

# SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the  
Schenectady Light Opera Company  
Volume 38-5  
February 2005

## Come See... will Love Triumph?

826 State St.  
Schenectady, NY 12307  
393-5732

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



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President

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Joe Phillips  
Deb Weiskopf  
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Next Newsletter  
Deadline:  
**April 6**

Extend Valentine's Day into March by coming to our next production, *Triumph of Love*, based on a 17<sup>th</sup> century farce of the same name written by Marivaux. Princess Leonide [Heather D'Arcy] is about to assume the throne of Sparta The Princess. Longing for a last fling before assuming the throne, she sets out with her maid, Corinne [Kristen Olchnowicz]. She spies Agis [Eric Shovah] from afar and falls instantly in love, but learns that no women may enter the garden where he lives. Agis, the true Prince of Sparta, was swept away by his aunt Hesione [Joan Horgan] and uncle Hermocrates [Colin A. McCarty], two ferocious philosophers who do not believe in the power or use of emotions, when the Princess' father usurped the Spartan throne many years ago. Agis has now become of age and is being sent out to destroy his mortal enemy – The Princess, whom he has never met. 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 [Tim Orcutt and Ross Snyder], recognize the women for what they truly are and are enlisted to help the Princess succeed in winning Agis. The plot begins to take many twists and turns, with characters unlocking their emotions, wondering if love will triumph after all.



Musical Director Theresa Fitzmaurice guides the cast through rehearsal as Stage Manager Donna Baxter looks on.



Tim Orcutt and Kristen Olchnowicz review their notes at rehearsals for *Triumph of Love*.

signer), Kathy Friscic [Properties], John Fowler [Hair and Wigs], Joe and Mary Ann Concra [Publicity], and Deb Weiskopf [Opening Night Party].

*Triumph* runs March 4 - 6, and 10 - 13. Cure the winter blues by calling Sue Culver at 383-9350 to reserve the best seats and find out if love triumphs all!

### Spotlight on...

## *Triumph of Love*

**March 4 - 6 and 10 - 13**

**TICKETS: 383-9350**



# President's Notes...by Mike Mensching



## 🎵 Etta Moore Award

This year's Etta Moore Award, given in recognition of service to Schenectady Light Opera, was given to two very deserving members of the Company. In honor of their many years of service and dedication, the SLOC board announced Bob and Paula Farquharson as the winners of this year's award [see related article on page three]. Unfortunately Bob and Paula were unable to attend the annual Pot Luck Dinner where the award would have been presented. Instead, we will be making a brief announcement to recognize them during the opening announcements for *Triumph of Love*. Bob and Paula will officially receive their award during the annual meeting in May.

## 🎵 American Idol Comes To SLOC

Plans are in the works to develop a fundraiser similar to the television program *American Idol*. SLOC would host a performance or sets of performances where contestants would perform Broadway songs and compete for monetary prizes. The performances would be critiqued by judges and voted on by audience members. Some area high schools have held similar fundraising performances and have been very successful. Look for more information on SLOC "Idol" in months to come.

## 🎵 SLOC Sound System Gets An Upgrade

Although we are still supportive of purchasing an Assisted Listening Device system, unfortunately it may be many more months before it becomes a reality. The original purchase was halted as our electrical system was interfering with the ALD's capabilities. In the meantime, however, we are making strides to improve the sound qualities of our existing systems. Recently approved was the purchase of 6 new body mics, which should be ready to use for our spring production of *Grease*.

## 🎵 Featured Player - Gwen Fraser

I first met Gwen when I was in a college production of *Candide*. She was and still is one of the most delightful people that I have had the pleasure to know. Years later I was thrilled to be playing with Gwen in my first SLOC production, *Sweeney Todd*, where she played the role of Mrs. Lovett with flawless effervescence. Gwen started with Light Opera in the seventies playing roles in *Damn Yankees* and *Carousel*. She has served as VP Artistic on the SLOC Board and will be directing *Sullivan and Gilbert* for Light Opera next season. Gwen is a retired middle school music teacher from Troy where she directed many, many shows. She participates in Glimmerglass Opera in the summers while she spends time on Conesus Lake. Gwen was last seen on the SLOC boards as Miss Strict in *Zombie Prom*. Everyone at SLOC just loves her. I can't wait to see what Gwen has in store for us in her spring production next year. She is, and always will be my "mum."

## Triumph of Love Factoids

\* Elaine Boosler was replaced by Nancy Opel prior to previews. It was reported that Ms. Boosler was dissatisfied with her role as the wise cracking Maid, Corinne. After winning praise for her role here, Ms. Opel went on to even greater acclaim in *Urinetown*.

\* "If I Cannot Love," by Betty Buckley's character Hesione in Act 2, was cut from the show during previews at Ms. Buckley's suggestion. Imagine that...she cut her own song because she felt it stopped the action of the show.

\* Lyricist Susan Birkenhead dropped the lyric's "Who got Dionysus/Through every drunken crisis" from the Song "Henchmen are Forgotten" because she didn't think enough people would know who Dionysus was. We think she probably was correct in that assumption. Anyone know who Dionysus is???

\* Kevin Chamberlain (Dimas) went on to star in *Seussical* as Horton the Elephant and Christopher Seiber (Prince) is now in *Spamalot*.

\* Don't forget to listen for that closing line ... Joan has been practicing!!

## 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. 38 Issue No. 6** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Wednesday, April 6, 2005**. Issue No. 6 will be mailed by April 19.

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

## Grease Rocks at SLOC!

The third time is the charm! After two false starts, when the license to perform *Grease* was pulled in previous years, it looks like we are finally going to be able to perform this wonderful all-American classic for our eager audience. Producer Brett Putnam and Director Matthew T. Teichner are pleased to announce the cast of *Grease*!

The leading roles are played by the very talented Alana Sangiacomo (Sandy Dumbrowski) and Brian Avery (Danny Zuko). They are joined by an extremely funny and talented cast. The sassy and spirited Pink Ladies are: Rachel Gentile (Marty), Andrea LaMothe (Frenchy), Christine Marcella (Jan), and Libby Alois (Betty Rizzo). The tough-guy Burger Palace Boys are: Brian Sheldon (Roger), Matt Harvey (Kenickie), Chris Byrne (Sonny), and Adam Coons (Doody).

Other kooky and outrageous supporting characters are: Katie Christian as Cha-Cha, Christine Meglina as Patty Honeywell, Donna Baxter as Miss Lynch, Jerry Gretzinger (from Channel 6 News!) as Teen Angel, John McEnenney as Johnny Casino, Zach Merriman as Eugene Florczyk, and Robert Gottschalk as Vince Fontaine. Our flashy dancing, singing ensemble includes: Rachel Yoder, Anna Cardillo, Shannon Egna, Alison Crystal, Olivia Baackes, Leslie Eliashuk, Lindsay Rearic, Johnny Aini, Kyle DeLorenzo, and Ryan Dillon.

Our outstanding production team is still forming. However, we can tell you that our Choreographers are Joanne Lapitsky and Christine Marcella, our Lighting Designer is Ken Zarnoch, our Makeup designer is Marcia Lenehan, and our Props Master is Anne Sylvester. Mr. Teichner's Assistant Director is Michelle Ehlen.

*Grease* will be performed at SLOC on May 6-15. This is a sure-fire hit, and you won't want to miss out on the fun! Call Della Gilman at 280-8076 for your ticket reservations now!

### Grease is looking for help!

The Producer needs people to fill several key roles, including Musical Director, Set Designer, Stage Manager, Sound Designer, and Costume Designer. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Brett Putnam at 785-6930.

## SLOC Announces New Season

SLOC is pleased to announce the following slate of shows for the 2005-06 season:

*Big* – written by Richard Maltby, Jr. and David Shire, will be directed by Laura Andruski, musical direction by Pat Douglas.

*Songs For A New World* – written by Jason Robert Brown, will be directed by Michael C. Mensching and will be presented in cabaret style.

*Sullivan and Gilbert* – written by Ken Ludwig (author of *Crazy For You*, *Moon Over Buffalo* and *Lend Me A Tenor*), will be directed by Gwen Fraser.

*Nine* – written by Maury Yeston, will be directed by Thomas Bambury.



## Farquharsons Honored with Etta Moore Award

Paula Farquharson was first to join SLOC – she helped backstage during the production of *Mame* in the early 70's. Paula enjoyed the work, but perhaps enjoyed the partying even more – she stayed on and became SLOC's Social Chairman, in addition to her other duties.



Bob, perhaps hearing all the party rumors, called to offer his help one day and was soon put to work backstage for *1776*. He and Paula met and the rest is, well... a *Triumph of Love!*

They did their first show together, *High Button Shoes*, the following fall and have been invaluable members of the SLOC family ever since. Over the years, they have served in a variety of capacities including set design, construction, and painting; Board member; President; props; Historian; usher; and whatever else needs to be done. For those of you who have been to a cast party, have you ever wondered who takes care of ordering the mugs? By now you've probably guessed – it's Paula!

Though performing and assisting in many shows, Paula's favorite remains her role in the chorus of *George M*. Bob's favorite role is Cornelius Hackl in the second production of *Hello Dolly*, which was performed at Proctor's Theatre. Their son, Adam, in his younger years, enjoyed his father in the role of the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz!* (Attention all you next season directors – rumor has it this multi-talented man would like to get back on stage soon!)

So much of SLOC's strength comes from people like the Farquharsons who are willing to do any job necessary to make a show be the best it can be. They can be counted on for quality work, no matter what the task and for this, we thank them and honor them with this year's Etta Moore Award.

Congratulations Paula and Bob and thank you!

## Thanks for the Help

Thank you to Gwen Fraser, Carole Mann, and Pat and George Endries for answering the call to help with Spotlight! If anyone else is looking to volunteer, please see the *Grease* box on this page.



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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **Triumph of Love**

**March 4-6 and 10-13**

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**

## **Look Out New York – Here We Come!!**

The Board has approved another SLOC sponsored jaunt to the Big Apple! The next SLOC Bus Trip to New York City is on Saturday, April 23, 2005. The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. The bus will depart Albany at 7:30 AM and will leave that night from New York City at 11:15 PM.

Activities in NYC are on your own with plenty of time to see two shows if you like. The theater season is alive this spring with several shows opening – be among the first to see them!! Or, why not catch them all in the spoof *Forbidden Broadway – SVU* or *The Musical of Musicals – The Musical*. Whether you're *Little Women* or *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, you're sure to find this trip a *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!*

The trip was announced at the Pot Luck Dinner, giving people who attended the opportunity to sign up that night. For the rest of you, don't wait for *700 Sundays* to pass - if you are interested in going, please contact Tom Heckert today at 877-6777 or by email at [tomh823@aol.com](mailto:tomh823@aol.com) to reserve a spot on the trip. Payment is due April 1, 2005. Let's fill the bus so that that we can continue to provide trips in the future!



## **Show Photos Available for Purchase On-Line**

Tim Raab, from Northern Photo and our show photographer, has now joined a site called [eventpix.com](http://eventpix.com). By joining this site, he is able to post the pictures from shows he shoots with his digital camera. These photos will be available to view and purchase for sixty days after the posting.

If you are interested, log on the site and enter as a "guest". You will then be asked for the event name [name of show], photographer's name [Tim Raab], photo shop [Northern Photo], or a keyword. Once you get past that stage, you will be asked for a password.

*Gypsy* and *Triumph of Love* photos will be available [no word yet on *Grease*]. The password for *Gypsy* is Mama Rose [with a space between the words] and for *Triumph*, it's Garden. Since several theater groups perform many of the shows at the same time, make sure you have the correct production before you buy!!

Tim has also posted NYSTI's *Man of La Mancha* on the site with the password Quixote.

So, if you were broke, busy, or forgetful while the pictures were available at SLOC, you have another chance to capture a favorite memory!