

# SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the  
Schenectady Light Opera Company  
Volume 36-5  
March 2003

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Schenectady, NY 12307  
393-5732

Web Site:  
[www.sloctheater.com](http://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:  
April 8



## Opens in March!

Everyone involved with our keen March production, *Zombie Prom*, is working hard to bring the 50's back to life while using the power of love to raise a teenage nuclear zombie from the dead! It's a wacky spoof of 50's "B" monster movies that is sure to please audiences of all ages!

Early reports from Enrico Fermi High School staff Ted Vickery, Tom Heckert, Theresa Fitzmaurice, and Heather D'Arcy, indicate that the cast and crew are hot on the trail of Jo nny Warner (Brendan McDermott), the rebel without an "H" teenage nuclear zombie. He is fighting for his right to get an education and go to the prom with Toffee (Julie Vitullo), his still alive ex girlfriend. Miss Delillah Strict (Gwen Fraser), the straight-laced principal of Enrico Fermi High, is out to prevent Jo nny from coming back to school and has threatened to cancel the prom at the first sight of "habeas corpus".

Add a sensationalistic reporter, Eddie Flagrante, (Colin McCarty) and Jo nny and Toffee's high school pals (Courtney Van Dyke, Jessica DiSciprio, Kristen Becker, Stephanie Kitchen, Kyle Griffin, Richard Gatta, Craig Shapiro and Joe Carusone) and the stage is complete.

What is a girl to do when the boy next door is a zombie? Come find out at *Zombie Prom*. Production dates are March 7<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> (Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 PM, Sundays at 2:00 PM). Tickets are \$18 (\$9 for children 12 and under). Call Paige at 377-5101 to reserve your tickets for the best seats for zombie sightings at Enrico Fermi High!



Julie Vitullo and Brendan McDermott  
rehearse a scene from *Zombie Prom*.

### Opera House Clean-Up

Though we have hired a cleaning service, it won't be in place for *Zombie Prom*. Therefore, the traditional Saturday clean-up will occur on March 1 starting at 10:00 AM. Please join us and help *Prom* night shine!



## Spotlight on...

### Zombie Prom

March 7 – 9 and 13 – 16

For tickets call

Paige Gauvreau at 377-5101.



# President's Notes...by Tom Heckert



## **Zombie Prom Explodes in March**

The Cast and Crew of *Zombie Prom* are hard at work rehearsing for our March production. The cast boasts some of the best talent, both young and seasoned, that the Capital District has to offer. Call Paige to order your tickets (377-5101). You won't want to miss this "Blast from the Past"!

## **Kudos to Forum**

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Forum* for a very successful run! *Forum* was adjudicated and received 4 TANYS Merit awards. (See related article).

## **Annual Pot Luck Supper**

Over 50 people attended this year's event! I would like to congratulate Tim and Karen Koch as the recipients of this year's Etta Moore Award for their continuous contributions to SLOC (see related article). It is with fond memories that we say goodbye to the Kochs as they move to sunny Arizona. I think by this time the move is complete and Tim and Karen are enjoying temperatures well above the sub-freezing ones we have been experiencing!

## **2003-2004 Season Announced**

As is SLOC tradition, the 2003 – 2004 Season was announced at the Pot Luck event in January, although it was hardly a surprise to most people in the room. The Show Selection committee, in conjunction with the Board of Directors, has selected a technically challenging and artistically aggressive season (see related article). I hope everyone joins the Board in congratulating the directors selected. As always, the process of show selection is intense. I would like to thank Show Selection chairperson, Kate Burns and her committee: Elisa Verb, Ron Fish, Michelle Sausa-Gatta, Mary Ann Concra, and Alan Foster for a job well done.

## **Budgeting Preparations for Next Year**

Have a pet project you would like to see done at SLOC? The Board of Directors is starting to plan for next year and we are looking for ideas for improvements in equipment or the facility that you think are important. Please contact me, another Board member, or the appropriate VP to offer your suggestions.

## **Spotlight by E-mail**

We are trying to expand the distribution of the SLOC Spotlight. The e-mail version is ready for distribution prior to the mass mailing, placing you on the cutting edge of SLOC news! If you are interested in the e-mail version, please send a message to [sloctheater@aol.com](mailto:sloctheater@aol.com), including the address for mailing. The Spotlight is also available on line at our website: [www.sloctheater.com](http://www.sloctheater.com).

## **Archives Need a Home**

Do you have a nose for news? Like to organize things? Have we got a job for you! We are currently looking for someone to take over the SLOC Archives. After many years of service, Paula Farquharson has decided to retire as keeper of the archives. Currently, much of the information is stored in Paula's house and scattered throughout the Opera House. We would like to find a central storage location, preferably in the Opera House, to store all of our history. If you are interested in heading up this project, please let me know.

## **Congratulations**

I join all of our SLOC family in extending our congratulations to Brett Putnam and Sondra Chizzolin on the announcement of their engagement. I'm sure a spectacular wedding with terrific lighting is on the horizon!

## **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. 6** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Tuesday, April 8, 2003**. Issue No. 6 will be mailed by April 22.

Please submit your articles to Jill Coloney at [jac12661@aol.com](mailto:jac12661@aol.com) or 92 Cooks Court, Waterford, NY 12188.

# City of Angels Cast and Crew Announced

Director Barbara Mahlmann and her production staff are pleased to announce the cast for *City of Angels*, the last show of SLOC's 2002-2003 season. Cast members include: Tom Warner - Stine; Shawn Hahn - Stone; Elisa Verb - Oolie/Donna; Joan Horgan - Bobbi/Gabby; Michelle MacShane - Alura/Carla; Alan Stern - Munoz/Pancho; Joe Phillips - Buddy/Irwin; Heather D'Arcy - Mallory/Avril; Dave Dixon - Jimmy Powers; Ron Fish - Mandril/Soundman; Adam Coons - Sonny; Alan Angelo - Big 6; and Mark Slaver, Andy Shelton, Maria Lally Clark, and Joanne Mensching as the Angel City 4. Other cast members also playing dual roles (or more) are: Pat Leathem, Andrea Valenti, Pat Brady.



The production staff for *City of Angels* includes Co-Producers - Mary Kalica and Jennifer S. Depew; Director - Barbara Mahlman; Musical Director - Kate Burns; Assistant Musical Director - Dave Cash; Choreographer - Donna Panzl; Rehearsal Secretary - Marlene Countermeine; Costume Design - Gary Carter; Set Design - Dale Conklin; Lighting Design - Michael Noonan; Lighting Execution - Bill Depew and Richard Gatta; Stage Manager - Brian Meade; Sound Design - David Wilkinson; Properties - Jodi Gilman; Makeup Design - Dave Harrison; PR - Joe and Maryann Concra.

## Board of Directors Votes Not to Raise Ticket Prices

The Board of Directors recently voted to leave ticket prices for the 2003 – 2004 season at their current levels. Adult prices will stay at \$18 and children under 13 are \$9.



## 2003-2004 Season Announced

During the Semi-Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors announced the following shows for the 2003-2004 Season:

The opening show will be *Jane Eyre*, based on the Charlotte Bronte novel of gothic romance and strong female characters. Following his success in *Forum*, Michael Mensching will take the helm of this production. Show dates are October 17 – 19 and 23 – 26.

Next is Jennifer S. Depew making her directorial debut with *Babes in Arms*, the show that claimed more hits than any other Rodgers and Hart musical. Songs such as "Where or When", "My Funny Valentine", and "The Lady is a Tramp" have gone on to become standards. Show dates are December 5 – 7 and 11 – 14.

The third show is *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* directed by Joe Phillips. Based on an unfinished novel by Charles Dickens, *Drood* tells the story of a murder that may or may not have taken place. Show dates are March 5 – 7 and 11 – 14.

The final show of the season is *Victor/Victoria*, based on the Blake Edwards movie about a woman playing a man playing a woman. Directed by Laura Andruski, the show dates are April 30 – May 2 and May 6 – 9.

## Etta Moore Award Goes to Tim and Karen Koch

From Riff in *West Side Story* to Lycus in *Forum*; from Secretary of the Board to Pegeen Ryan in *Mame*; from 1969 to 2002, the Kochs have been active, invaluable members of the SLOC family.

While Karen served as secretary for fourteen years and in the ensemble of several shows, Tim was busy starring in SLOC productions such as *West Side Story* (his first show), *They're Playing Our Song*, *Godspell*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

During the recent Pot Luck supper, Tim told the story of how, during the run of *Mame*, Karen went from the ensemble to a featured role. Tim was playing the role of Patrick and suddenly found his real-life wife playing his on-stage wife when the actress originally cast had to withdraw.

Because of their outstanding and long-lived dedication to SLOC, the Board of Directors chose to honor Tim and Karen Koch with this year's Etta Moore Award!

We wish them the best of luck in their retirement and hope they share their talents with the Arizona theater scene! We also thank them for their many contributions to SLOC!

## Zombie Factoids

\* Dana Rowe (Music) and John Dempsey (Book and Lyrics) later wrote the smash London hit *The Witches of Eastwick*, anticipated to transfer to Broadway in 2004.

\* Kristen Chenoweth originated the role of Toffee at the Red Barn Theater in Key West Florida in 1993.

\* Enrico Fermi High is named for Enrico Fermi, the inventor of the atom bomb and the designer of the nuclear reactor.

\* *Zombie Prom* is often compared to *Grease* because of its 50's style music and *Little Shop of Horrors*' spoof style.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Zombie Prom

March 7-9, 13-16  
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.

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Schenectady, NY  
Permit #120

### Nominations for the Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee will soon be looking for candidates for terms on the Board of Directors starting in June 2003. Next year will be a year of transition for the Company. None of the five Board members currently ending their term this year is eligible for reelection or has chosen not to run for a second term. If you think you may be interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please give Tom a call (374-9566) or e-mail (tomh823@aol.com) stating your interest. He will pass your name on to the chairperson of the nominating committee when that person has been selected.

### SLOC Productions Win Awards

SLOC's season-opening production of *Company* was cited as an Honorable Mention by the critics of the Schenectady Gazette in their year-end theater Best-of-2002 listing - one of the few community theater productions so honored.

In addition to the TANYS awards mentioned in the last issue of Spotlight, Doug Peek was also honored with an Outstanding Set Design citation.

*Forum* was also honored with several TANYS citations, including: Outstanding Direction and Creative Use of Powerpoint – Michael Mensching; Outstanding Acting – Sean Fagan; Outstanding Acting – Bill Hickman; and Outstanding Ensemble - Proteans

### Cleaning Service Hired



After many years of scrubbing toilets and vacuuming, we have found a cleaning service to keep the Opera House neat and clean. Ted Vickery, after a long and sometimes

onerous quest to find this service, presented a proposal that met our criteria.

The Board voted to have them clean every other week during the season and every day during the run of our productions. The summertime will be on a further reduced schedule.

All members need to become more diligent in keeping things in a neat and orderly fashion. We should make sure that all construction waste is kept in one location, preferably not the lobby, so the service can do its job.

I would like to thank everyone who pitched in during our "cleanerless days" to help keep the Opera House looking as neat as possible. I would especially like to thank Melinda Zarnoch, the "Queen of Toilet Cleaning," for all her time spent with her hands in the bowls. (Have a favorite stall in the men's room yet?) Thanks again to everyone for a job well done! —Tom Heckert