

SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Volume 38-3
December 2004

Mama Rose Takes Center Stage

826 State St.
Schenectady, NY 12307
393-5732

Web Site:
www.sloctheater.com



2004-2005 Season
Jekyll & Hyde
October 15-17, 21-24
Gypsy
December 3-5, 9-12
Triumph of Love
March 4-6, 10-13
Grease
May 6-8, 12-15



Michael Mensching
President

Board of Directors
Alan Angelo
Jennifer S. Depew
Jodi Gilman
Mary Kozlowski
Richard Lenehan
Joe Phillips
Deb Weiskopf
Bonnie Williams
Ken Zarnoch



Next Newsletter
Deadline:
December 10

Things are heating up with *Gypsy* at the playhouse, even as the weather begins to cool down! The set construction is well under way, costumes are being pulled together and a fantastic photo shoot was held at Proctor's Theater.

Gypsy, the most successful powerhouse musical in Broadway history, tells the story of two notable show business personalities, Gypsy Rose Lee, famed strip tease artist of the 1930's, and her sister, actress June Havoc. The musical portrays the aggressive struggles of their mother to make vaudeville stars of the girls. June reigned as the breadwinner of the family when she was a child—known as "Baby June" on the vaudeville circuits—but she was later topped by her sister's success in burlesque and as an international wit and celebrity.

Bonnie Williams stars in the role of Rose, the fiercely ambitious show business-minded mother who pushes her two daughters up the rugged road to stardom. The exciting panorama of vaudeville in its heyday—back in the 1920's—is the background of *Gypsy*, and the action takes place in the theaters and around the dingy hotels populated by show folks during that era.

Some of the outstanding musical numbers introduced in *Gypsy* are "Together, Wherever We Go", "Small World", "Let Me Entertain You", "Everything's Coming Up Roses", "Rose's Turn", and "You Gottta Have a Gim-mick".

There are several new cast members in addition to those featured in last month's newsletter: Stacy Robinson, making her SLOC debut as Hollywood Blonde, Kyle DeLorenzo as Tulsa [also making his SLOC debut], Shannon Egna [Hollywood Blonde/Farmhand], Kelyn Petrie [Hollywood Blonde/Farmhand], and Daniel Pigliavento [Newsboy].

Staged under the direction of Orlando Pigliavento, with choreography by Deb Pigliavento and musical direction by Vince Bonafede, *Gypsy* will be presented by the Schenectady Light Opera Company from December 3 through 5 and 9 through 12. No "gimmicks" are required to get tickets – just call Jean or Varro Clarke at 399-9359.



Bonnie Williams (Rose) rehearses with Musical Director Vince Bonafede.



Producer Michael Mensching, Director Orlando Pigliavento and Lighting Designer Ken Zarnoch plot their strategy.

Spotlight on...

Potluck Dinner/ Semi-Annual Meeting

Coming in January!
Details to be announced.



President's Notes...by Mike Mensching



🎵 **Jekyll Takes Honors, People of London Go Wild!**

Kudos to Thomas Bambury and his terrific cast and crew for not only a wonderful show but also a great start to our season. From sold out houses to standing ovations, this production was a killer! At the cast party it was evident that this cast and crew grew together as a family and had a blast working together.

The production was also honored with several TANY Awards including:

Excellence in acting award to **Kevin X McNamara** for his portrayal of Dr. Henry Jekyll and Edward Hyde.

Excellence in set design to **Doug Peek** and **Mary Kozlowski** for their set concept, design, and construction.

Excellence in choreography to **Thomas Dalton Bambury**.

Meritorious achievement for singing to **Jennifer Payeur** in her role as Emma Carew.

Meritorious achievement for singing to **Heather D'Arcy** for her role as Lucy Harris.

Meritorious achievement in dance and ensemble work to "The People of London": **Christopher Byrne, Heather Cops, Jennifer Dickerson, Kathy Friscic, Nathan Meredith, Christina Nicotina-Pickreign, Doug Peek, Loretta Romero, Frank Sansone, Tracy Solarek, Randy Viele, and Karen Welthy.**

Well done everyone!

I also want to personally thank Doug Peek and MaryAnn Muth for their hard work in getting everything ready so quickly for the WRGB commercial. Both set and costumes looked great on TV!

🎵 **SLOC Becomes a "COMMERCIAL" Success**

And speaking of TV...have you seen the SLOC commercials yet? In October we aired our first commercial for the season depicting several characters from the *J & H* production. Kevin McNamara, Jennifer Payeur, Eric Shovah and Allan Foster all mugged for the WRGB cameras. Look for our own Bonnie Williams performing the role of Rose from *Gypsy* in early December. If you happen to catch one of the commercials on TV, drop us an e-mail at comments@sloctheater.com and tell us what you think.

🎵 **We're Looking For A Few Good People**

The Board is looking for a few people to sit on sub-committees for the remainder of the season. Please contact the following people at comments@sloctheater.com if you are interested in serving as a committee member or chair:

General Services - Paige Gauvreau, Mary Kozlowski. General services would be topics like tech recruitment, audition workshops, online tickets etc.

Building - Jeff Rauhauser. Building projects like facility improvements (i.e. new kitchen), archives room, new electrical hook-ups, new location etc.

Fundraising - Deb Weiskopf, Ken Zarnoch. Fundraising benefits, corporate sponsorships, grant writings, etc.

Please consider volunteering for one of these committees. If you care about SLOC, you can make a difference.

🎵 **Featured Player**

This month's featured players are John Fowler and Katherine Zaleski. Not that these two don't deserve their own individual recognition, but they seem like the dynamic duo of hair styling for the Company. I first worked with John during *Sweeney Todd* in March of 1998. Since then I have seen John working on many, many SLOC shows. John introduced Katherine to Schenectady Light Opera and she has been an artist of hair design for the past few years as well, beginning with *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*. Katherine works with John at his styling shop in Schenectady. Additionally, John serves as secretary for Schenectady Civic Players. Thank you John and Katherine for your many years of artistry and service!

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. 38 Issue No. 4** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Friday, December 10, 2004**. Issue No. 4 will be mailed by January 5.

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

Capital District Auditions ListServ

Go to <http://dx.ayw.org/mailman/listinfo/capdist-auditions> to join the Capital District Auditions ListServ and find out the latest way to get audition information in the Capital District.

Auditions Set for *Triumph of Love*

Musical Director Theresa Fitzmaurice, Producer Ted Vickery and Director Tom Heckert announce that auditions for *Triumph of Love*, the third show of the season, will be held on December 6th and 7th, at the Opera House, 826 State Street, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Triumph of Love is based on a 17th century farce of the same name written by Marivaux. Princess Leonide is about to assume the throne of Sparta (usurped by her father from his mortal enemy many years ago). At that time, Agis, the young Prince of Sparta, was swept away by his spinster aunt (Hesione) and bachelor uncle (Hermocrates), two ferocious philosophers who do not believe in the power or use of emotions. Agis has now come of age and is being sent out to destroy his mortal enemy – the Princess, whom he has never met. The Princess, longing for a last fling before assuming the throne, sets out with her maid, Corinne, and spies Agis from afar and falls instantly in love, but learns that no women may enter the garden where he lives. Resourceful as ever, the Princess and Corinne infiltrate the garden posing as men to try to make Agis fall in love with the Princess. Two servants, Harlequin and Dimas, recognize the women for what they truly are and try to foil the Princess' plan. Corinne enlists the servants to help the Princess with her plan and the plan begins to take many twists and turns, with characters unlocking their emotions, wondering if love will triumph after all.

Triumph of Love is truly an ensemble cast. Each person must be able to sing and move well. The show is presented in the traditional commedia dell'arte style. The characters are based on standard commedia dell'arte characters, for example, the lovers, the miser, Corinne, and the Harlequin. Comic timing is particularly important for the servant characters, since most of their movement and dialogue is fast and witty. Please come prepared to sing 16 bars from a show tune that will demonstrate your vocal abilities. Voices should be able to adapt to a variety of musical styles since many characters sing in a variety of styles from "legit" to belt quality. A cappella singing will not be permitted; we need to evaluate your ability to follow a live accompaniment. An accompanist will be available.

Roles available are:

Princess Leonide (F) – Age 20's to 30's. Full of spirit, the princess wants to experience the real world before becoming the ruler of Sparta. She is resourceful, energetic and always one step ahead of the people around her. Must be able to assume the many faces the princess takes during the show...sometimes at a moments notice – from pretending she is a man befriending another man, a man seducing an older woman, a "Monroe" type seducing an older man, and a woman running from an arranged marriage.

Agis(M) – Age 20's to 30's. The true Prince of Sparta and the sworn mortal enemy of the Princess. Raised in seclusion by his Aunt and Uncle, he has been taught to live and think only using reason. When a "man" befriends him before his departure, his world changes and changes even more after he discovers the man is a woman. Agis is the proverbial straight man amongst the shenanigans of the zany characters around him.

Hesione(F) – Age 30's to 50's. Described as a ferocious philosopher. She lives her life through reason, devoid of emotion. When the Princess arrives disguised as a man, the Princess awakens feelings buried deep inside and exposes Hesione to her emotions. After all these years, Hesione longs to experience everything she has missed in life.

Hermocrates(M) – Age 30's to 50's. The most ferocious philosopher. Hermocrates prides himself in leading a life based on reason, thinking that women's emotions are their downfall. Hermocrates thinks that he has seen through the Princess' manly charade, only to be seduced by her feminine wiles.

Harlequin(M) – Age 20's to 40's. The classic clown. Harlequin, along with Corinne and Dimas, comprise "the zanies" – the group of henchmen that help propel the action. Harlequin is a loyal servant but longs to be free of his duties to Agis, Hesione and Hermocrates. He is counting the days until Agis leaves to claim his throne so that he can be set free. He sees through the Princess's charade immediately and is enlisted to help her plan.

Corinne(F) – Age 20's to 50's. Maid and loyal servant to the Princess, one of "the zanies". Corinne assumes manly dress along with the Princess to befriend Agis. When discovered as a woman, Corinne falls back on what she knows best to get her out of a tough spot - her feminine wiles.

Dimas(M) - Age 30's to 50's. A crotchety gardner, loyal servant of Hermocrates, one of "the zanies". When he discovers the Princess' secret, he is compelled to alert his master but he fails to follow through as Corinne works her magic.

Production dates are March 4, 5, 6, and 10 though 13, 2005. Questions concerning the auditions and requests for copies of the script can be directed to Tom Heckert 877 - 6777.

Gypsy Factoids

*The musical was a smash hit starring Ethel Merman in its original production in 1959. It has since had award-winning revivals starring Angela Lansbury, Tyne Daly and Bernadette Peters.

**Gypsy* is based on the best-selling book of memoirs by Gypsy Rose Lee, who rose to fame with her unprecedented combination of a lady-like strip-tease technique and an intellectual viewpoint.

*The musical has a libretto by Arthur Laurents, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, and choreography by Jerome Robbins, the same team responsible for *West Side Story*.

*Jule Styne composed the score.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gypsy

December 3-5 and 9-12

Thursday, Friday, and
Saturday at 8:00 PM
Sunday at 2:00 PM

TICKETS: 399-9359

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

Non-Profit Org.
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SLOC to Exhibit Tree at Proctor's Holiday ShowcaseS

SLOC will be exhibiting a tree at the Proctor's Holiday Showcase 11/24/04 through 11/28/04. The tree will have a *Gypsy* theme. We could still use some volunteers on Sunday 11/28/04 at 4:00 pm at Proctor's to help remove the tree and bring it to SLOC to be set up in the green room. Please contact Deb Weiskopf at 373-0975 if you can help take down the tree.

2004 - 2005 New Membership/Membership Renewal Form

Please return by **February 1, 2005** to:
Jenny Depew • 3 Delafield Drive, Albany, NY 12205-2407

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 2005**.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____ Check # _____ payable to **SLOC**.
Credit Card number _____ MC/Visa Exp.date _____

Signature (Charges only) _____

"Spotlight" Needs a Helping Hand

The editors of "Spotlight" are in need of someone to help with mailing each issue. Duties would involve coordinating the label pick-up, getting the newsletter from the printer, applying the labels, and dropping the newsletter off at the Post Office. This is a minimal time commitment, but would be a great help in getting the newsletter to everyone in a timely fashion. If you are interested, please contact Tom Heckert (877-6777) for further details.