

SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Volume 40-3
December 2006

Consider Yourself In the Audience for *Oliver!*

826 State St.
Schenectady, NY 12307
393-5732

Web Site:
www.sloctheater.com



2006-2007 Season

The Full Monty
October 13-15, 19-22
Oliver!
December 1-3, 7-10
Once On This Island
March 9-11, 15-18
Hello Dolly
May 4-6, 10-13



Bonnie Williams
President

Board of Directors
Donna Z. Baxter
Peter Codella
Marlene Countermine
Bob Farquharson
Mary Kozlowski
Brett Putnam
Michelle Sausa-Gatta
Ross Snyder
Ken Zarnoch



Next Newsletter
Deadline:
December 12

Rehearsals for *Oliver!* are well underway and the talented cast and crew are gearing up for their opening night on December 1, 2006. The cast includes many old favorites such as Heather D'Arcy as Nancy, Lisa Franklin as The Widow Corney, Sue Rucinski as Mrs. Sowerberry, and Ken Zarnoch as Mr. Bumble. In addition, some new faces are making their SLOC debut. Steven Rosenzweig will play the Artful Dodger, David Bacheldor will be the villainous Bill Sykes and Nick Whitney will play Oliver. Taking his turn in the coveted role of the mastermind pickpocket is Kevin McNamara, who was most recently seen on the SLOC stage as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in the 2004 production of *Jekyll and Hyde*.

The production staff also includes some old and new faces, including first time SLOC director, Eric Shovah. He will be assisted by local area director and actor, Barry Corlew. Cathy Mele will be musical directing while Marlene Countermine and Donna Baxter continue their hard work as co-producers. Also, Heather D'Arcy is slated to choreograph the production.

Oliver! is a classic piece of musical theater. The book by Lionel Bart is filled with memorable musical numbers, such as the rousing ensemble numbers "Consider Yourself" and "Be Back Soon." The show also has comical, yet poignant songs like "Reviewing the Situation," and brilliant ballads such as "Where is Love?" and "As Long As He Needs Me." These fabulous musical numbers, coupled with compelling and unforgettable characters, originally conceived by Charles Dickens and wonderfully portrayed by an experienced ensemble of actors and actresses makes *Oliver!* yet another "must-see" this season!

With a talented cast of thirty plus people, be sure to order your tickets soon for *Oliver!* by calling Della Gilman at 280-8076... even if you have to "pick-a-pocket or two" to get them!



Director Eric Shovah teaches George Franklin [one of Fagin's Boys] how to "pick-a-pocket".

Spotlight on...

**80th Anniversary
Concert Celebration**

January, 19-21
at the Opera House
(see page 3)



President's Notes...by Bonnie Williams



80th Season Begins With Two Great Events

Part of being a member of SLOC is the opportunity to participate in the fun. Recently, I had a lot of fun at two events that kicked off the 80th season. First was the 80th celebration breakfast at the Opera House. A few weeks later, I had the pleasure of attending the opening night of *The Full Monty*.

SLOCers gathered together for a wonderful breakfast catered by the City Squire. Entertainment was provided by yours truly, Allan Foster, and cast members from *The Full Monty* and *Oliver!* Accompanists were Joanne Mensching and Val Lord. Many, many thanks to the 80th committee including Jenny Depew, Jodi Gilman, Sue Culver, Mary Kozlowski, Donna Baxter, and Kate Burns. They spent many hours coordinating this event by obtaining donations for the raffles, planning and mailing invitations, decorating, and making sure everything ran smoothly. We were pleasantly surprised by the attendance of Schenectady County Councilwoman Karen Johnson and Assemblyman Paul Tonko, who brought along a commendation from the Assembly. State Senator Hugh Farley sent his regrets, but included a declaration from the State Senate. All in all it was a truly wonderful way to spend a Saturday morning. I heard from more than one person that we should think about making it an annual event!

Audiences and critics alike praised *The Full Monty*. Congratulations to Mike Mensching and his fabulous cast and crew for starting our 80th season off with a bang. I laughed, I cried, it was better than *Cats*...really! Thanks to some-well timed publicity from Mayor Stratton allowing the "full monty" to maybe happen, the show enjoyed near sell-out houses for the entire run. Special thanks to Paige Gauvreau and her unheralded assistant, Art, who had to endure the constant phone requests for tickets!

Yet Another Commendation

On Tuesday October 9, I missed the beginning of the Board meeting because I was at the Schenectady County Legislature meeting to receive yet another commendation on our 80th season. Thanks to Karen Johnson for arranging this honor and asking me to attend to receive it in person. All three commendations will be on display in the newly-refurbished archives room during the *Oliver!* run.

Breaking Board News

At a recent special Board meeting, the SLOC Board of Directors voted to investigate the possibility of relocating from our current State Street Opera House to a new location. We will perform minimal maintenance to the Opera House while we consider other venues that the Board deems appropriate and feasible to better serve our audience and membership. We will keep you posted as to any progress that is made in this exciting new venture for SLOC.

It's an Honor

Congratulations to Andrea Merrill who was recently chosen for Who's Who Among America's Teachers 2005-2006. Andrea is a music teacher at the Academy of Holy Names.

On the Mend

Recuperating at Sunnyview is Grace Hepburn, following emergency heart surgery. All of SLOC hope that she will be back in the swing of things very soon.

In Memorium

SLOC mourns the passing of George Endries, a dedicated SLOC volunteer for many years. If you have received this newsletter in the past, George may have affixed the label and sorted the zip codes. In addition to SLOC, George volunteered his time and talent to the Elks, Rotterdam Senior Citizens, Cohoes Music Hall, and was a 27 year member of the Stratton Air National Guard. Our condolences go out to his wife Pat, his children and his many friends.

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 present quality musical theater to the people in and around Schenectady County, NY.

Newsletter Staff: Jill Coloney, Tom Heckert, Greg Rucinski, Pat Endries and George Endries. 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. 40 Issue No. 4** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Tuesday, December 12, 2006**. 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.

Once On This Island – *Auditions! ! !*

Auditions for this vibrant, timeless myth about the power of love over class will be held at Schenectady Light Opera Company, 826 State Street, Schenectady, December 11th & 12th at 7 pm. If you have any questions regarding the show or audition, contact Laura Andruski, the director, at (518) 383-8277 or LWAndruski@aol.com.

AVAILABLE ROLES (Age 16 and up):

Ti Moune – a native peasant girl (Soprano II)
Daniel – a wealthy landowner's son (Tenor)
Erzulie - Goddess of Love (Alto/Soprano II)
Asaka - Mother of the Earth (Alto/Soprano II)
Agwe - God of Water (Baritone/Tenor)
Papa Ge - Demon of Death (Baritone)
Little Ti Moune - Ti Moune as a young girl of 6-8 (Soprano II)
Mama Euralie – Ti Moune's foster mother (Alto)
Tonton Julian – Ti Moune's foster father (Tenor)
Armand – Daniel's father (Baritone)
Andrea – Daniel's promised bride (Alto/Soprano II)
Storytellers – ensemble of dancers, singers and actors who help tell the story of Ti Moune

**No children will be auditioned December 11th or 12th. Once adult casting is complete, we will hold auditions for the role of Little Ti Moune in mid- to late-January.*

There will be one read through on Monday, December 18th. Rehearsals begin in earnest on January 2, 2007. Production dates are March 9-11 and 15-18, 2007.

The production staff consists of Laura W. Andruski (Director), Pat Douglass (Musical Director), Melissa Lacijan (Choreographer), Jodi Gilman and Donna Z. Baxter (Co-Producers), Mary Kozlowski (Set Designer), Ken Zarnoch (Lighting Designer) and Pat Casey (Costume Designer).

Oliver! F actoids

* The movie version of *Oliver!* starred Ron Moody as Fagin and won five Oscars, including Best Picture.

* *Oliver!* opened in London in 1960 and held the West End record for longest running musical until it was surpassed by *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

* *Oliver!* opened on Broadway in 1963 and it was the longest running musical import until it was surpassed by *Evita*.

* There have been numerous Broadway, West End, and touring productions of *Oliver!*, the most recent one starred the famed actor of stage and screen, Jonathan Pryce, in the role of Fagin. This production was in London's West End theatre district.

Memories, Music & Magical Moments at 80th Anniversary Concert



Looking for a way to escape the winter cold in January? Just plan on attending SLOC's 80th Anniversary Concert Celebration, January 19-21, 2007. The Opera House will be filled with warm memories, smiling faces – some familiar, some new – and, of course, glorious music. Producer Allan Foster reports that Director Orlando Pigliavento and Music Director Vince Bonafede have been busy working to create a top-notch repertoire of Broadway favorites for soloists, small ensembles and the chorus of 20 heavenly voices they've cast so far. If there are any altos or tenors out there who would be interested in singing with the Concert Chorus, please contact Allan Foster (ADFOS@aol.com) as soon as possible.

The 2006-2007 Season also marks the 35th anniversary of our residency at our beloved Opera House. In 1971 SLOC sold its home on Balltown Road and purchased the Beth Israel Synagogue at 826 State Street, Schenectady. Thus began the huge task of turning the building into the theater we still use today. The 80th Anniversary Concert Celebration promises to be an entertaining tribute to our Company and our theater.

Call Della Gilman at 280-8076 for ticket information.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Oliver!

December 1-3 and 7-10
Thursday, Friday, and
Saturday at 8:00 PM
Sunday at 2:00 PM

TICKETS: 280-8076
Adults: \$20; Children under 13: \$10
Group rates available! Call for information.

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

2006 - 2007 New Membership/Membership Renewal Form

Please return by **February 1, 2007** to:
Jenny Depew • 3 Delafield Drive, Albany, NY 12205-2407

Direct questions regarding membership to Jenny at the address above,
or call 456-5504 or e-mail 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 2007**.

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

Credit Card number _____ MC/Visa Exp.date _____

Signature [Charges only] _____

Save the Date!



**Potluck/
Semi-annual Meeting
Saturday,
February 3, 2007
at 6 PM
at the Opera House**

More details will be in the
January edition of Spotlight.