

SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Volume 40-6
April 2007

Hello, Dolly! ...

"It's so nice to have you back where
you belong" - on SLOC's stage!

We welcome back to SLOC the most successful musical in stage history. Performed here previously in 1972 and 1984, Director Suzanne Rayome, Musical Director Andrea Merrill, Choreographer Heather D'Arcy, Assistant Director Corie Rowe and the rest of the production team are thrilled to bring it back in 2007 for your enjoyment and entertainment.

With a book by Michael Stewart, based on Thornton Wilder's "The Matchmaker", and with rousing songs by Jerry Herman, *Hello, Dolly!* will have *Jean Johnson Foster* in its central role of Dolly Gallagher Levi. Dolly is a shrewdly mischievous and endlessly resourceful widow, matchmaker and lady-of-all-trades who sets her sights for the half-millionaire Horace Vandergelder, played by *Ken Zarnoch*. Vandergelder is a rich, friendless



and mean merchant, which in Yonkers is as far as you can go. Complications in Dolly's designs arise when Vandergelder's two ground-down clerks (*Eric Shovah* and *Adam Coons*) wearied by their seven-days-a-week-job, light out for a fling in New York on the same day their boss has gone there to be introduced to Mrs. Malloy (*Jessica Vadney*), a dainty millineress who's about to break out of her hat shop "like a fire engine". They all keep running into each other with hilarious confusions and deceptions along the way. Somehow, everyone falls in love with the right person and, of course, Dolly also lands the man she had her sights on.

The truly wonderful cast also includes Casey Dinkan (Minnie Fay), Brittany LaFrance (Ermengarde), Paul Smith (Ambrose Kemper), Regina Baker (Ernestina) and Jeff Foster (Rudolph). Waiters, chorus and ensemble include: Laurel Burns; Ray Burns; Cindy Campbell; Kody Carpenter; Olivia, Rachel and Ruth Cox; Colin Foster; Lisa Franklin; Kristin Kvam; Joe Kivlen; Karen Kolterman; Emily LaFrance; Matt Lopez; Bobby Ruggles; Keith Searles; Joel Shapiro; Eric Smith; Marcia Smith; Pam Spicer; Emily Stewart; Sue Talarico; Holly Wilkie; and Mike Whitney.

Co-Producers Jenny Depew and Amy Clark have put together a wonderful production team. Peter Codella has designed a fantastic set that, with construction headed by Richard Lenehan and set décor led by Madeline Codella, will make you think you are in the Harmonia Gardens Restaurant. The stage will be complete with lighting design by Ken Zarnoch and Greg Rucinski, sound design by Paul Kraus, and properties designed by Melinda Zarnoch. (continued on page 5)

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:
May 11

Spotlight on...

Annual Meeting/Pot Luck

Saturday, June 2
6:30 PM
at the Opera House



President's Notes...by Bonnie Williams



OOTI and the Snowstorm

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Once On This Island* or *OOTI*, as it was called in emails. The tropical music and set were a welcome relief to the cold March winds. Audiences were enchanted by the story told in song and dance. Unfortunately, we were done in by the freak St. Patrick's Day snowstorm and had to cancel that Friday performance. Still, a job well done. Kudos to all!

Notes on Next Season

The Board is very excited about next season. With two SLOC premieres and two SLOC "revivals", we feel we have a "something for everyone" season. Not only is SLOC presenting four shows but we are also offering a January special- a Rodgers & Hart review *Beguiled Again*, presented cabaret style. We also committed to a Sixth production in November in the brand new GE Theatre at Proctor's, using a totally high school cast! We are currently in negotiations to obtain the rights to a show, so we are unable to announce it at this time. Stay tuned – we should have something to report by the time the next newsletter goes to press.

Tickets, Anyone?

You may wonder what does the Board do? At our April meeting, not only did we conduct regular business, but we also heard a report from a sub-committee that was formed to investigate our ticket procedure. After several meetings and a demonstration of an on-line ticket vendor, the committee recommended some changes for next season. First a change in the phone system at the opera house will allow us to publish one phone number for tickets for all the shows! This should make ordering easier - and help in publicizing the shows. In conjunction with the new on-line ticketing vendor Vendeni, conceivably more than one person could "do" tickets. This will help when a show is sooooo popular, no one can get through to place an order. Like all new things, this new process will go through some "growing pains", but we hope to launch it in time to process season subscriptions and be on-line for *Kiss* in the fall. Again, stay tuned.

The Tonys Are Coming

As a culmination to our 80th Season celebration, we are in the planning stages for our very own Tony party on Sunday June 10. So save the date and look for final details in the next newsletter.

Annual Meeting Pot-Luck

Another –Save the Date – Saturday June 2 is our annual meeting. Back by popular demand, we are making it a pot-luck, cover dish, what have you. 6:30pm, June 2 at the Opera House. Maybe Ross will grill hot dogs again!

Condolences

SLOC sends its condolences to Alan Angelo on the passing of his father.

Also, we have learned of the untimely death of Peggy Moore. Peggy was Mike Mensching's stage manager for his shows here at SLOC, most recently for *The Full Monty*. Peggy was stricken while vacationing in London. Details are sketchy as we go to press. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends at this difficult time.

Ad for Ads!!!

Do you or anyone you know own your own business? Looking for some extra advertising? If so, SLOC is looking for ad patrons for our playbill. We have a variety of sizes and prices to fit any company or business needs. Since we've added a January special for next season, patrons receive five ads for the price of four. In addition, most packages include complimentary tickets. Advertise for your business and enjoy quality musical theatre. If interested, please contact Heather at hdarcy78@hotmail.com.

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, and Carole Mann. 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. 7** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Friday, May 11, 2007**. Issue No. 7 will be mailed by May 22.

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

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN

We are delighted to open our 81st season with *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, brought to you by the same creative team that delivered last season's smash season opener, *The Full Monty*. Director

Michael Mensching returns to helm this haunting and provocative musical.

Kiss of the Spider Woman is a 1993 Broadway musical written by John Kander and Fred Ebb with book by Terrence McNally. It is based on the Manuel Puig novel *El Beso de la Mujer Araña*. It opened on Broadway on May 3, 1993, played 904 performances, and initially starred Brent Carver, Anthony Crivello and Broadway theatre legend Chita Rivera. It won the 1993 Tony Award for Best Musical. A second New York cast, featuring Brian Stokes Mitchell, Howard McGillin and Vanessa Williams, was also well-received.

Adapted from Manuel Puig's critically acclaimed novel, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* presents a provocative love story set within the conflicting dualities of love and brutality. Through dialog and lyrical storytelling, the harsh realities of victimization are expertly juxtaposed against illusion and fantasy.

Imprisoned somewhere in Latin America, cellmates Molina, an effeminate homosexual window dresser and Valentin, a militant Marxist revolutionary, share nothing in common except the overwhelming need to escape the daily degradation of prison life. They find this refuge in the telling of a stylized version of Molina's favorite grade B movie starring an alluring temptress, the Spiderwoman.

Over the course of their confinement, the two come to understand and respect one another. They fall in love and ultimately become lovers. Upon Molina's release from prison, he agrees to help Valentin's political cause by passing information to his fellow revolutionaries. These actions result in Molina's re-imprisonment and death at the hands of his captors.

Auditions will be held at the Schenectady Light Opera House, 826 State Street, Schenectady, on May 14 and 16, 2007 at 7:00 PM. Please prepare 16 bars preferably from the show. An accompanist will be provided. No a cappella auditions will be accepted. A dance audition will be given for the roles of Spiderwoman and male ensemble.

Performances are September 28—30 and October 4—7 and 11—14, 8pm Thursday, Friday, Saturday and 2pm Sundays. Rehearsals begin in June.

The production staff includes: Director, Michael Mensching; Producers, Michael McDermott, Dawn Ruggles and Zina Lawrence; Musical Director, Val Lord; Set Design, Mary Kozlowski; Sound Ric Bello; Lighting, Ken Zarnoch; Costumes, Chris Persans; Make-up, Marcia Lenehan. Many of the same creative team combined to deliver last season's opening smash, *The Full Monty*.

We look forward to being ensnared in our auditioners' crafty webs!

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Mensching, the director at 477-2256.

Roles: 12 men aged 25-45, and 3 women aged 25-60

AVAILABLE ROLES:

Molina — A homosexual window dresser. Incarcerated for allegedly corrupting a minor.

Role: Lead **Age:** 25 – 35 **Sex:** M **Voice:** Baritone

Dancing: Able to move well

Spiderwoman / Aurora

Role: Lead **Age:** 40 – 50 **Sex:** F **Voice:** alto **Dancing:** Yes

Valentin — A Marxist revolutionary imprisoned for supposed terrorist activities.

Role: Lead **Age:** 25 – 35 **Sex:** M **Voice:** baritone

Dancing: N/A

Gabriel — A prisoner

Role: Supporting **Age:** 20 – 40 **Sex:** M **Voice:** Tenor

Dancing: Yes

Marta — Valentin's girlfriend

Role: Supporting **Age:** 21 – 32 **Sex:** F **Voice:** Alto

Dancing: N/A

Molina's Mother

Role: Supporting **Age:** 45 – 60 **Sex:** F **Voice:** Soprano

Dancing: N/A

Warden — Cruel and commanding

Role: Supporting **Age:** 35 – 55 **Sex:** M **Voice:** Bass

Dancing: N/A

Amnesty International Observer

Role: Ensemble **Age:** 30 – 50 **Sex:** M **Voice:** N/A

Dancing: Yes

Emilio — A prisoner

Role: Ensemble **Age:** 20 – 45 **Sex:** M **Voice:** N/A

Dancing: Yes

Escaping Prisoner

Role: Ensemble **Age:** 21 – 40 **Sex:** M **Voice:** N/A

Dancing: Yes

Esteban — A prison guard

Role: Ensemble **Age:** 25 – 50 **Sex:** M **Voice:** N/A

Dancing: Yes

Marcos — A prison guard

Role: Ensemble **Age:** 21 – 45 **Sex:** M **Voice:** N/A

Dancing: Yes

Prisoner Fuentes

Role: Ensemble **Age:** 25 – 50 **Sex:** M **Voice:** N/A

Dancing: Yes

Religious Fanatic

Role: Ensemble **Age:** any **Sex:** M **Voice:** N/A **Dancing:** Yes

Dancing: Yes

Window Dresser at Montoya's

Role: Ensemble **Age:** Any **Sex:** M **Voice:** N/A **Dancing:** Yes

Dancing: Yes

Board Nominations

There will be five openings this year for positions on the Board of Directors. Nominations from the membership may be submitted by persons who are Voting Members.

Such nominations shall be:

- (1) Submitted in writing to the Secretary, and
- (2) Signed by at least five (5) persons who are Voting Members; and
- (3) Consented to by the proposed nominee, and
- (4) Received by the Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

This year's Annual Meeting is June 2, so nominations must be in by Thursday, May 3. They can be mailed to Melinda Zarnoch at 7 Horstman Drive, Scotia, NY 12302.

Those Board members whose terms have expired include: Peter Codella, Marlene Countermine, Michelle Sausa-Gatta, Ross Snyder, and Ken Zarnoch. Members remaining on the Board include: Donna Baxter, Bob Farquharson, Mary Kozlowski, and Brett Putnam.

The Nominating Committee consists of Bob Farquharson (Chairperson), Rita Croteau, and Jenny Depew.

Absentee Ballots Available

A member qualifying as a Voting Member shall be entitled to personally request one (1) absentee ballot from the Secretary. The request must be made at least two (2) days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Secretary will provide the ballot and a covering envelope with instructions to vote for five (5) candidates. The ballot **must** be marked, sealed in the covering envelope which **must** be signed by the voter on the outside, and returned to the Secretary prior to the Annual Meeting. Any absentee ballots received after the voting process has commenced during the Annual Meeting or in an unsigned covering envelope shall be declared void. Please contact Secretary Melinda Zarnoch at 382-8497 to obtain an absentee ballot. The ballot can be sent either via post or email.

Attention Board Candidates

Candidates for the Board of Directors are reminded that their biographies need to be submitted to the newsletter editor (Jill Coloney at jac12661@aol.com) by May 11. If bios are not received by that date, it will be assumed that the person is no longer interested in running for a Board position.

Season Photos Available for Purchase Online

Tim Raab from Northern Photos has been doing our show photos for several years. He has now made available images from the 2006-2007 season shows online. If any cast members are interested in purchasing personal enlargements, go to Tim's website www.timraabnorthern.com and click Client Access/Event. Depending on the show, you will enter the following code/s:

The Full Monty, Event Code: montypolished

Oliver!, click on the *Oliver!* picture (no event code)

Once On This Island, Event Code: slocisland

Hello, Dolly!, Event code: slocdolly.

We thank Tim for all of his talented work in helping to make our show's photos beautiful!

SLOCers Attend Performance of *Hairspray*

On March 24th, several SLOC members had the opportunity to see Happy McPartlin, a former SLOC member, appearing in *Hairspray* at Proctor's Theater.

An hour before show time, Happy took us on a backstage tour. What a great opportunity this was as she explained the sets, staging, and how she came to be on tour. Happy also spoke of her plans to continue auditioning in New York City after the *Hairspray* tour. The show was foot tapping fun. Congratulations to Happy! We at SLOC wish her the best.



Jenny & Bill Depew, Happy McPartlin and Mary Kozlowski at Proctor's during *Hairspray*.

Next Season at SLOC

Kiss of the Spider Woman
Annie
Beguiled Again
Bat Boy
Anything Goes

September 28 – 30 and October 4 - 7
Nov 30, Dec 1 and 2 and 6- 9 & 14-16
Jan 11-13 & 18 -20
March 7-9 & 13-16
May 2-4 & 5 -11

directed by Mike Mensching
directed by Matt Teichner
directed by Barry Corlew
directed by Tom Heckert
directed by Eric Shovah

Hello, Dolly!

(continued from front page)

Everything will be coordinated by stage manager John Rayome. Connie Rauhauser is designing the gay 90's costumes in the colorful manner to which *Hello, Dolly!* is accustomed, and makeup by Marcia Lenehan will make everyone look the period.

Performance dates are May 4-6 and 10-13. Evening performances begin at 8:00 and Sunday matinees begin at 2:00. Ticket prices are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under the age of 13. Group Rates are also available. So please call Sue Culver (383-9350) for your tickets now – "It Only Takes A Moment" to see a show that lives forever.

Hello, Dolly! Archives WANTED!!

Hello, Dolly! was presented at SLOC in 1972 and 1984. It is a pleasure to welcome this grand, Broadway classic back to the SLOC stage!

We need your help! Do you have any playbills, photos, newspaper features, newspaper articles, Dolly SLOC t-shirts, etc. to loan or donate for our upcoming production? Items will be on display in the Archive Room during the run of the show and can be returned following the close on May 13.

If you do, please call Alan Angelo at 377-1421.

Hello, Dolly! "Clean Up" Day

You are invited to join the cast and crew of *Hello Dolly!* for the traditional "Clean Up" day scheduled for Saturday, April 28th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. All hands are needed to prepare the theater for our customers.

Hello, Dolly! Movie Factoids

* Barbra Streisand's gold-beaded gown shown in the Harmonia Gardens set weighed 40 pounds and cost \$8,000. Twice during the rehearsal, she tripped over its 2.5-foot train. Other dancers also tripped over it during rehearsal, so the train was taken off the dress. (The train is shown intact when Streisand starts down the stairs, but later it disappears.)

* Michael Kidd (choreographer) broke his leg during rehearsal while showing a routine to dancers.

* Louis Armstrong was only on set for a half-day and did his shots in one take.

* The set for the Harmonia Gardens filled an entire sound stage at Fox Studios and occupied three levels: a dance floor, a main section that surrounded the dance floor and an upper mezzanine.

*The Harmonia Gardens sequence (where the song "Hello Dolly" is performed) took an entire month to shoot.

*Source for factoids: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0064418/trivia>

SLOC Memories

(more to follow as space permits)

Who needs stage make-up to make yourself look OLD and HAGGARD? I'll never forget Gail Garrison's preparation as the BEGGAR WOMAN in our 1998 production of "SWEENEY TODD". Every night, Gail would be outside of SLOC with a bucket of water and dirt to prepare mud and apply to her face & hands!! Now, there's "method make-uping! ...*Dave Dixon*

Fifty years ago, SLOC's *Finian's Rainbow*, directed by the late great Irene Marmein, starred Fulvia Brun, John Varnum and Robert Boggs. The Gazette wrote: "The entire cast is as good as one can find." Maybe it's time for a revival of the classic *Finian's Rainbow*?*Bill Hickman*

It is considered bad luck to wish a theatre person "Good Luck". Instead, "Break a Leg" is used which somehow confuses the theatre spirits. My mother attended a Sunday performance of *1940's Radio Hour* in 1984 - a backstage look at an hour-long radio program. Prior to the show's start she decided to visit the Ladies Room, with friends, but the afternoon sun hit my mother in the eyes and she fell down the auditorium steps to the lobby. Between the helpful ushers and her friends she was able to get to the bathroom. The curtain was held until she was again seated, and trooper that she is, she sat through the entire performance. When the show was over we went to the emergency room only to find out she had a broken foot. Wish me well any way you want prior to a performance; just don't say "Break a Leg"!*Gail Garrison*

The Merrie Month Of October...I have had the joy of being pregnant while performing in four shows at Schenectady Light Opera. With Marissa I was a pregnant Cinderella in *Into the Woods* and Laura Roth made me show my pregnant tummy to the audience during *The Magic of Cabaret*. While pregnant with Sawyer, I played a saucy shopper in *She Loves Me* and Sally Smith in *Me and My Girl*. The big joke was that we had to rename the show *Me and My Girl and Boy!* When I was called to step into a vacancy in the cast of *Company* I hesitated, partially because I had gotten pregnant during every October show I had done at SLOC!*Elisa Verb*



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Hello, Dolly!

May 4-6, 10-13

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

TICKETS: 383-9350

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

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2007 SLOC MEMBERSHIP

as of February 1, 2007

Joseph Agostine, Jr. ('09)*	Sue Culver	Tom Gatta	Christine Kuchar*	Michael O'Brien	Marcia Smith*
Alan Angelo	Gail D'Arcy	Art Gauvreau	Melissa Lacijan	Suzi O'Brien	Ross Snyder
Regina Baker	Heather D'Arcy	Paige Gauvreau	Peter Lacijan	Gioia Ottaviano ('08)	Janet Stasio*
Thomas Bambury*	Jim D'Arcy	Eliana Georgelos*	Pat LaFleur		Jane B. Stewart
Donna Z. Baxter	Tom DellaSala	Charlotte Gerstenberger	Marcia Lenehan	Chris Pedersen*	Joan Sticher ('09)
John M. Baxter, Jr.*	Lorraine DellaVilla*	Della Gilman	Richard Lenehan ('08)	Larry Pedersen*	Sherry Strichman
Jackie Bee*	Gail Denisoff	Jodi Gilman	Shirley Levey	Joe Phillips	
Ric Bello	Bill Depew		Flora Lovell	Margot Phillips	Eli Taub
Frank Blum ('08)	Jenny Depew	Bob Harrison*	Jim Lovell	Debra Pigliavento*	
Pat Brady	Dave Dixon*	Bill Harrison*		Eleanor Pigliavento	Elisa Verb
Jim Burns	Ferne Dutkin	Dick Harte	Carole Mann	Orlando Pigliavento	Ted Vickery
Kate Burns		Donna Hatch	William McColl	Bill Poppino	Allan Villeneuve*
Eileen Bush	Don Edmans*	Tom Heckert	Brendan McDermott	Brett Putnam	
	Allison Fagan*	Charlie Hepburn	Michael McDermott		Tom Watthews
Pat Casey ('08)	Bob Farquharson	Grace Hepburn	Cathy G. Mele* ('08)	Walter Raab	Debra Weiskopf
Eunice Chouffi	Paula Farquharson	Alicia Hermance	Joanne Mensching	John Rayome*	Eric Weiskopf
Jean Clarke	Sally Farrell	Myron Hermance	Michael Mensching	Suzanne Rayome*	Carrie Bee Weiss*
Varro Clarke	Joseph Fava	Philip Hermance	Jo Ann Menzer	Nina Rindenello	Joanne Westervelt
Madeline Codella	Linda Fetherston	Bill Hickman	Judi Merriam ('08)	Greg Rucinski	Don White*
Peter Codella	Allan Foster	Maxine Hilderley ('08)	Mary Francis Miller	Sue Rucinski	David Wilkinson
Jill Coloney	Lois Foster	Mimi Hilderley ('08)	Carolyn J. Mills	Ted Rucinski	Bonnie Williams
Joe Concra	Irene Foster*	Jeffrey Hocking	Drew Mills	John W. Ryan ('10)	Nancy Wozny
MaryAnn Concra	Dolores Fragomeni*	Pat Hoffman	Ginnie Mills		
Adam Coons*	Ron Fragomeni*	Paul Hooker	Sev Moro*	Ruth Salter*	Ken Zarnoch
Don Counterline	Lisa Franklin* ('08)		Jacqueline E. Mosher	Michelle Sausa-Gatta	Melinda Zarnoch
Marlene Counterline	Gwen Fraser	Bill Kornrumpf ('09)	Debra Moyer	Argie Serras ('08)	Thelma Zeh
Paul Croteau	Gail Garrison*	Gina Kornrumpf ('09)	Howard Moyer	Eric Shovah	Lilliam Zola
Rita Croteau	Richard Gatta	Mary Kozlowski	Mary-Ann Muth		

* - designates a new member or a break in membership (so, according to the by-laws, this is a member who cannot run for office during the 2007-2008 season)