

# SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the  
Schenectady Light Opera Company  
Volume 39-3  
December 2005

## "Superior" Holiday Fun at SLOC's *Nuncrackers*!

826 State St.  
Schenectady, NY 12307  
393-5732

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



2004-2005 Season  
Songs for a New World  
October 14-16, 20-23  
Nuncrackers  
December 2-4, 8-11  
Sullivan and Gilbert  
March 3-5, 9-12  
Nine  
May 5-7, 11-14



Bonnie Williams  
President

Board of Directors  
Peter Codella  
Marlene Countermine  
Jennifer S. Depew  
Jodi Gilman  
Richard Lenehan  
Michelle Sausa-Gatta  
Ross Snyder  
Bonnie Williams  
Ken Zarnoch



Next Newsletter  
Deadline:  
December 8

Back on our stage are those zany Little Sisters of Hoboken, this time in *Nuncrackers: The Nonsense Christmas Musical*, the fourth entry in writer-composer Dan Goggin's series of musical comedy *Nonsense* shows. It's charming and just the holiday theme audiences want at this time of year.

The Sisters are taping a holiday TV special in the basement of their Mount St. Helen's convent for a local access cable channel. The music they perform is a bit of country, pop and gospel, and has some tender ballads that add a serious note to the other mishaps and adventures that occur. From ballet ("The Nutcracker", of course), to a food preparation segment, to a Catholic Home Shopping bit, this musical promises to delight and provide a wonderful holiday treat for theatergoers!

The show is directed by Alan Angelo, and produced by Peter and Madeline Codella. They are assisted by Musical Director Andrea Merrill and Choreographer Donna Panzl. All have participated in many SLOC productions over their last 25 years as Company members.

The engaging and talented cast consists of Lisa Passonno Franklin (Reverend Mother), Cheryl A. Glenn (Sister Mary Hubert), Kristen Olochnowicz (Sr. Robert Anne), Heather Haskins (Sr. Mary Paul, aka Amnesia), Annie Fouhy (Sr. Mary Leo), Jeffrey P. Hocking (Father Virgil), and Donna Z. Baxter (Stage Manager). A children's ensemble also does some delightful numbers and includes Charles Franklin, Emily Franklin, George Franklin, Ashley Markellos, Katelyn Markellos, Sarah McNally and Michael Niles.

Those making a habit of assisting the production staff are Bob Farquharson (set design), Brian Rogerson (set decor), Richard Lenehan (set construction), Donna Baxter (stage manager/rehearsal secretary), Jim Meyer (costumes), Kit Goldstein (props), Peter Codella (lighting); Alan Angelo, Bill Poppino and David J. Wilkinson (sound); Marcia Lenehan (makeup), John Fowler (hair design), and Joe and Mary Ann Condra (publicity).

Performances at our 826 State Street, Schenectady theater are December 2 through 4, and December 8 through 11. Thursday-Friday-Saturday shows begin at 8 pm; Sunday matinees are at 2 pm. We anticipate a sell-out with this show, so make your ticket reservations early by calling Sue Culver at 383-9350. Ticket prices are \$18 for an adult, and \$9 for children under 13. *Nuncrackers* has very enjoyable seasonal songs and audience involvement you won't want to miss!



Sister Mary Leo (Annie Fouhy) helps Sister Mary Annette prepare for her SLOC debut.

### Spotlight on...

**Semi-Annual  
Meeting/Dinner  
January 28**

6:00 PM at the Opera House  
(see article on page 3)



# President's Notes...by Bonnie Williams



🎵 Congratulations to *Songs For A New World*, hereafter referred to *SFANW*. It was a truly beautiful piece of theatre. Standing in the lobby as folks exited the theatre, I overheard so many positive comments about the production and the cabaret atmosphere. Mike and Company should be very pleased with the critical and artistic success. You started our season off on a high note. However, not to rest on our laurels for too long, I know that the *Nuncrackers* team are hard at work and will provide their audience a wonderful evening in the theatre as well.

🎵 You know the old saying "preaching to the choir?" It comes from the idea that those folks who sit in the choir have been in church every Sunday, for so long, and have heard the "message" so often they don't need to hear it again. To the faithful SLOC "choir" members, who are always around, doing what they can, the following "message" is not to you. It seems that I'm using this space to ask for something. This time is no different. Those of you who receive this newsletter do so because, at one time, you were involved in a show. Perhaps you haven't been back in a while. I'm asking that you become involved again and **buy a ticket!** If each person on this mailing list bought one ticket to each show, we'd be sold out! But I'm fooling myself of course. No one likes to go to a show alone, so buy two tickets and bring a friend! Seriously, if you haven't been to show in a while, please consider coming back. We need the support of folks who care about SLOC. You did once. I hope you still do.

🎵 SLOC was represented at two recent Schenectady events. We had a great group of singers at the Stockade Walkabout who performed at the Van Dyck. The cast of *SFANW* along with Deb Weiskopf, Elisa Verb, Ross Snyder, Eric Shovah, and Heather D'Arcy presented songs from the past as well as some selections from this season's shows. The following Saturday, Alan Angelo, Michelle Sausa-Gatta, and Sue Rucinski sang show tunes for the Hurricane Benefit Concert. Along with other musicians from the Schenectady area, we raised over \$2500.00 for the Red Cross. I was pleased to participate in both events. Thanks to Deb and Alan for coordinating and for fellow SLOCers who came to hear us!

🎵 Thanks to Ross Snyder for enrolling SLOC in Key Bank's "Neighbors Make a Difference Day". With this program, Key Bank encourages employees to volunteer their time for not-for profit organizations. Ross along with Key Bank employees Joe Pickett and Lori Larson worked at the Opera House moving the extra theatre seats to the green room, placed gliders on the cabaret tables, and replaced "feet" on the remaining chairs, where needed.

🎵 Speaking of chairs, the red chairs in the theatre will be stored on the sides of the theatre when not in use and will be covered in an effort to keep them clean. We ask that these chairs not be used for rehearsal purposes.

## Update from the Opera House Committee

The public meeting to gather ideas regarding the Opera House was very successful and helpful. Thank you to everyone who participated. The committee categorized each idea presented and totaled the scores. All the ideas were then presented to our architect and to the SLOC Board for consideration. Ideas that focused on SLOC's mission and organization, rather than the facility were categorized and presented to the Board for consideration. A full list of ideas, scores, and categories can be obtained by contacting our VP Facilities, Ross Snyder. The architect will now begin to develop the ideas into a Master Plan. Our goal is to have a Master Plan ready to present in time for the semi-annual meeting. Below are the ten ideas that were scored the highest by the meeting attendees. Obviously there is much more to the data than just the raw scores, and the ideas have been thoroughly examined, categorized and evaluated. Overall, over 200 ideas were generated. Of the 200 ideas, 115 of them were given a score.

Rank	Idea	Score
1	Air Condition Theater / Ventilation	157
2	Keep Overhead and maintenance low	85
3	Upgrade heating System	75
4	Need more parking	74
5	Grant writer, volunteer or paid	70
6	Find new location and start from scratch	65
7	Handicap accessibility, upstairs and downstairs	62
8	Bathrooms need upgrade, capacity and style	61
9	Back Stage too small	60
10	Remodel green room, floors, mirrors, lighting	60

## 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, 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. 39 Issue No. 4** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Thursday, December 8, 2005**. Issue No. 4 will be mailed by January 5.

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

# Sullivan and Gilbert Auditions December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

Producer Bonnie Williams, Director Gwen Fraser and Musical Director Sherri Strichman announce audition dates for SLOC's 3<sup>rd</sup> show of the 2005-2006 season, *Sullivan and Gilbert*. Auditions will be held Monday and Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Opera House on State Street in Schenectady. Sign in begins at 7:00 pm each night and the auditions begin at 7:30 pm.

Everyone trying out for Savoyard, Violet or Alfred, should come prepared to sing a Gilbert and Sullivan song or something similar. NO POP/ROCK.

We would like to produce a fully acoustic show...like it would be in 1890 at the Savoy. Projection and diction will be very important. Do not be concerned with maintaining an accent during auditions. An accompanist will be provided; a cappella singing will not be heard

*Sullivan and Gilbert* is set in the Savoy Theater in 1890. It is the final frantic day of rehearsal for the Gilbert and Sullivan revue requested by Queen Victoria. The two men have been feuding for years, but they are forced to work together one more time. The playwright, Ken Ludwig, has adorned his book with a wonderful Gilbert and Sullivan score.

The cast consists of 17 adults. Characters are as follows:

**William S Gilbert**—a strong actor who has 1 duet that could be talked/sung. He is a middle-aged, rumped, sturdy, stubborn, gruff, gout sufferer who is out-spoken, yet means well.

**Sir Arthur Sullivan**—a strong actor who has 1 duet that can be talked/sung. He is a middle-aged, gentle, elegant, high-strung, sensitive man of questionable health. He longs to be known as a "serious composer".

Gilbert and Sullivan are both quick tongued and very different from one another, but there is still an underlying feeling of caring between them.

**Kitty Gilbert**—a non-singing role—is a confident woman in her late 30's. She's been married to Gilbert since she was 17 and is no longer fazed by her husband's brusque ways. She acts as a buffer between G & S.

**Richard D'Oly Carte**—a non-singing role—is the long time G & S producer. He valiantly tries to keep everyone on task.

The following Savoyards and Violet do about 95% of the staged singing. They all have solos, plus ensemble singing and speaking lines. **Savoyards:**

**Durward Lely** (tenor) and **Courtice Pounds** (tenor)—both are narcissistic and full of themselves.

**Rutland Barrington** (bass-baritone)—an up stager, could be hefty.

**Sybil Grey** (soprano) and **Jessie Bond** (mezzo) both are catty, gossips who are jealous of the attention given to Violet.

**Rosina Brandram** (alto) could be a large woman who is a man chaser. She is a larger than life type woman.

**George Grossmith** (baritone) is a comic G & S actor who's a dandy and very full of himself.

**Violet Russell** (soprano) is a pretty girl in her 20's. She is a magnet for men and is currently having a secret affair with Sullivan. She is willing to use her feminine wiles to advance her career.

**Alfred, Duke of Edinburg**, the second son of Queen Victoria is a friend of Sullivan. He is an attractive playboy type. He longs to be on stage even though he's totally inexperienced in theatre. Gilbert refers to him as a "dumbbell without a title". (sings a solo and some later ensemble numbers).

**2 men and 2 women who sing.** These 4 will be dressed as Victorian stage hands and costumers. While they haven't any speaking lines, they will be used for staging business and chorus parts.

Production dates are: March 3, 4, 5 and 9, 10, 11, 12. For further information, please contact *Gwen Fraser* (346-1366) or *Sherri Strichman* (346-6722).

## *Nuncrackers Factoids*

\* *Nonsense* was first created by Dan Goggin and Marilyn Farina as a greeting card series. Based on the greeting card character, Dan wrote the *Nonsense* musical.

\*The success of *Nonsense* led Mr. Goggin to create the follow-ups *Nonsense II: The Second Coming*, *Nonsense III: Jamboree*, and *Nuncrackers: The Nonsense Christmas Musical*.

\**Nonsense* opened on December 12, 1985 at an off-Broadway theater and played 3672 performances.

\*The four *Nonsense* musicals have taken in well over \$250 million — an amazing feat, considering the nuns have never played on the larger Broadway stages.

## Save the Date!!!

The semi annual meeting and potluck supper will be on January 28, 2006 at 6pm at the Opera House. In addition to the socializing (!), there will be an update on the Master Plan as well as the unveiling of the 2006 – 2007 season. Call Michelle Sausa-Gatta (377-1905) to let her know what dish you will be bringing and how many people will be attending in your party. If you would like to help with the set-up, call Jennie Depew (456-5504). Mark your calendars and plan to attend this informative and enjoyable evening!



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Nuncrackers

December 2-4 and 8-11

Thursday, Friday, and

Saturday at 8:00 PM

Sunday at 2:00 PM

**TICKETS: 383-9350**

Adults: \$18; Children under 13: \$9

Group rates available! Call for information.

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

### 2005 - 2006 New Membership/Membership Renewal Form

Please return by February 1, 2006 to:

Jenny Depew • 3 Delafield Drive, Albany, NY 12205-2407

OR you can pay your dues directly to Jenny at the annual pot-luck dinner in January.

Direct questions regarding membership Jenny at the address above,  
or call 457-2394 or e-mail [jensiss@logical.net](mailto:jensiss@logical.net).

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 2006**.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ payable to **SLOC**.

Credit Card number \_\_\_\_\_ MC/Visa Exp.date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Charges only) \_\_\_\_\_

### Deadline for Submissions for 2006-2007 Season Extended



Schenectady Light Opera Company is seeking directors for their 2006-2007 season. For more information and an application, call Michelle Sausa-Gatta, VP Artistic Operations at (518) 377-1905. Leave your name, phone number and address and an application will be forwarded to you. The deadline for submissions has been extended until Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.