



SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Volume 38-1
September 2004

***Jekyll & Hyde* Cast Announced**

Producer Jodi Gilman, Director Thomas D. Bambury and Musical Director Dave Cash are pleased to announce the cast for *Jekyll & Hyde*, SLOC's first production of the 2004-2005 season.

The cast includes: Kevin McNamara as Jekyll/Hyde, Heather D'Arcy as Lucy Harris, Jennifer Payeur as Emma Carew, Allan Foster as Sir Danvers Carew, Ryan Crimmins as Simon Stride, Richard Gatta as Poole and Sue Talarico as Lady Beaconsfield. Also cast in featured roles are Eric Shovah as Utterson, Frank Meredith as Bishop of Basingstoke, Ken Zarnoch as General Lord Glossop, Dave Dixon as Sir Archibald Proops, Laural Hayes as Nellie, Nick Muscatiello as Lord Savage, and Paul Blanchard as Spider. Completing the cast are Christina Nicotina-Pickreigh, Karen Welthy, Jennifer Dickerson, Heather Copps, Frank Sansone, Nathan Meredith, Christopher Byrne, Jimmy Propst, Tracy Solarek, Loretta Romero, Kathy Friscic, and Randy Viele as the people of London.

Supporting the cast behind the scenes are: Set Designer Doug Peek, Lighting Designer Greg Rucinski, Costumer Mary-Ann Muth, Choreographer Thomas D. Bambury, Stage Manager Donna Baxter, Sound Designer Joel Rowe, Hair Designer Loretta Romero, Make-up Designer Thomas D. Bambury, Set Construction by Doug Peek and Mary Kozlowski, and Publicity and Prop Masters Carole Alawi and Donna Austin.

Performance dates of *Jekyll & Hyde* are October 15-17 and 21-24, 2004. It is never too early to fess up to being a Jekkie [see Factoids] so please call Paige Gauvreau @ 377-5101 to reserve your seats! This show is one not to be missed!



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 Lenahan
Joe Phillips
Deb Weiskopf
Bonnie Williams
Ken Zarnoch



Next Newsletter
Deadline:
September 8

***Gypsy* Audition Dates Set**

Auditions for SLOC's second production of the season, *Gypsy*, are scheduled for September 8th and 9th [sign-in at 7 p.m.]. The show will be directed by Orlando Pigliavento, produced by Mike Mensching and include musical direction by Vince Bonafede. Performances are scheduled for December 3-5 and 9-12 with rehearsals beginning the week of September 12th. Please bring a list of conflict dates to the audition. No additional conflicts will be accepted following the casting of the show.

Auditioners should prepare at least 16 bars of a song from a Broadway show and bring sheet music. An accompanist will be provided. A cappella and self-accompanied auditions are discouraged. Auditioners may be taught a brief selection from the show itself or be asked to sing something in contrast to their audition song. They should also be prepared for readings of selected scenes and a brief movement audition. [continued on page three]

Spotlight on...

***Gypsy* Auditions**
Wednesday & Thursday,
September 8 & 9
7:00 p.m.
at the Opera House



President's Notes...by Mike Mensching



♪ Passing of the Torch

I would like to say that I am thrilled to be serving as your President for the next two years. Schenectady Light Opera is a place that has become very dear to me, a place where I now have numerous friends and colleagues. I am very excited about this coming season, especially with two community theater area premiers in *Jekyll and Hyde* and *Triumph of Love*. As president, I would like to maintain our commitment to quality theater with quality standards for the Capital District community.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the efforts of Tom Heckert, departing President, whose dedication to the Company is exemplary. Tom will be continuing his work with SLOC as director of *Triumph of Love*, one of the *Spotlight* editors, and chairman of a Board subcommittee.

♪ SLOC to purchase ALS

The SLOC Board is pleased to announce that we are in the process of purchasing an Assisted Listening System for hearing impaired members of our audience. This system will be available free of charge and hopefully will be in place for the first show of our season. Patrons can choose to use an ALS earpiece or utilize their own hearing aid for the performance. What's more is that the system can be utilized for any seat in our house. The system is being purchased in memory of Ira Gilman. A special thanks to Alan Angelo, Dave Wilkinson and the Gilman family for their support in this worthy endeavor.

♪ Meet the Veeps!

I would like to congratulate the following SLOC members on their Vice-presidential appointments: VP Artistic - Laurie Larson, Co-VP Audience Services - Paige Gauvreau, Ferne Dutkin, VP Company - Deb Weiskopf, VP Facilities - Jeff Rauhauser, VP Publicity - Richard Lenehan, and Co-VP Technical - Ken Zarnoch, Rick Bello.

Brett Putnam will now serve as Business Manager, Alan Angelo as Archivist, and Melinda Zarnoch and Mary Kozlowski will remain as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

♪ Featured Player...

With each edition of *Spotlight*, I'd like to feature one Company member who works tirelessly behind the scenes with little public recognition. These are the people who help us turn out consistently high-quality productions season after season. Obviously not every deserving individual will get his or her moment in the spotlight, but I'll try to include as many as possible. When you see these people, take a minute to thank them for all their hard work.

Marcia Lenehan

She's the make-up woman with the warmest smile! Marcia has been working with SLOC since 1996 and has done make-up for a total of sixteen shows. Most recently she did the makeup for *Jane Eyre*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Victor/Victoria*. She also won a TANYs award for make-up design for *Follies*. Marcia is an Associate Sanitarian for the Albany County Dept. of Health and a member of the Clifton Park Community and St. Ambrose choirs. Perhaps her singing will lead her to the SLOC boards in the future and we can do her make-up for a change. Many thanks, Marcia!

In Memoriam

SLOC lost a friend and worker on June 2nd when Marion Foster made her final exit. Her close association with SLOC spanned 45 years, and ranged from frequent onstage work in the 1950-1980's (her first role: a tenor chorus soldier in *La Perichole* in 1959; she played Sally Cato in both *Mame* productions; her last role: *Recess*, 2001) to backstage work since the 50's (mostly set design/painting, lighting and helping with costumes and facilities). Although she participated in other theatrical groups, her heart was always with SLOC.

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. 2** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Wednesday, September 8, 2004**. Issue No. 2 will be mailed by September 24.

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

Gypsy continued

Character Breakdown:

Mama Rose- Age range 38-45, ages to her late 50's. Strong belt voice. Aggressive, strong actress with a vulnerability. Some dance ability.

Louise (Gypsy)- Ages from 14-28. Very strong actress, sweet voice with a kick. Must physically be able to play a stripper. Strong dance background.

Young Louise- Age 7-10. Appears in the beginning and should be shy quiet mousy type.

Dainty June- Age 12-14. EXCELLENT Dancer/singer. A dynamo and somewhat petulant character.

Baby June- Age 5-8. Strong dancer and singing ability. Very cute.

Herbie- Male 40-50. Some singing ability (baritone) and some dance [ballroom]. Strong character actor.

Mazzeppa- Age 30-40's Stripper with a strong gravel sounding voice quality. Hard nosed. [No nudity for all strippers; costumes may be revealing]

Electra- Age 20-30's Stripper. Excellent dancer. Singer.

Tessie Tura- Age 30's Stripper, good actress, singer, excellent dancer. Heart of gold with an edge.

Newsboys- Ages 8-12. Strong singers/dancers. May be played by girls if necessary. [at least 4]

Farm Boys- Ages 14-18. The newsboys grown up. Same number as the newsboys. Must act, sing and dance.

Tulsa- Age 16-18. Very strong singer/dancer. Charismatic.

Uncle Jocko- Buffoon, hard nosed child hater who hosts a children's talent show. May double as other smaller roles. Any Age.

Pastey- Sleazy stage manager of a 3rd rate burlesque house. Any age.

Mr. Goldstone- 1 scene where he just gets moved around.

Weber-Theatre Manager-any age.

Hollywood Blondes- 4-6 females 18-22. Strong dancers.

Ensemble: Various men to double as Pop, Kringelein, Cigar. Ages 25-55.

Women: Miss Crachitt, hard nosed secretary. Stage Moms for Uncle Jocko, Gypsy's maid.

Kids: A young man who can play an instrument. A balloon girl. Kids for Uncle Jocko scene.

This show promises to be a blockbuster for SLOC. Parents of children auditioning are also encouraged to audition. If you have any further questions about the show or auditions please contact Mike Mensching at 477-2256 or Orlando Pigliavento at 381-4530.

Jekyll & Hyde Factoids

*Devoted fans of the musical are known as Jekkies. When the show opened in Houston, it attained cult status and Jekkies followed the show through its national tour. During the New York run, there was a New York-based Jekkies' event coordinator who organized weeklong "pilgrimages" where fans saw the show daily. Anyone interested in taking on this role for SLOC??!!

*The musical premiered in 1990 at Houston's Alley Theater. Following its run there, it went on national tour and released two recordings before finally reaching Broadway seven years later.

High School Musical Award Winners

The High School Musical Theater Committee, led by co-chair's Sue and Greg Rucinski, traveled the Capital District with their intrepid group of committee members and substitutes to adjudicate 16 shows during our 2003-2004 season. This year the First Place Award of \$300 was presented to Shenendehowa High School for their production of *West Side Story*, the Second place award of \$200 went to Saratoga Springs High School for their production of



High School Committee Chair Sue Rucinski presents the First Place Award to Shenendehowa Director Dora Myers.

production of *Anything Goes*, and the Third prize award of \$100, which is presented to a school that has not previously won an award, went to

Scotia-Glenville High School for their production of *Damn Yankees*. In addition to the cash awards, each school also received a plaque to commemorate their achievement.

Not only were the productions outstanding, but the actresses and actors were outstanding also. This year the Outstanding Performer Award was given to Courtney Van Dyke for her performance as Nellie Forbush in Columbia High School's production of *South Pacific*.

Sue and Greg would like to thank their hard working committee members Della and Jodi Gilman, Jenny and Bill Depew, Ted Rucinski, and substitutes Sally Farrell, Ken and Melinda Zarnoch, and Connie and Jeff Rauhauser, for their unwavering support, dedication and gas mileage as we adjudicated our 16 shows!



Saratoga Springs Director Bob Berenis accepts the Second Place Award.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Jekyll & Hyde

October 15-17 and 21-24

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.

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SLOC Bus Trip Planned

Did you miss the Spring SLOC Bus Trip? Since everyone had a great time in April, the Board of Directors has approved offering another bus trip to New York City on Saturday, November 20, 2004. The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. The bus will depart Albany at 7:30 AM and will leave from New York City at 7:30 PM that night. Activities in NYC are on your own with plenty of time to see a show and have dinner afterwards if you like. The trip was announced at the Annual Meeting, giving people who attended the opportunity for advance notice.

If you are interested in going, please contact Tom Heckert at 877-6777 or by email at tomh823@aol.com for details and reservations. For those of you who prefer the longer trip like the one in April, never fear...it will return in the spring if there is enough interest. Also, congratulations to Elisa Verb who won the Annual Meeting raffle of two free tickets on the November trip! Join Elisa and the rest of us for an exciting day in the Big Apple!

Many Hands Make Light Work at Annual Brochure Labeling

The brochure-mailing event was a huge success! On June 22, in less than one and a half hours, the group present labeled over 5000 SLOC season brochures and prepared them for mailing. That might even be a SLOC record for the fastest completion of this huge task! Thanks to the following people for helping: Jean Clarke, Peter and Madeline Codella, Dale Conklin, Sue Culver, Bill and Jenny Depew, Ferne Dutkin, Della and Jodi Gilman (along with Sample), Tom Heckert, Mary Kozlowski, Richard and Marcia Lenehan, Mike McDermott, Mike Mensching, and Chris and Larry Pederson.

Proctor's Plans Tribute To Allen Mills

On Sunday, October 17, Proctor's will host a tribute to honor Allen Mills who passed away earlier this year. Allen was musical director and organist for the Proctor's Christmas Show. Tickets are \$14.50 and are available through Proctor's Box Office.



SLOC Welcomes Newest Member

Congratulations to Sandra and Brett Putnam who welcomed their daughter, Kate Chizzolin Putnam into the world on August 5th!