

# SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the  
Schenectady Light Opera Company  
Volume 41-4  
December 2007 - January 2008

## ***Beguiled Again:*** **SLOC's Company Premier** **Runs January 11-20th, 2008!**

Be beguiled by SLOC's January special, Rodgers and Hart's musical review, *Beguiled Again!* It's a wonderful combination of Rodgers and Hart's favorites, with a wonderful cast filled with familiar faces from both recent and past productions.

Please join Co-Producers Jodi Gilman and Janice Baird, Director Barry Corlew, Musical Director Vince Bonafede, and Choreographer Donna Hatch in breaking the post-holiday doldrums with the perfect escape.

Performance dates: January 11-13; 18-20, 2008; Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm; Sundays at 2pm. Tickets are \$25; \$10 for children under 13. Call: 1-877-350-7378 or on line: [www.sloctheater.org](http://www.sloctheater.org) - Ticket price includes light refreshments. Special desserts will be available for additional charge. Seating will be in a comfortable Cabaret-style setting.

The cast consists of some very accomplished musicians, including SLOC veterans Bonnie Williams, Kate Kaufman-Burns, Judi Merriam and Allan Foster, as well as semi-newcomers Patrick Doyle and Jessica Vadney. We are also thrilled to have Bill Spillane back to join this fabulous ensemble.

There are many more people behind the scenes than you see on the stage. A few of these hard working volunteers are Michael McDermott, Set Building; Ron Fish and Gary Carter, Costumes; Regina Baker, Stage Manager/ Props; Ken Zarnoch, Lights; Joel Lord and Keith Money, Sound; Marcia Lenehan, Make-up; Dave Dixon, Publicity; Melinda Zarnoch, Tickets; Jeff Hocking, Cabaret Coordinator; and Donna Baxter, Board Liaison. The cast & crew are working very hard to bring both this SLOC and Capital Region premier to life!

So come to SLOC, sit back, enjoy a drink and a nosh, and be beguiled again and again.



### **Life is a Cabaret**

Our January 11-13; 18-20, 2008 production, *Beguiled Again*, will be staged in a cabaret style! CABARET VOLUNTEERS are needed! (Volunteers will set up, serve food & beverage, clean up, etc.). To volunteer, please contact Jeff Hocking, 383-2945 or [jhocking@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jhocking@nycap.rr.com) and sign up now for 1, 2 or all 6 production dates. Join in on the Fun!!

### **SEMI-ANNUAL/POT LUCK MEETING SCHEDULED**

Another year has almost gone by? Well, ring in the New Year at SLOC's Semi-Annual Meeting, January 26, 2008 at 6:00pm. Highlights: Announcement of the '08-'09 season; present the Etta Moore Award; Business Manager & Treasurer Reports; Updates on a Future Move; laughs and good times. Please RSVP to Michele Sausa-Gatta at 377-1905 and let her know what dish you'll bring and how many

will attend. Soda, coffee, tea and water provided. Volunteers needed to: set-up; decorate; coordinate food; and clean-up. If you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact Melinda Zarnoch at 382-8497. See old friends—Meet new ones! Convince someone to come back to SLOC after many years! See you there!



*Spotlight on...*

***Anything Goes***  
**Auditions**

(see article on page 3)

826 State St.  
Schenectady, NY 12307  
393-5732

Web Site:  
[www.sloctheater.org](http://www.sloctheater.org)

#### 2007-2008 Season

KISS OF THE  
SPIDER WOMAN  
September 28-30,  
October 4-7  
MUSIC MAN  
(Youth Prod. @ Proctor's)  
November 15-18  
ANNIE  
November 30,  
December 1-2, 6-9, 14-16  
BEGUILED AGAIN  
January 11-13, 18-20  
BAT BOY  
March 7-9, 13-16  
ANYTHING GOES  
May 2-4, 8-11



Bob Farquharson  
President

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Donna Z. Baxter  
Marlene Countermine  
Mary Kozlowski  
Brett Putnam  
Michelle Sausa-Gatta  
Eric Shovah  
Ross Snyder

Next Newsletter  
Deadline:  
February 1, 2008

## President's Notes...by Robert Farquharson

SLOC is in the midst of its 81<sup>st</sup> season and while a lot has happened, there is much more to come. As I write this President's message, *Annie* will be opening in 4 days. "It's a Hard Knock Life" comes to mind when I think of all the hard work and commitment that go into the high quality productions that SLOC presents. My special thanks go to the cast, crew and production teams for *Annie* and for the recent production of *Music Man*. I am sure *Annie* will be well received and can state that *Music Man* was a success in many ways. I asked the student cast of *Music Man* what they learned by being in the show. It was interesting and rewarding to hear their answers. To sum it up they learned a lot about themselves and about the performing arts arena. We learned a lot as well about presenting a show in the new GE Theater. This was a positive partnership with Proctor's and we look forward to more in the future. I also want to thank the many others who worked on marketing, getting ushers, cleaning up the Opera House, selling tickets, purchasing tickets, etc. YOU are the ones who make it all possible for SLOC to do so very well.

Speaking of tickets, our new ticket system is very successful. I appreciate the people who sold all the tickets using their home phones for so long. However, the on-line ticket sales have steadily increased. The general feedback is that it is more convenient for our patrons as well as our members handling ticket sales.

I do have one sad note. The company and I will miss Gwen Fraser very much. She passed away after a very long and valiant battle with cancer. Please see the special article about her. My last collaboration with Gwen was designing the set for *Sullivan & Gilbert*, which she directed for SLOC. She was such a pleasure to work with.

An exciting bit of news is that the Metroplex Board has agreed to fund feasibility designs for converting a building into a theater for SLOC. It doesn't mean we are moving, yet. However, we are avidly pursuing our possibilities. The good news is that the Metroplex Board and the City of Schenectady are being very supportive of such a move. Another highlight for SLOC was the TANYs annual conference and banquet held in Glens Falls on November 17<sup>th</sup>. SLOC received many awards for *Oliver!*, *Once on this Island*, and *Hello Dolly*. An adjudicator was pointed out as saying, "If you are in the area, SLOC productions are the ones you should see." I truly believe this is an exciting time for SLOC and hope you are or will be an active part of it. If you wonder what you can do, just call or email any one of us on the Board. You can email us via our SLOC website -[www.sloctheater.org](http://www.sloctheater.org) or call us at 1-877-350-7378 and use the proper extension to contact the Board.



### BAT BOY SIGHTED AT SLOC THEATER AUDITIONS!

Auditions for SLOC Theater's March production of *Bat Boy – The Musical* were held in early November and much to our pleasure, were attended by the real BatBoy! The earlier auditions were mainly to accommodate BatBoy's busy schedule. BatBoy was in disguise as a person auditioning, and watched the proceedings. He commented on the great turnout of talented people, and stayed around to help the production team cast the show. BatBoy assured us he will be back to check in on rehearsals and see the show at least once.

The production team, lead by Theresa Fitzmaurice (Musical Director), Ted Vickery (Co-Producer), Marlene Countermine (Co-Producer and Assistant to the Director) and Tom Heckert (Director) are pleased to announce the spectacular cast: Sean Fagan (Bat Boy aka Edgar), Laurie Larson (Meredith), Colin McCarty (Dr. Thomas Parker), Molly McGrath (Shelley), Ross Snyder (Sheriff Reynolds), Nik Gatzendorfer (Rick/Lorraine), Kristen Olochnowicz (Ron/Maggie), Artemis Marrow (Ruthie/Daisy), Kathleen Dunham (Mrs. Taylor/Roy), Michael Lotano (Reverend/Institute Man), Ryan Glynn (Bud/Pan), John D. Ganther (Ned), Paul Smith (Clem/Doctor/Young Parker), Amanda Serano (Dillon/Ensemble) and Alexandra Gary (Young Meredith, Ensemble).

Rounding out the production staff is: Ken Zarnoch (Lighting), Mary Kozlowski (Set Design) Marcia Lenehan and Sheila Bouchard (Makeup), Kathy Friscic (Props), Mary Ann Muth (Costumes), John Fowler (Hair and wigs), Joe and Mary Ann Concra (Publicity) and Jeffery Scott (choreography). The production is still in need of a Stage Manager and Sound Designer/Operator. Please contact the Producers if you are interested in volunteering. *BatBoy- The Musical!* makes its regional premiere on March 7, 2008 and runs through March 16, 2008. Don't miss it! To order tickets, please call 1-877-350-7378 or online at [www.sloctheater.org](http://www.sloctheater.org).

### President Bob



### 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: Dave Dixon, Eric Shovah, Donna Z. Baxter, and Joe and Marianne Concra. 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. 41 Issue No. 5** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT will be Sunday, February 1, 2008. Issue No. 5 will be mailed by February 15, 2008. Please submit articles to Dave Dixon at [luvsbabs@yahoo.com](mailto:luvsbabs@yahoo.com) or 4 Hall Pl., Apt B, Albany, NY 12210

# Anything Goes Auditions

## Setting Sail on January 29 and 31, 2008!

Auditions for *Anything Goes*, the musical ending the 81<sup>st</sup> season at SLOC, will be held on January 29 and January 31, 2008 at the Opera House, 826 State Street, with sign-in beginning at 7:00 PM. Auditions will begin promptly at 7:30pm. Director Eric Shovah, Producer Marlene Counterline, Musical Director Cathy Mele, and Choreographer Heather D'Arcy are looking for actors and actresses of many talents to set sail in this season-closing musical masterpiece, boasting many Cole Porter standards such as "You're the Top," "De-Lovely," "Friendship," "I Get a Kick Out of You," "Let's Misbehave," and "Heaven Hop." *Anything Goes* is filled with mistaken identity, touching ballads, and large dance numbers (including some tap). This show gives SLOC the opportunity to showcase some fine singers, dancers, and actors.

The show takes place on the S.S. American, which is setting sail from New York to England with a most unusual passenger list. These passengers include a wealthy New York businessman (Eli Whitney), his stowaway assistant (Billy Crocker), a famous Evangelist turned night club singer (Reno Sweeney), a second-rate gangster (Moonface Martin), and his bubbly sidekick (Bonnie). Also onboard are a debutant and her mother (Hope and Evangeline Harcourt) and Lord Evelyn Oakley, a wealthy Englishman who is engaged to Hope. Complications and comedy arise when Hope and Billy bump into one another on the ship, as the two are long lost loves. After a series of comic happenings and disguises and misunderstandings Billy manages to win back Hope, Reno seduces Evelyn, and Moonface escapes the heavy hand of the law, and Mrs. Harcourt manages to keep her social status.

Auditioners should prepare 16 bars of a Broadway song that showcases your abilities. A cappella singing will not be permitted as we need to assess your abilities with a live accompanist – one will be provided. Readings will be from the script (the original revival – known as the 1962 version). A brief dance audition will also be held and some may be asked to complete a more difficult tap combination for roles that tap. A character description along with vocal ranges and need to dance are listed (ages listed are only a suggestion and will not necessarily be strictly adhered to – just a rough guideline). The production dates are May 2-4, May 8-11, 2008, and there may be additional performances added in a third weekend if ticket sales warrant. Please be available for all three weekends. If you have questions regarding the audition process or other concerns, please contact Director Eric Shovah at [bialystockandbloom@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bialystockandbloom@nycap.rr.com) or by phone at (518) 526-1300 or Producer Marlene Counterline at (518) 383-2050. We look forward to seeing you there!

## In Memoriam - Gwen Fraser

SLOC mourns the passing of Gwen Fraser on Wednesday, November 7th, 2007. Gwen studied voice & piano at the Crane School of Music/Potsdam College and later taught in the Troy City School District where she directed over 20 dramas.

Gwen first entered SLOC's doors in 1975 & was cast in a lead role as "Meg" in *Damn Yankees*. Other SLOC roles included: "Salome" (*The Robber Bridegroom*) and "Mrs. Lovett" in *Sweeney Todd*. She received SLOC's 2006 Etta Moore Award for her outstanding lifetime achievements. Gwen served as VP/Artistic and directed, *Sullivan & Gilbert* (March, 2006). Contributions may be made to SLOC to establish a memorial program for her life and work. A Memorial Service is planned for December 15, 2007 at 1pm at SLOC to celebrate her love of life & theatre that she shared with so many of us.

## Anything Goes: Character Descriptions

**Reno Sweeney** (F) – age 30 to 45 – alto/mezzo (belt) – the brassy Evangelist turned nightclub singer. She is friends with Moonface and Billy and attempts to seduce Evelyn throughout the show.

**Billy Crocker** (M) – age 25 to 45 – baritone – the assistant to wealthy Eli Whitney. Billy stows away on the ship to win back the hand of his love Hope. As a stowaway, Billy has to disguise himself in many different ways (a sailor, a woman, public enemy number one, etc.).

**Hope Harcourt** (F) – age 20 to 30 – mezzo/soprano – Hope is engaged to Sir Evelyn, but is in love with Billy. She is the ingénue of the piece and wants battles with head (Evelyn) and heart (Billy).

**Sir Evelyn Oakley** (M) – age 30+ - baritone – engaged to Hope, and is Mrs. Harcourt's dream beau for Hope. He is a little up-tight and very much a proper Brit... most of the time. Reno brings out his more "wild" side in the end.

**Moonface Martin** (M) – age 30+ - baritone – Moonface is Public Enemy number 13. He is on the ship under a false identity – a member of the clergy! He provides Billy with a passport and becomes Billy's suitemate and confidant throughout the show.

**Bonnie** (F) – age 20 to 35 – alto/mezzo (belt) – she is Moonface's sidekick and is pretending to be a missionary. She befriends the Angels, Reno, and Billy. The actress playing Bonnie must be a strong tap dancer, as she leads the bulk of the tap dancing in the show.

**Mr. Elisha J. Whitney** (M) – age 45+ - ensemble singing baritone – Billy's wealthy New York businessman boss and a bit of a lush. Early in the show he "loses" his glasses and suffers with this difficulty throughout the show.

**Mrs. Harcourt** (F) – age 40+ - mezzo – Hope's mother. She has great concern throughout the show with keeping her social status.

**The Angels** – Purity, Chastity, Charity, Virtue – age 18+ - varying vocal parts – backup vocal quartet for Reno Sweeney's act. The actresses playing these parts, like Bonnie, do the bulk of the tapping in the show.

**Ensemble** – various ages and vocal parts – the ensemble of this show is very busy and will double as many other roles (some of which include, the captain of the ship, the steward, reporters, the purser, and various cruise going passengers). Some of the ensemble – the sailors and some others – may do some tap as well. The ensemble will feature dancer/non-dancers, singers/non-singers, and speaking/nonspeaking roles.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### 2007-2008 Season

*Kiss of the Spider Woman*  
September 28-30 and October 4-7

*The Music Man @ GE Theater at Proctors*  
November 15-18

*Annie* Nov 30, Dec 1 and 2 and 6- 9 & 14-16

*Beguiled Again* Jan 11-13 & 18 -20

*Bat Boy* March 7-9 & 13-16

*Anything Goes* May 2-4 & 8-11

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Schenectady, NY  
Permit No. 120

## 2007-2008 New Membership/Membership Renewal Form

Please return by February 1, 2008 to:

Jenny Depew 3 Delafield Drive, Albany NY 12205-2407

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

\*\*\* PLEASE PRINT Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address, incl. 9-digit zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if new membership:

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 2008.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ payable to SLOC.

\*\*\* Checks Only Please.

Thank you for your support.

## A Letter to the Board...

Dear SLOC Friends,

During this past summer, I decided not to continue my position as Audition Arrangement Chairperson (almost 15 years). I truly enjoyed this job. It kept me abreast with all the musicals and directors etc. It was really fun to see and hear the auditioners- many new people as well as old timers. With each year it seems to me that the talent got better and better. I feel confident that Jodi Gilman will do a great job as this Chairperson.

I want to thank all the M.C.s I've had, all the "sign-in" people, and all the "set-table" people. I am especially grateful to the Gauvreaus, the Gilmans, and the Pedersens for their assistance over the years. Thank you for this delightful position and "hats off" to Jodi!

Sincerely,  
Eunice Chouffi