



# SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the  
Schenectady Light Opera Company  
Volume 38-7  
June 2005

## Annual Meeting Set For A New Night

The Board has decided to hold the Annual Meeting on Friday, June 3, 2005. They decided to try a week night to see if it was more convenient for our members, as the Friday night attendance was not always strong.

Membership sign-ups for the 2005 – 2006 season will be from 7:00 – 7:30 PM. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 PM. Desserts and refreshments will follow.

As part of the meeting, several new Board members will be elected. The following people are remaining on the Board: Joe Phillips, Jodi Gilman, Jenny Depew and Bonnie Williams. Running for a two year term will be Marlene Countermine, Ken Zarnoch, Richard Lenehan, Peter Codella, Marty O'Connor, Ross Snyder, Tom Heckert and Michelle Sausa-Gatta. See biographies for each candidate beginning on page 3. The membership will pick 5 of the 8.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting. If you are unable to attend, please contact Melinda Zarnoch [382-8497] immediately to obtain an absentee ballot. All absentee ballots must be received by Melinda prior to the start of the Annual Meeting.

## Super Subs Come to SLOC

Forget Subway and Mr. Subb. We have now available a "super sub" subscription plan that will allow you to purchase tickets to three shows at Schenectady Civic Players and two shows at Schenectady Light Opera Company for \$50. Months of meetings between both theater groups resulted in the upcoming season schedule that reduces the number of show date conflicts between the two so you can get to see your choice of shows among nine offerings.

THIS IS NOT a substitute for the SLOC season subscription package, but hopefully will bring in non subscribers who previously had to choose between one or the other theater group due to show date conflicts.

The SLOC season brochure will be distributed later than usual this year, sometime in June, due to finalizing the details and order forms, but hopefully the delay will be worth it financially to both organizations.

PS: The SLOC Super-Sub is non-fattening! Enjoy.

## 2005-2006 SLOC Season Update

**October** – *Songs for a New World*  
directed by Michael C. Mensching

**December** – *NunCrackers*  
directed by Alan Angelo

**March** – *Sullivan and Gilbert*  
directed by Gwen Frasier

**May** – *Nine*  
directed by Thomas A. Bambury

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Web Site:  
[www.sloctheater.com](http://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:  
**August 10**

Spotlight on...

**Annual Meeting**

**Friday, June 3**

**7:00 PM at the Opera House**



# President's Notes...by Mike Mensching



## 🎵 **Grease is the Word!**

Congratulations go out to Director Matt Teishner, Musical Director Frank Krummal, Choreographer Christine Marcella, producer Brett Putnam and all of the cast and crew of our latest production, *Grease*. Its successful run was definitely a hit with our box office as it played to several sold-out performances. *Grease* was certainly the cap to a great season of theater.

## 🎵 **SLOC takes a "byte" into Theater**

We have recently purchased two computers for use in our archives room and lighting booth. The archival computer will be used to establish data bases for auditions, technical and musical crew positions, finances, program generation and much more. The lighting booth computer will obviously be used to enhance expansion of the lighting capabilities to brighten our shows in the future.

## 🎵 **Annual Meeting Set for June 3**

Please attend and, simply for attending and bringing your reminder post card, you have a chance to win two tickets to the Great White Way in the Big Apple on the next SLOC trip! Not only do you get to revel in this past season's success stories, look forward to the surprises of our upcoming season, review the merits of the new Super Subscription Pass with SCP, but also validate our quorum needs for voting matters. So what more incentive do you need to come out for a fun night with your theater friends and support our growing organization!

## 🎵 **Featured Player**

Ric Bello – You may not have heard much about Ric in the past because he is relatively new to SLOC. However, Ric has been hard at work trying to improve the sound quality of our shows for the past two years. Ric first started at SLOC as sound technician for *Jane Eyre*. As co-VP of Technology on the Board, Ric has been making strides updating sound equipment. Recently we purchased additional mics, receiver and sound software. You may have noticed a marked improvement in sound quality in our last production, *Grease*, for which Ric served as sound designer. In his "spare" time, Ric works as an emergency room physician at St. Peter's Hospital. So "listen up", folks, and give Ric a word of thanks and encouragement the next time you "hear" he's around!

## ***Songs for a New World Auditions***

Schenectady Light Opera Company announces auditions for *Songs for a New World*, in its Capital Region debut. Audition dates are Tuesday & Wednesday, June 14 & 15, 2005, with sign-in at 7:00 PM. A revue of 16 Jason Robert Brown songs that concentrate on various themes of change: Living the American Dream, Despair, Love, Heartbreak, Religion, War, and Life Choices. Each song centers on a defining moment in life and focuses on the character's need to believe that somewhere out there is the chance for a new life and hope for a "New World". Roles are available for 2—3 men and 2—3 women.

Please prepare at least one song from the show and two other Broadway songs that show a contrast, of at least 16 bars; bring sheet music. An accompanist will be provided.

Performances are scheduled for October 14-16 and 20-23, 8pm Thursday, Friday, Saturday and 2pm Sundays. Rehearsals begin September 3—5. [This is Labor Day weekend.]

Auditions are at the Opera House at 826 State Street. For further information, contact Director Michael Mensching at 810-9534.

## ***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. 1** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Wednesday, August 10, 2005**. Issue No. 1 will be mailed by August 26.

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

## Candidates for the Board of Directors

### **Peter J. Codella**

Peter has been a member of SLOC for over 20 years. During that time he has been involved with numerous productions as Producer, Director, Set, Lighting, or Sound Designer, Publicist, or actor. Last season he was co-producer for *Edwin Drood* and next, *NunCrackers*. In the SLOC organization, he has held positions including President, Board Member, VP Technical, VP Publicity, and Business Manager. He has also been active in Company fund raising and was instrumental in certifying SLOC for the GE matching gifts program. Concerning SLOC's future, there are several areas of extreme importance. First, our production staffs need more financial support to maintain the level of professionalism to which we are accustomed. Budgets have gone up a little, but the increases have largely kept pace with inflation in the fixed cost. There has been precious little extra in the artistic areas. Second, there is a rising feeling of SLOC esprit de corps that needs to be made contagious throughout the company. Next season will be our 80th. Let's celebrate and put plans in place for an even stronger and more entertaining SLOC as we near a 100 year old Company.

### **Marlene Countermine**

I have been around SLOC for many years, both on stage and back stage for many productions. Over the past 3 years I have been the rehearsal secretary for most of the shows - a position I readily enjoy. Next season I will be producing *Nine* for Thomas D. Bambury. I care for this Company and the people involved in it. I would like to be more involved in the decisions and the future of Schenectady Light Opera and would work at getting more members involved in helping out with shows and the tasks that need to be done to support these shows and with the upkeep of our facility. Working for Colonie Block has given me insight to the way a business should be run which I feel is important to know as a member of the Board of Directors.

### **Tom Heckert**

I am pleased to be nominated for the Board of Directors. I have served on the Board several times in my 16 years as a SLOC member, most recently from 1999 through 2004. During that time period, I also served as President for four years. I previously have served on the Board of Directors in the 80's as well as VP of Technical Operations and VP of Facilities. I have been active in all aspects of company operations, currently working as part of SLOC Newsletter Committee as well as organizing or assisting with the opening night parties, cleanups and directing several artistically and financially successful productions. As a collective unit, the Board of Directors has made great advances for the company in recent years and, as a unit, will continue to move forward with initiatives that are important to the membership. However, we need to continue to spend our money wisely and budget each expense to make sure we will have reserves for the future. My broad knowledge of SLOC makes me an

excellent candidate to compliment the remaining Board members. I look forward to the challenges that face SLOC in the coming years and working with the remaining Board members and the entire company membership in finding solutions.

### **Richard Lenehan**

Richard Lenehan is completing his second year as a SLOC board member and third year as VP for Public Relations. In that role, he has focused on reducing publicity printing costs while increasing the variety of advertising outlets we utilize, including TV (commercials on channel 6) the Erie Boulevard theater marquee and the Spectrum Theater advertising slides before each movie. He also is (slowly) rewriting the SLOC publicity manual developed by Matt Teichner in 1995. Under his watch, we produced our first full color playbill cover [*Gypsy*]. Richard has appeared on the SLOC stage in four productions and recently completed his first assignment as set designer for *Grease*. He serves on the board of directors of the Not So Common Players and advises the board of the Electric City Chorus in his role as former chorus president. He plans to continue his PR efforts and offer whatever assistance he can to achieving the goals set by the next SLOC Board.

### **Marty O'Connor**

I am honored to have been recommended by the Nominating Committee as a candidate for the Board of Directors of SLOC. My first show at SLOC was my second show ever, *Guys and Dolls* in 1997. I have been performing at either SLOC or SCP since that time. As someone who has not been involved in this aspect of theater before I will bring a different, fresh, perspective to the Board. For those of you who know me you know that I bring a different perspective to everything I do. I believe in taking my work seriously but not myself. I look forward to serving you on the SLOC Board.

### **Michelle Sausa-Gatta**

Michelle Sausa-Gatta has been associated with SLOC since 1980. She has been a SLOC Board member and Vice-president of Artistic Operations. Michelle has performed on stage in many productions with her favorite role being that of Pitti-Sing in *The Mikado*. More recently she has worked behind the scenes doing stage-managing, co-producing, and set painting. Michelle volunteers her time for Northeast Ballet Co. and is the secretary for the Friends of Music organization at Niskayuna Schools. Away from the opera house, Michelle is an elementary vocal music teacher for Niskayuna Schools and is Nationally Board Certified in Professional Teaching in the area of music education. She enjoys directing her school chorus, student musicals and helping out with set painting and lighting for Niskayuna High School musical productions.

*[continued on page 4]*



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## **Save the Date!!**

The *NunCrackers* staff has decided to hold auditions on Wednesday, September 7, and Thursday, September 8. Times will be the usual, sign in at 7:00 with auditions starting at 7:30. There will probably be the usual, sets, singing, and group dance. [Some of the details are yet to be finalized.] Children auditions will be held at the same time as the adults. More information will follow in the next edition of *Spotlight*, but if you have any questions that can't wait until then, please contact the show's Producer, Peter Codella [346-5461].

## **Board Bios** continued

### **Ross Snyder**

I am asking for your support of my candidacy for SLOC's Board. At the request of the current Board President, I have recently assumed the role of VP of Facilities and am quickly learning the ropes of that position. If elected to the Board I will continue to serve as VP of Facilities. I have been associated with SLOC for six years, primarily as a performer and House Manager. I have co-produced one production and am looking to produce again in the near future. As for skills, I am a certified Project Management Professional with over 15 years experience managing large technology projects. As a project manager, I am experienced at managing large budgets, and organizing staff and resources to accomplish complex goals. In closing, it would be a privilege to serve SLOC as a board member and if elected I pledge to be a committed and active board member. Thank you.

### **Ken Zarnoch**

Ken Zarnoch is completing his second year as a current SLOC Board member, having served 2 terms previously in the late-eighties. Ken is currently co-VP of Technical Operations. He has worked in almost every capacity at SLOC during the past 18 years—from acting, stage managing, lighting design, set design and construction, artistic painting, to eagerly participating in facilities improvements throughout the years. He actively mentors high school students in theater craft. He is the recipient of a TANY award for Outstanding Set Design for *Victor/Victoria* [May 2003]. Ken is a chemist and is employed at the GE Global Research Center in Niskayuna and has over 20 U.S. patents. If re-elected to the Board, he would like to continue to work to improve the quality of Light Opera's Productions, to help make the Company yet a better citizen in the community, and to foster active participation of its members.