

SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Volume 40-2
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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



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Next Newsletter
Deadline:
November 2

Rehearsals are underway for SLOC's 80th Anniversary Season opener, *The Full Monty*. The cast and crew are very, very busy preparing to bring to you this funny and often poignant musical.

The SLOC production is fortunate to have the very creative direction of Michael C. Mensching, the most talented musical direction of Valerie A. Lord, the gritty set design of Dale Conklin and the many great talents of the rest of this terrific production team. And what a cast!! Of the 20 cast members, some will be familiar to regular SLOC theater goers, while others will be new to the SLOC stage. We even have a husband/wife duo-Melissa and Peter Lacijan and they will be portraying Vicki and Harold Nichols. The entire cast and crew are working hard to bring life, laughter and vitality to its own version.



The Full Monty cast rehearses with Musical Director Valerie Lord.



The Full Monty "car" is brought into the Opera House.

Ever wonder where the expression, "the full monty" came from? Unfortunately, its true and original origins, as with much slang, can only be speculated upon. What is known is that it is a British slang phrase used mostly in the 1990's. Its meaning is "the whole thing, the whole amount, or the works" (Oxford English Dictionary 2006). It was used in the film to mean total nudity. And though you won't be seeing these guys take it all off, you are in for quite a special and sometimes hilarious musical adventure.

Terrence McNally was quoted as saying, "*The Full Monty* touches on something universal, something about feeling good about yourself on the simplest level" and The New York Times critic Ben Brantley wrote, "*The Full Monty* is that rare crowd pleaser that you don't have to apologize for liking".

Show dates are October 13-15, 19-22. All evening performances begin at 8:00pm, Sunday matinees begin at 2:00pm. Group rates are available.

So....on many, many levels this is one show you won't want to miss! To avoid apologies, order your tickets early by calling Paige Gauvreau at 377-5101.

Spotlight on...

The Full Monty

October 13-15, 19-22

TICKETS: 377-5101



President's Notes...by Bonnie Williams



🎵 Summer's over....Welcome Back

It doesn't seem possible that the summer is over and SLOC's 80th Season is already in full swing. *The Full Monty* is well underway and *Oliver!* auditions have come and gone. What a turnout! As I write this, I suppose Mr. Bambury and his staff is struggling over casting decisions. There were so many people, I'm sure it made his job much more difficult. It's been quite a while since I saw so many kids and adults at an audition. Live theatre is alive and well! Don't forget that as members and friends of SLOC, one of your goals should be to attend the four productions this season. It's not too late to get a season subscription. Contact Paige Gauvreau at 377-1905 for more information.

🎵 We know what you did this summer

I didn't do a show, but a lot of other SLOCers were involved in shows at other venues. Kudos to Park Playhouse's *Beauty and the Beast*, which featured John Lopez (as the Beast), Paula Ginder, Elisa Verb, Joe Carusone and Adam Coons, as crockery, cutlery and furniture and Dale Conklin as Belle's father. Three cheers to Clifton Park's Not So Common Players production of *Into The Woods*, directed by Tom Heckert, which featured among others, Colin McCarty and Meighan Carivan-Esmond. Melissa Lacijan was Puss in *Puss in Boots*, a new work that debuted in July at Canalfest in the Stockade's waterfront park. Conceived and directed by Laura Andruski, *Puss* also won several TANYS awards, as did *Into the Woods*.

🎵 Check out the Website

Check out a new feature on the SLOC website: the SLOC administrative website. Here you can find SLOC documents: bylaws, guidelines, and house rules. Also cast and crew information for each show and a fabulous calendar for events at the Opera House, month by month. Many thanks to Pete Codella for all his time and effort on this project. Check it out, and as always, we welcome your feedback at comments@sloctheater.com

🎵 Don't' forget to Vote

Remember to submit your choice for SLOC's new name. You can use the ballot in last month's newsletter or email your suggestion to comments@sloctheater.com Please put *SLOC Name Change* in the subject line.

🎵 Best Wishes

Wedding bells rang for Donna Panzl and Doug Hatch on September 23. SLOC sends its best wishes and congratulations to the happy couple!

WANTED: Good, used, self propelled push mower and gas or electric weed wacker for use at our Taurus Road facility. (Receipt for income tax purposes available on request.) To discuss or arrange pick up please call Richard Lenehan at 785-4296 or 466-6252.

SLOC Stage Used To Film Movie

The well-worn boards of the SLOC stage were put to an unexpected use in early August when SLOC's State Street theater was used as the location for an upcoming short film. Directed by California-based filmmaker Peter Hanson, the drama/comedy movie "Stagehand" was shot on Saturday, August 5, and Sunday, August 6, with SLOC Board member Ken Zarnoch supervising and also running lights for the production.

Utilizing an all-Capital Region cast and crew, Hanson employed the stage and audience areas of the auditorium for the piece about a community-theater audition.

"I couldn't be happier with the location," Hanson said. "I needed a hall that felt like it was in regular use by a theater company, that was spacious, and that offered interesting visual details. Since my story takes place in a community theater, being able to shoot on location gave the film tremendous authenticity, and I believe the location helped the actors slip into their performances more easily."

(continued on page four)

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. 3** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Thursday, November 2, 2006**. Issue No. 3 will be mailed by November 21.

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

Large Turnout for *Oliver!* Auditions!!

'Oom Pah Pah, Oom Pah Pah', auditions for *Oliver!*, SLOC's 2nd show of our 80th Anniversary Season, were held 9/5-9/7 at the Opera House. Special thanks to Eunice Chouffi for again running the proceedings with ease, and to Kate Kaufman Burns for her amazing accompaniment of the talented singers. Director/Choreographer Thomas Dalton Bambury, Producer Marlene Counterline, Musical Director Cathy Mele, and Assistant Director Eric Shovah are thrilled to inform you that over 100 children and adults auditioned for the show!

The following individuals were cast at the time this article was written: *Oliver* is being played by SLOC newcomer Nick Whitney, and newcomer Steven Rosenzweig will be playing the Artful Dodger. Other leading roles include Kevin McNamara as Fagin, Heather D'Arcy as Nancy, David Bacheldor as Bill Sykes, Ken Zarnoch as Mr. Bumble, Lisa Franklin as Widow Corney, Sue Rucinski as Mrs. Sowerberry, Adrien Gleason as Mr. Sowerberry, Bill Hickman as Mr. Brownlow, and Janet Stasio as Mrs. Bedwin.

Fagin's 'Boys' are being played by Brendan Charles, George Franklin, Emily Franklin, Casey Larkin, Christian Meola, Bobby Ruggles, and Delaney Weber.

Other featured roles/ensemble include Michael Aniolek, Gail D'Arcy, Claudia DeMartino, Jennifer Dickerson, Julia Franklin, Peter Hill, Joseph Kivlen, Karen Kolterman, Alyssa Radley, Michelle Sausa-Gatta, Lauren Schaefer, Joel Shapiro, Eric Shovah, Karen Welthy, and Michael Whitney.

The talented production staff also includes Set Designer Doug Peek, Lighting Designer Greg Rucinski, Sound Designer Joel Lord, Properties Mistress Jodi Gilman, Publicity Chairpersons Donna Z. Baxter and Dave Dixon, Stage Manager Regina Baker, Assistant Stage Manager Chad Allen, Hair and Makeup Designers Thomas Bambury and Jennifer Dickerson, and Della Gilman is in charge of tickets.

If you would like to assist the staff in any capacity please contact Marlene Counterline at 383-2050 or 869-8411.

Oliver! will be 'Be Back Soon' at SLOC, running December 1-3, and 7-10, 2006. Please contact Della Gilman (280-8082) for ticket information. This version of the classic Dickens' tale is sure to be a crowd pleaser! Don't Miss It!

Bus Trip

Seats are still available for the November 11 bus trip to NYC. For reservations contact Tom Heckert at 877-6777 or tomh823@aol.com

The bus will leave from Crossgates Mall at 7:30 AM and will leave Manhattan at 7:30 PM. The cost for members is \$30 and \$35 for nonmembers.

The Full Monty Factoids

* The book for the show was written by Terrence McNally who has four Tony Awards to his credit. He wrote *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Ragtime*, *Master Class* and *Love! Valour! Compassion!*.

* David Yazbek, (music and lyrics for *The Full Monty*) wrote the theme song for the children's show "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?" and wrote the music and lyrics for the recent Broadway hit, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*.

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Tickets for <i>80th Concert Celebration</i>	Della Gilman
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Sound	Ric Bello



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Full Monty

October 13-15 and 19-22

Thursday, Friday, and
Saturday at 8:00 PM
Sunday at 2:00 PM

TICKETS: 377-5101

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

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
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SLOC Stage Used To Film Movie *continued*

The cast of the picture includes Sandra Bauchiero, David Bunce, Michael F. Hayes, April Marie and John Romeo, all veterans of the Albany theater scene. Many have appeared in independent productions shot in the Albany area, including "The Last Round" and "Nate Dogg." Schenectady's own J.A. von Rekow was the cinematographer, and Jeff Granger recorded the sound. Both have extensive credits in regional independent cinema.

Hanson, who has been based in Beverly Hills since 2003, lived in the Capital Region for many years, writing for publications including "Metroland" and the "Times Union." His documentary about the local movie scene, "Every Pixel Tells A Story: How One Community Joined the Digital Filmmaking Revolution," was broadcast on WHMT in early 2003. He is also the author of two books on film.

Schenectady's Erin Jankowski was the location manager for "Stagehand," and she made the arrangements with Zarnoch to use the theater.

"Erin did a fantastic job finding just the right space," Hanson said. "From the rich hardwood floors to the lighting trusses that hang in plain view to the arches cut into the wall in the back of the stage, the SLOC theater offered almost endless visual potential. It was a great pleasure to design shots that utilized the unique qualities of the space."

Hanson said he anticipates completing the film in late October or early November, after which he will submit it to festivals around the world. Updates on the movie's progress can be found at Hanson's website, www.grandriverfilms.com.

"I would use SLOC as a location again in an instant," Hanson said. "The Company was incredibly kind to let me use the space, and I hope that members of the SLOC community will enjoy seeing their space on camera. I'm also especially indebted to Ken, who gave up his weekend to help us out in countless ways."

"All in all," Hanson said, "shooting at SLOC was a wonderful experience."



(l-r) Michael F. Hayes, David Bunce and April Marie
in a scene from "Stagehand"