



SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Volume 36-7
May 2003

Audition Dates Set for *Jane Eyre The Musical*

Director Michael Mensching, Musical Director Andrea Merrill, and Producers Michael McDermott and Ferne Dutkin announce the auditions for the capital district premiere of *Jane Eyre The Musical* at Schenectady Light Opera Company. Adult auditions will be held on Tuesday, June 10th and Wednesday, June 11th at 7:00 PM at the Opera House. Child auditions and callbacks will be held on Thursday June 12th at 7:00 PM & 9:00 PM respectively. Show dates will be October 17-19 and 23-26, 2003.

The majority of rehearsal time will occur between late August and the show dates. Some musical rehearsals will occur during the summer; however, the majority of the blocking and rehearsal process will occur in the six weeks leading up to the show. Your commitment to this time period is essential and required.

For adult auditions:

Those auditioning for the parts of Jane Eyre or Edward Rochester please prepare a song which shows both a range and a belt. Additionally, a song from the show is preferred but not required. You will be asked to learn and sing a song from the show at the auditions.

For child auditions:

Children will need to prepare 16 bars of a Broadway ballad. It is important that parents realize the time commitments of rehearsals (generally 7PM –10PM). We will strictly adhere to the conflict schedule once casting has been done. Parents are encouraged to audition with their children or assume a technical role for the rehearsal process.

There are no dance auditions (No dancing folks!). The casting of actors in multiple supporting roles is probable. We are looking for quality not quantity in casting.

Cast of characters:

Jane Eyre (Mezzo) One of the most famous female characters in literature. A survivor of a burdened past she possesses a soulful voice and spirit. Her strength is in her ability to forgive her transgressors through her devotion to God. She longs to find true happiness and discovers her soul mate to be Edward Rochester, 20 years her senior.

The character of Jane is presented in flashbacks. We are looking for an actress who can look and play ages 20 – 35.

(continued on page 3)

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:
August 12

Spotlight on...

Annual Meeting

Friday, June 6, 7:00 PM

at the
Opera House



President's Notes...by Tom Heckert



Tucked in with the Spade

Kudos to *City of Angels* for a fantastic run. Everyone in the cast and production staff did a tremendous job bring the production together for opening night. Congratulations to Barb Mahlmann, Jenny Depew, Mary Kalica, Kate Burns, Dave Cash and Donna Panzl for bringing the characters to life from the page! Andy Shelton will also be enjoying dinner at the Van Dyck as the winner of the *City of Angels* ticket sales contest.

SLOC/Mendelssohn Concert a Smash

Congratulations to all who performed as SLOC guest artists in the Mendelssohn Club Concert on May 16 at Proctor's Theatre. Performers included: Keith Austin, Kate Burns, Theresa Fitzmaurice, Bill Hickman, Melissa Lacijan, Peter Lacijan, Mark Levy, Judi Merriam, Drew Mills, Orlando Pigliavento, and Bonnie Williams. Thanks to Judi Merriam for organizing the logistics to make SLOC's participation in this event a success!

Directory Update

We are starting preparations for an updated SLOC directory. The directory is a valuable source of information to contact company members to work on productions, committees or other SLOC activities. If you have any changes to your current information or would like to be included in the directory, please visit our website at www.sloctheater.com and send a message to the Webmaster with the corrections/additions. Please consider providing your e-mail address for inclusion in the directory. You may also contact Mary Koslowski at 482-1052 to update your information.

E-mail Newsletter

Do you want to get all the newsletter information ahead of the mail crowd? Consider being added to the newsletter e-mail distribution list. The e-mail version is sent out at least a week before the mailed version. For some of you that never seem to get the mailed version until after the events, this may be an opportunity for you to be ahead of the pack. Please send an e-mail to sloctheater@aol.com to be added to this distribution. Please also indicate if you would like to have the mailed version discontinued. If you have any questions about the distribution list, please contact Tom Heckert at 877-6777.

Koch Arizona Update

I have received a very nice letter from the Koch's thanking all the members for a great send off at the Pot Luck dinner in January. Their move to Arizona went well and I am sure they are enjoying the sun and plenty of golf. For those who may wish to send greeting to them, their new address is 63609 East Vacation Drive, Tucson AZ, 85739-2116. I am sure they would love to hear any SLOC news.

Housemen Needed

Interested in learning a new role? We are in need of men (or women) who would like to help out in the role of Houseman. Responsibilities include opening and locking up the building on the night of performance, starting the show on time (in conjunction with the stage manager), seating late patrons and keeping a watchful eye out in the lobby during the performance. Anyone interested in being trained to be Houseman, please contact Paige at 377-5101. Training will occur during *Jane Eyre*, the first production of next season.

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. 37 Issue No. 1** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Tuesday, August 12, 2003**. Issue No. 1 will be mailed by August 29.

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

Candidates for Election to the Board of Directors

Alan Angelo

Hi! It's a real honor to be asked to run for the Board. As a member of SLOC for over 20 years, I have served in various capacities ranging from 1) chorus/principle roles, 2) producer, 3) Board member, 4) VP-Company, 5) usher, 6) sound technician, 7) member of the show selection committee, 8) set construction/décor, 9) transportation, and 10) a member of the long-range planning committee.

Recent events: I will be receiving my MA (Theatre) in May from SUNYA and I have volunteered to Co-Chair SLOC'S Historical Committee.

I believe that it is extremely important to keep a balance between our quality staged productions and maintaining the essence of our existence—the spirit and personal involvement of community theatre.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sally Farrell

I have been involved with SLOC since 1974. Not being a great singer or dancer, my field has been mostly make-up and occasionally, a dresser. I was make-up chairman for many of the shows we did at Proctor's and even managed to play the wicked witch of the west in *The Wizard of Oz* (no singing, just cackling). I also was able to play the housekeeper in *The Secret Garden* and participated in the Director's Showcase a couple of years ago. I only became a member of SLOC a couple of years ago as I always considered SLOC to be my "fun" place and Schenectady Civic my "work" place. I have since realized that I can have fun and work too. I have helped build sets, strike sets, move sets and costumes and served on casting, ushering and the 75th Gala Committee. I would hope that all my years in community theater would make me an asset to the company.

Mary Kozlowski

I have worn many different hats at SLOC during the past 10 years. I was an elected board member from 1997-2001 and have been treasurer since 1997. As treasurer, I not only pay the company's bills, but also keep a record of income and expenses, and prepare the annual budget.

I have worked on numerous shows in different capacities, most recently, designing and building the set of *Zombie Prom*. Additionally, I have participated on various committees, including play selection and 75th Anniversary, and keep the information on the company web site current.

During the day, I am an auditor at DMV, which entails analyzing problems and systems and developing solutions. This is valuable experience that I have been able to incorporate into my SLOC endeavors.

Deb Weiskopf

I have been involved with Schenectady Light Opera for the past 7 years. I started out here performing in shows and over the past 2 years have also been working behind the scenes. Chairing the 75th anniversary planning committee last year was an exciting venture. This past year I have served as Co-Vice President - Company Operations, which has been an enjoyable and fulfilling experience.

Ken Zarnoch

I have been an active member of SLOC for the past 16 years. During this time I have served on the Board of Directors (one 2-year term), was VP - Technical Operations and have worked on at least one or two shows every year in various capacities. During the past two years I have mentored high school students on lighting design and execution. I plan on continuing this endeavor. As a member of the Board of Directors my main focus would be to make sure that we consistently offer quality shows to the community.

President's Notes *continued*

🎵 Annual Meeting

Please plan to attend the annual meeting scheduled for Friday, June 6. We will be electing five new board members as well as celebrating the accomplishments of this season and preparing to face our challenges for next season. Bios for the candidates are in this issue and I encourage you to become familiar with them before the meeting. Also, if you cannot attend the meeting, please contact Melinda Zarnoch at 382-8497 for an absentee ballot. **All absentee ballots must be in the hands of the secretary prior to the start of the annual meeting.** If you have any topic you would like to have discussed at the meeting, please let me know.

🎵 Outgoing Board Members

Next year will truly be a year of transition. Of the nine current board members, five are ineligible to run or have chosen not to run again. The following people are leaving the board: Peter Codella, Jodi Gilman, Dick Harte, Judi Merriam and myself. I would like to express my gratitude as president, board member and a member of the company, to each of these individuals for their continual work throughout the year for the benefit of the organization. Although we do not agree on every issue, each one has shown an openness to listen to the opposing view and weigh their decision for the benefit of SLOC. Each one will be missed next year but I know that all will serve again when asked.

🎵 Thanks to Everyone

And lastly, I would like to express my thanks to all the company members who work so hard to make SLOC a better organization. I don't think I have ever met a group of people who share the same passion for something and, despite disagreements, strive for excellence in SLOC endeavors. Without a dedicated membership like ours, we could not achieve the success we have had over the last several years. It has been my honor to serve the membership as President for the past season. I hope to see everyone at the annual meeting in June. If not, enjoy your summer and start thinking ahead for next season!



Jane Eyre Auditions *continued*

Edward Rochester (Baritone with high notes) Edward is the aristocratic love interest of Jane and owner of Thornfield, the manor where Jane is the governess. He has had a disappointing romantic past, burdened with both an illegitimate child and a crazy first wife who is locked in the attic. He finds his spiritual equal in Jane, a woman of considerable age difference and station.

Mrs. Fairfax (Mezzo) Mrs. Fairfax is the somewhat flighty housekeeper of Thornfield who is devoted to Rochester. She strikes a motherly friendship with Jane. Age 45+

Helen Burns (Alto with high notes) – Jane's dearest childhood friend who teaches her the meaning of forgiveness and trust in God. Age 16-22

Blanche Ingram (Soprano) – Young suitor for Edward who is interested more in his money than she is in him. Age – 20's

Young Jane (Alto) Represents Jane's life before and during boarding school. Age 12-14

Young John Reed – Mrs. Reed's son and cousin to Jane. Age 14-22

Mrs. Reed (Mezzo) – She is Jane's Aunt who takes her in as an infant. She continuously makes it clear that Jane is a burden on her family. Age 40+

Mr. Brocklehurst – Headmaster of the Lowood boarding school. Age 40+

Miss Scatchered – Mean school mistress at the boarding school Age 40 +

Marigold – Mistress at the boarding school

Robert – Manservant at Thornfield

Adele – Illegitimate daughter of Edward, speaks with a French accent. Age 8-11

Grace Poole – Servant who personally takes care of Bertha (first wife) Age 25+

Bertha – (Alto) Crazy first wife of Edward who is locked in the attic of Thornfield

Lady Ingram - Socialite who wants her daughter to marry Edward.

Mary Ingram – Blanche's younger sister

Young Lord Ingram – Blanche's brother

Mr. Eshton – Party guest

Amy Eshton – Party guest

Louisa Eshton – Party guest

Richard Mason (Baritone) Brother of Bertha and brother-in-law to Edward. Age 40+

The Gypsy – In some productions the part of the gypsy is included to double for Rochester. This part is done in a character voice.

Vicar – Comes to the deathbed of Mrs. Reed in Act II

St. John Rivers (Tenor) Missionary and cousin to Jane. He saves her life in Act II and eventually proposes marriage to her. Age 25-30

School Girls – 2 or 3 additional schoolgirls for Lowood Boarding School. Age 10-18

For further information, contact Producer Michael McDermott at 669-5414.

Bonnie Williams New Head of Outreach Program

Judi Merriam has organized the SLOC Outreach program for nine years now and has decided to turn it over to other capable hands. As of this June, Bonnie Williams will be taking over for Judi, and Melissa Lacijan will be assisting Bonnie. As it has been in the past, the Outreach program will continue providing performances for local groups. If you want to be considered for performing on any of these programs, please call Bonnie at 459-4985.

SLOC's 2003-2004 Season

Jane Eyre

October 17-19 & 23-26

Babes in Arms

December 5-7 & 11-14



The Mystery of Edwin Drood

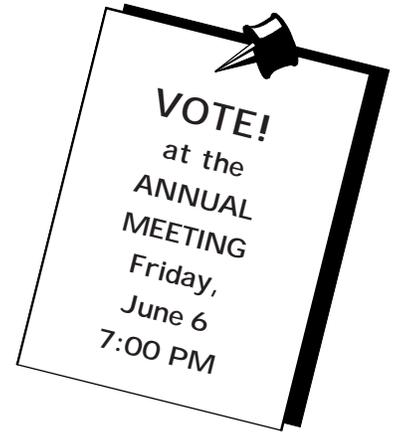
March 5-7 & 11-14

Victor/Victoria

April 30-May 2 & May 6-9

In Memoriam

John O'Donohue recently lost his battle with cancer. John performed in SLOC shows and served as VP-Facilities. We extend our sympathies to his family and friends.



DETACH FORM AT FOLD AND MAIL.



SLOC's 2003-2004 MUSICAL THEATER Season
Ticket Order/Contribution Form
Complete BOTH sides.

A

VISA/MasterCard accepted.

DATE _____

Name (print in ink or type) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ NY 9-digit ZIP _____

Telephone # (day) _____ (evening) _____

SEATING Preference: Front _____ Middle _____ Rear _____

ARE YOU a GE employee, or GE retiree? Yes No

If you are, 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.

Help your community theater:

Become a **BENEFACTOR!**

We depend on and appreciate
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Please give.

Benefits: Priority seating, subscription to SLOC newsletters, listing in all our playbills, and an invitation to our opening night cast and staff parties.

I enclose a tax-deductible contribution for SLOC's 2003-2004 Season:

STAR, \$250 or more

ANGEL, \$100-\$249 PATRON, \$40-\$59 (Couple/2 names)

SPONSOR, \$60-\$99 PATRON, \$25-\$39 (Single/1 name)

List my/our name in SLOC PLAYBILLS as:

Visit SLOC's Web Site at <http://www.sloctheater.com>

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SLOC's 2003-2004 Season TICKET Order Form B

1 Below, CIRCLE the DATES you wish to attend the performances.

SLOC's 2003-04 Musical Theater Schenectady, NY (518-393-5732)	Season	Thurs. 8 pm	Fri. 8 pm	Sat. 8 pm	Sun. 2 pm
JANE EYRE	October	23	24	25	26
BABES IN ARMS	December	11	12	13	14
MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD	March	11	12	13	14
VICTOR/VICTORIA	April-May	6	7	8	9

ALL SHOWS AT OPERA HOUSE • 826 State Street • Schenectady, New York

2 **SEASON SUBSCRIPTION: FOUR shows for the price of 3.**
Send me ___ ADULT Subscriptions, \$54 each = \$ ___
(under age 13) ___ CHILD Subscriptions, \$27 each = \$ ___

3 **SINGLE Ticket Order: CIRCLE SHOW DATES in Box 1 above.**

JANE EYRE	# Tickets	___ X \$18	___ X \$9 = \$ ___
BABES IN ARMS		___ X \$18	___ X \$9 = \$ ___
MYSTERY..EDWIN DROOD		___ X \$18	___ X \$9 = \$ ___
VICTOR/VICTORIA		___ X \$18	___ X \$9 = \$ ___

ADULT CHILD under 13 TOTAL

4 **BENEFACTOR Contribution (see Play a Part/Side A) . . . \$ ___**

5 **Add POSTAGE and PROCESSING FEE \$ 3.00**

6 **PAYMENT TOTAL \$**

CHECK enclosed, payable to SLOC, or charge to . . .

MasterCard VISA

Account # _____ Expires _____

Signature _____

7 MAIL Ticket Order/Contribution Form and payment to:
SLOC TICKETS • P. O. BOX 1006 • SCHPDY, NY 12301-1006.

Tickets will be mailed by October 4, 2003. Sorry, no refunds.

DETACH FORM AT FOLD AND MAIL.