



SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Volume 37-2
October 2003

Jane Eyre, A Musical

"Brave Enough for Love"

826 State St.
Schenectady, NY 12307
393-5732

Web Site:
www.sloctheater.com



2003-2004 Season
Jane Eyre
October 17-19, 23-26
Babes in Arms
December 5-7, 11-14
Drood
March 5-7, 11-14
Victor/Victoria
April 30, May 1-2, 6-9



Tom Heckert
President

Board of Directors
Alan Angelo
Mary Kozlowski
Richard Lenehan
Brett Putnam
Michelle Sausa-Gatta
Ted Vickery
Deb Weiskopf
Bonnie Williams
Ken Zarnoch



Next Newsletter
Deadline:
November 12

The cast and production staff of our season opening show are hard at work preparing the national community theater premiere of *Jane Eyre*. This musical, based on the 1847 novel by Charlotte Bronte, received five TONY nominations (2000-2001 Season), was a Drama Desk Award Nominee and was a winner of the Outer Critics Award in 2001 for Marla Schaffel as Best Actress in a Musical.

Jane Eyre is a story of a young girl sent away by her coldhearted aunt to live at the Lowood School for Girls. There, a fellow student, Helen, teaches her about the gift of forgiveness and befriends her. Tragedy strikes when a typhus epidemic takes Helen, leaving Jane alone in the world. Later, Jane takes a job as a governess at Thornfield Hall. She meets and falls in love with her moody and mysterious employer, Edward Fairfax Rochester.

Her life takes many twists and turns from that moment on, yet the forgiveness Jane learned early on strengthens and drives her to reach a life fulfilled and rewarded.

This is a tale of passion and courage; a tale of love lost and regained, tragedy mourned and triumphed over. Jane is a poor, plain but plucky orphan who defied 19th Century social convention by falling in love with a wealthy, titled gentleman. These themes resonate even today, more than 150 years later.

The extremely talented cast is under the direction of Michael C. Mensching. Michael was the director of last season's well-received production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. He is very much looking forward to the artistic challenge of directing this dark and brooding drama that resonates with themes of love and redemption.

This production is quite a family affair—Music Director, Joanne Mensching, makes her SLOC debut in this capacity. The production also features a mother/daughter team—Lisa and Julia Franklin (Mrs. Reed/Schoolgirl), and a father/daughter tandem—Marty and Eileen O'Connor (Vicar/Young Jane). Our production team features artistic couples, Kathleen and Bob Stern (Props), Ric Bello and Ferne Dutkin (Sound/Co-producer) and Connie and Jeff Rauhauser (Costumes/Lighting).

(continued on page three)



Co-Producers Michael McDermott (l) and Ferne Dutkin (r), along with set designer Dale Conklin (c) work out the details during a *Jane Eyre* rehearsal.

Spotlight on...

Jane Eyre

Performance Dates:
October 17-19 & 23-26
at the Opera House



President's Notes...by Tom Heckert



Jane Eyre Lights Up the Stage

Our first production of the season is just around the corner. Come join us to see *Jane Eyre*, the romantic saga of true love between Jane and Rochester. Mike Mensching and his cast and crew have been working long hours to bring this classic Victorian story to the stage. Call Paige for your tickets today!

Babes In Arms In Rehearsal

Our second show of the season, *Babes in Arms*, is off to a quick start. Producer Jodi Gilman and Director Jenny Depew have amassed a fine cast and crew for this old fashioned "lets put on a show in my father's barn" yarn. It will be nice to hear the familiar Rogers and Hart melodies echoing from SLOC once again!

Urgent Need – Volunteer Now!

We are in urgent need for company members to volunteer a few hours of their time for a variety of Opera House positions. Most urgently needed are housemen, head bartenders, a houseman chairperson, and a Playbill coordinator.

The first two duties involve limited time during the run of the show. The houseman chairperson is in charge of making phone calls to the houseman pool and arranging the schedule for each production. The Playbill coordinator works with the producers of each production and the VP of Public Relations making sure that all the information for each playbill is delivered to the printer. Contact Deb Weiskopf (373-0975) or me (877-6777) for more information or to volunteer for any of these positions.

Proctor's Festival of Trees

Got a nifty idea for a theater-themed tree? We are looking for people to help plan this year's entry for the Festival of Trees. If ornaments are your gig, contact Deb Weiskopf to volunteer. The past couple of years have been a blast for those involved in the process. This commitment is only for a short time and is easy to work into anyone's schedule.

Membership Has its Privileges

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the TANYS (Theater Association of New York State) Festival is being held in the Albany area this year on November 21 through November 23. This is a rare opportunity for our members to attend the festival since it is often held in other parts of the state. TANYS is presenting four workshops for that weekend at various times: How to Direct a Musical Comedy, Acting Shakespearean Comedy, Stage Slapstick, and Costuming for Comedy on a Shoestring Budget. The Board has allocated \$300 to be distributed among active members interested in attending a workshop. The cost for each workshop is \$25. There is also an option of a Festival Pass (\$75 if paid before November 8th, \$100 after November 8th) that encompasses attending all Festival Events. The actual amount of money distributed to each person will be decided based on the number of people interested in attending. If you are interested in attending a workshop to hone your skills, please contact me at 877-6777 and I will provide further details. For more information of the TANYS Festival, please visit their website at www.tanys.org.

New SLOC Directories Are Coming Soon!

Mary Koslowski has put the finishing touches on the new 2003 – 2004 SLOC directory! She anticipates mailing the directories to all paid members as of last season. If you are a member and do not receive a directory by mid-October, please contact Mary and she will send one to you. If you are not a member and would like a copy, please send \$1.00 to cover postage and handling to **SLOC, PO BOX 1006, Schenectady NY, 12301-1006** and she will get a copy to you as quickly as possible.

In Memoriam

We extend our condolences to the family of Marilyn Bunnecke. She was a piano accompanist for SLOC for many years.

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. 3** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Wednesday, November 12, 2003**. Issue No. 3 will be mailed by November 25.

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

**SLOC Board & Committee
Chairs 2003-2004**

President	Thomas Heckert
Secretary	Melinda Zarnoch
Treasurer	Mary Kozlowski
Business Manager	Joseph Concra

BOARD MEMBERS

Alan Angelo
Mary Kozlowski
Richard Lenehan
Brett Putnam
Michelle Sausa-Gatta
Ted Vickery
Bonnie Williams
Ken Zarnoch

VP ARTISTIC OPERATIONS:

Critique	Michelle Sausa-Gatta
Dr. & Mrs. Edwin Brown Foundation	Kate Kaufman Burns
High School Musical Theater Awards	Ed Koziur and Thomas Della Salla
Outreach (Community Entertainment Presentations)	Sue Rucinski
Show Selection	Bonnie Williams
Accompanists	Michael Mensching TBA

VP AUDIENCE SERVICES

Patrons/Subscribers/Season Brochure/Group Sales	Paige Gauvreau
Mailing Lists	Paige Gauvreau
Tickets for <i>Jane Eyre</i> (Oct.), <i>Victor/Victoria</i> (May)	Peter J. Codella
Tickets for <i>Babes in Arms</i> (Dec.)	Paige Gauvreau
Tickets for <i>Mystery of Edwin Drood</i> (March)	Della Gilman
Usher Chairpersons	Jean Clarke Sue Culver, Eunice Chouffi

VP COMPANY OPERATIONS

Audition Arrangements	Deb Weiskopf
Company Membership	Eunice Chouffi
Show T-Shirts	Della Gilman
Historian/Production Mugs	Virginia Mills
Sunshine Committee	Sally Farrell
Opening Night Parties	Chris Pedersen
Strike Parties/Soda Machine	Deb Weiskopf and Bonnie Williams Melinda Zarnoch

VP FACILITIES

Set Construction Facility/Taurus Road	Ted Vickery
Opera House Sign	Ted Vickery
Electrical/Mechanical Assistant	Brett Putnam
Heating/Plumbing Assistant	Angelo Cerniglia Larry Pedersen

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS

Newsletter	Richard Lenehan
Print Ads	Jill Coloney Peter J. Codella

VP TECHNICAL OPERATIONS

Costumes	Brett Putnam and Ken Zarnoch
Lighting	Connie Rauhauser
Properties	Greg Rucinski
Makeup	Joe Phillips
Sound	Marcia Lenehan
Sets	David J. Wilkinson Douglas Peek



Babes in Arms Cast Announced

Producer Jodi Gilman and Director Jennifer S. Depew are pleased to announce the cast for *Babes in Arms*, the second production of SLOC's 2003-2004 season.

The cast includes: Heather D'Arcy as Bunny, Christopher Howard as Valentine White, Allison Fagan as Susie Ward, Sean Fagan as Lee Calhoun, Casey Dinkin as Jennifer Owen, Sally Farrell as Phyllis Owen, Brian Sheldon as Steve Edwards, Katie Christian as Terry Thompson, Joe Carusone as Gus Field, and Joe Pickett as The Press Agent. Completing the cast are Jessica Discipio, Abby VanDeusen, and Graig Shapiro as the apprentices.

Performance dates of *Babes In Arms* are December 5th through 7th and 11th through 14th, 2003. It's never too early to reserve your tickets, so please feel free to call Della Gilman @ 280-8076 to reserve your seats.

Jane Eyre continued

Co-Producer Michael McDermott worked as producer with Michael Mensching on last season's *Forum*. Co-Producer Ferne Dutkin makes her SLOC debut, and also serves as Assistant Director. The production team features several SLOC talents — Dale Conklin (Set Design), Connie Rowe Rauhauser (Costumes) and Greg Rucinski (Lighting Design). The entire production team looks forward to presenting this hauntingly beautiful show.

Performances for *Jane Eyre* run October 17-19th and 23rd-26th. To reserve tickets, please call Paige Gavreau (377-5101).



Save the Date

Our annual Pot-luck Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, January 24, 2004, at 7:00 PM, at the Opera House.

Jane Eyre Factoids

*While *Jane Eyre* was nominated for several awards, it won almost nothing because it had the misfortune of opening the same season as *The Producers*.

*The crew of the Broadway production was made up of many *Les Miserables* veterans, including John Caird (book, lyrics, and direction), John Napier (sets), and Andreane Neofitou (costumes).

*Though the musical only ran for 6 months, it retains a large cult following.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Jane Eyre

October 17-19, 23-26

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

Outreach Update

Many thanks to Melissa Lacijan, Deb Weiskopf and Allan Foster for their help in putting together a terrific program for the first outreach performance of the new season. They (along with Outreach chair, Bonnie Williams – substituting for Peter Lacijan) performed at Proctor's Volunteer Appreciation Reception. As per Proctor's request, the program consisted of songs from Proctor's upcoming season, including selections from *Les Miz*, *The Mikado*, *Sound of Music* and *The Full Monty*. Special thanks to Andrea Merrill for her wonderful accompaniment on Proctor's concert grand!

The cast of *Jane Eyre* performed at the Van Dyck as part of the Schenectady Stockade Walkabout. Doing selections from SLOC's first show, as well as other well-known tunes, served as a great chance for people to sample what's coming up this year at SLOC. Thanks to Mike and Joanne Mensching for helping get the cast together and sounding so great!

There are at least three other upcoming events scheduled before December! If you know of any organization needing entertainment from 30-60 minutes in length, please contact Bonnie Williams at 459-4985 and she will assist you.

Membership Review

Are you a member of SLOC? Have you paid your annual dues? Have you attended the annual meeting? Do you vote? Have you assisted on a committee or worked on a show? What are the qualifications of being a "member" and what are the "perks" of membership? These and other mind-bending questions are being considered by a new ad-hoc committee on the topic of **SLOC membership** co-chaired by Ken Zarnoch and Bonnie Williams. Their task is to better define "membership" as outlined in the by-laws; research existing policy, guidelines and procedures and to make suggestions and propose changes to the existing by-laws, if necessary. Want to help? Make your voice be heard. They are looking for company members who might like to participate in this endeavor. Any input, suggestions and volunteers are welcome. Please contact Ken at 382-8497 zarnoch@CRD.GE.com or Bonnie at 459-4985 bwillia7@nycap.rr.com.