to support our advertisers!

Contributions to SLOC are always appreciated!

A note to GE Employees/Retirees – contributions of \$25 or higher are eligible to be matched by GE's "More Gifts/More Givers" program. Please write "**Eligible for GE Match**" on your check and call your gift in to the GE Foundation at 1-800-462-8244. SLOC's zip code is 12301.

Return form and check to SLOC (Attn. Paige), P.O. Box 1006, Schenectady, NY 12301-1006.

I enclose a tax-deductible contribution for the 2002 – 2003 season:

STAR (\$250 or more)	PATRON (\$40 - \$59, Couple)
ANGEL (\$100 - \$249)	PATRON (\$25 - \$39, Individual)
SPONSOR (\$60 - \$99)	

Please list my/our name in SLOC PLAYBILLS as:

Mailing Address (Street, City):

Please include your 9 digit zip code.

76th Season Subscriptions



It's not too late to subscribe to SLOC's 76th season! Season subscribers enjoy the benefits of seeing four shows for the price of three! Please refer to the annual season brochure you received in the mail or call 377-5101 for more information. Don't miss out on this great value!

Outreach Program is TOPS!

On June 6, Pat Brady, Andrea Merrill, Ross Snyder and Bonnie Williams performed for our Outreach program. They entertained the TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) executives at their annual convention held at the Saratoga City Center. If you have any interest in performing for the Outreach program, contact Judi Merriam at 346-5093.

Thanks!

Special thanks to the following members for their help in cleaning up the Opera House grounds: Art Gauvreau, Dick Harte, Tom Heckert, Mary Kozlowski, Ted Vickery, and Eric Weiskopf.

Also, Deb and Eric Weiskopf would like to thank all of their friends at SLOC for the flowers, cards, e-mails, warm wishes, and thoughts following their recent ordeal.