

# SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the  
Schenectady Light Opera Company  
Volume 42-4  
December 2008 / January 2009

## *Brel Lives on in Schenectady!*

Don't miss SLOC's third show of the year. The cast is raring to get in front of the footlights to bring you *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*. *Brel* will run January 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> and, as an added enjoyment, will be done cabaret style.

Jacques Brel was one of Europe's foremost song writer-performers in the 1960-70's. His songs are timeless, ear-catching, and are mostly of a bittersweet nature. They range from light patter to pleading to pensive styles. His words portray people who are unwilling, in spite of all they experience, to abandon either the joy of life or the hope that makes life worth living. They deal with such diverse subjects as love, life, hypocrisy, humor, children, war, and the circle of life, and speak to us in the universal language of the heart. Collectively they are a wonderful vehicle for actor-singers.

This is SLOC's third "Brel" presentation – the first one actually opened the SLOC House some 35 years ago. It is a collection of his songs, translated into English, and put into the cabaret style that ran for four years in the late '60's in Greenwich Village.

Our "balladeers" are Cindy Campbell, Rich Satterlee, and Nancy Stone – together with SLOC newcomer Robert Rice. They will be assisted by the production team of Jennifer S. Depew (Producer), Allan Foster (Director and Set Designer), Andrea Merrill (Music Director), Donna Hatch (Choreographer), Gina Kornumpf (Rehearsal Secretary), JoAnna Hepinstall (Set Décor), Richard Lenehan (Set Construction), Pat Casey (Costumes), Ken Zarnoch (Lighting), Ric Bello (Sound), Marcia Lenehan (Makeup), Jeff Hocking (Cabaret), Tickets (Melinda Zarnoch), Michelle Sausa-Gatta (Board Liaison), Donna Baxter (Playbill), and that smiling jack-of-all-trades Regina Baker (Stage Manager, Props, and Show Publicity).

So, mais oui and all that sort of stuff. We hope to see you there, so BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW by calling the Box Office: 1-877-350-7378 or ordering online: [www.sloctheater.org](http://www.sloctheater.org). All shows start at 8pm except for the two Sunday matinees which are 2pm. Group rates are available, so grab some friends for an enjoyable show.

Jacques  
Brel  
is Alive and Well  
& Living in Paris



826 State St.  
Schenectady, NY 12307  
393-5732  
1-877-350-7378

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

2008-2009 Season  
THOROUGHLY MODERN  
MILLIE  
October 3-5, 10-12

SEUSSICAL:  
THE MUSICAL  
December 5-7, 12-14

JACQUES BREL IS ALIVE  
AND WELL AND LIVING IN  
PARIS (cabaret style)  
January 9-11, 15-18

ASSASSINS  
March 6-8, 12-15

THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL  
May 1-3, 7-10



Bob Farquharson  
President

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Bob Farquharson  
Joseph Fava  
Kate Kaufman Burns  
Brett Putnam  
Michelle Sausa-Gatta  
Ross Snyder  
Ken Zarnoch

Next Newsletter  
Deadline:  
February 2, 2009

## *Cabaret Volunteers Needed - January 2009*

Life is a cabaret....or at least this season's *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well & Living in Paris* is a cabaret.

SLOC needs your help to make this January, 2009 event happen! Jeff Hocking, Cabaret Coordinator, could use the help of many prep staff and bartenders. Contact Jeff at 859-7516 or [jhocking@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jhocking@nycap.rr.com) if you'll be available to lend a hand! A volunteer list has already been growing so it is not too early to submit your name to volunteer. Thanks, in advance, for your support.

Spotlight on...

**The Scarlet Pimpernel  
Auditions**

(see article on page 3)

**Assassins Auditions**

(see article on page 3)

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

### *President Bob*

'Tis the Season to celebrate with family and friends. I hope this newsletter arrives with you making plans to do just that. Of course one of the many ways you enjoy this season is by seeing SLOC's terrific production of Seussical which opens December 5th. Don't miss out on the fun with Horton the Elephant and the people of Whoville.

Also we have our January 2009 production of "Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris" in the final stages of rehearsal. This show, which highlights the terrific music of Jacques Brel is being offered cabaret style, so come and enjoy some time "a la France". A very nice way to enjoy this is to come with a table full of friends- hint, hint.

Members and friends are invited to our Semi-Annual/Pot Luck Meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 at 6:00 pm. We will have fun catching up on key things, especially the recipient of the Etta Moore Founder's Award. Etta was the director of the company when it started in 1926. We will also have some major news regarding our new company home. I am sure you will want to know the details. Membership dues are due by February 1<sup>st</sup> in order to vote for the Board in June. Jenny Depew will be glad to receive your dues at this meeting.

We hope to announce our final decision on SLOC's new home by February. I hope this is the last time I have to write that we are closing in on our decision. We are already doing some preliminary transition planning as well as focusing on fundraising. Our estate gift from Gwen Fraser will provide a sizeable amount towards our new home. Her wish was that it to be used for just such a purpose. However, our vision will require considerably more contributions. We have initiated the fundraising for the first phase.

The Board has worked amazing hours on shopping and planning for a new theater facility in addition to handling the normal company operations. I truly thank each VP, officer, committee member as well as each show's production team for keeping the company running so smoothly while we have had a lot to deal with. I do believe it will all be worth it.

We are already starting the show selection process for our 2009-2010 season. Can you believe it! Letters have been sent to potential directors and ticket buyers have been emailed questionnaires to provide input for the Show Selection Committee.

I wish you all a great Holiday Season,  
Robert C. Farquharson, President

### "We Gather Together"

(Semi-Annual/Pot Luck Meeting Scheduled)

Get out your 2009 calendars now and mark Sat Jan 31 at 6pm to join us at the Opera House's Semi Annual/Pot Luck Meeting. Highlights: Presentation of the Etta Moore Award, Business Mgr. & Treasurer Reports, Updates on SLOC's relocation and the highly anticipated announcement of the '09-'10 season. Please RSVP to Michelle Sausa-Gatta at 377-1905 & confirm what entree, salad, dessert you'd like to share. Soda, coffee, tea & water provided. Call Melinda Zarnoch, 382-8497 if you'd like to volunteer to help set-up & decorate. See old friends, meet new ones. Encourage & invite someone to return to SLOC! See you all on Jan 31, 2009.

### "HATS OFF" to Seussical!

(Company Premiere: Dec. 5th - Dec. 14th)

SLOC is anxiously awaiting the arrival of the "Cat in the Hat" and Villagers of WHOville to present the company premier of Seussical. What a perfect event to ring in both the holiday & winter seasons! Bring the whole family! Tickets for selected performances are very limited! To order tickets, call, 1-877-350-7378 OR on our web: [www.sloctheater.org](http://www.sloctheater.org). - FRI & SAT at 8:00pm - SAT & SUN at 2pm. (Note: the added Sat. afternoon matinees!)

Purchasing Seussical Tickets would also make a great holiday gift! WANTED - Seussical is still searching for a few more Concession Volunteers during Intermission (easy set-up, audience serving, easy clean-up). If interested, please contact Concession Coordinator, Thomas Bambury, 436-8295 or [thomas\\_bambury@yahoo.com](mailto:thomas_bambury@yahoo.com).

\*\* SEE YOU AT Seussical!! \*\*

### 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, and Thomas Bambury. 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. 42 Issue No. 5** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT will be February 2, 2009. Issue No. 5 will be mailed by approx. February 13, 2009.

Please submit articles to Dave Dixon at [luvsbabs@yahoo.com](mailto:luvsbabs@yahoo.com) or 4 Hall Pl., Apt B, Albany, NY 12210

## Announcing Auditions for: **The Scarlet Pimpernel**

Director Suzanne Rayome, Producer Jennifer S. Depew, and Music Director Michael Lotano are pleased to announce auditions for *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, SLOC's 5<sup>th</sup> and final show of the season. Auditions will be held at the Opera house, located at 826 State Street in Schenectady, on Tuesday, January 27 and Thursday, January 29, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Call back auditions, if needed, will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2009. Production dates will be May 1-3 and May 7 – 10, 2009. If you wish to audition, please come prepared to sing 16 bars from any musical number in the show or any musical theater piece. An accompanist will be provided; no a cappella singing or singing with an accompanying CD will be allowed. Individuals auditioning will be asked to read scenes from the script and may be asked to learn a choreographed movement.

Based on the classic novel by Baroness Orczy, SLOC's staging of the musical *The Scarlet Pimpernel* features a Capital Region premiere. The show is set in England and France against the backdrop of the Reign of Terror during the French Revolution. The musical vividly portrays the romance, intrigue and horrors of one of the most tumultuous periods in history. With the book and lyrics written by Nan Knighton and the music by Frank Wildhorn, the story mixes historical fact with dramatic adventure. The hero of the story, a rich Englishman, organizes a brave band of his friends to rescue intended victims of the guillotine in France. The title of the musical gets its name from the symbol used by the enigmatic hero: the red, star-shaped wildflower known as the Scarlet Pimpernel.

There are many leading and supporting roles available for teens, (age 14 and above), women and men. Roles to be cast/ vocal ranges include:

Percy Blakeney (a.k.a. The Scarlet Pimpernel) – tenor

Marguerite St. Just (his wife) – mezzo soprano

Chauvelin (the antagonist in search of the true identity of the Scarlet Pimpernel) – baritone/ tenor

Armand St. Just (Marguerite's brother) – baritone

Percy's Bouncers (the band of heroes helping the Scarlet Pimpernel):  
Ozzy, Dewhurst, Elton, Farleigh, Hal, Ben – various ranges

Marie Grosholtz (a friend of Marguerite) – mezzo



Prince of Wales- baritone

Chorus of 6 - 10 includes many speaking, singing and supporting roles.

For further information, please contact the Director, Suzanne Rayome at 209-1127 or at [guyanddoll@hotmail.com](mailto:guyanddoll@hotmail.com) or the Producer, Jennifer S. Depew, at 456-5504.

# ASSASSINS

\*\*\*Assassins Audition Date Change and Production Ticket Information\*\*\*

Please correct your calendars! Auditions for SLOC's March, 2009 production of ASSASSINS have been changed!

NEW DATES ARE: Dec 17th and Dec 18th, 2008  
(NOT Dec 16th and Dec 18th)

Auditions will be held at the Opera House, 826 State Street at 7:00pm

Please refer to either SLOC's previous newsletter (Issue#3) or our website ([www.sloctheater.org](http://www.sloctheater.org)) for detailed audition information. Please also refer to the website approx. 2 weeks after auditions to review the official cast & crew list.

This multiple TONY AWARD winning musical has very common themes strung throughout and really makes one ponder about how the extraordinary freedom of living in the US has created a land where accidents of all kinds can happen and how any kid can grow up to be President..or a killer. Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim; Book by John Weidman.

Following our massive season brochure mailing, tickets for certain performances of ASSASSINS have limited seating.

Don't "kill" yourself and wait 'til the last moment to reserve a good seat for this Company Premiere. Call NOW for tickets, 1-800-350-7378.

## Computer Savvy?

Do you want your Spotlight Newsletter emailed to you instead of receiving the hard copy? By getting your newsletter emailed to you, you will be the first to look at all the exciting stories and announcements!

If you are interested in this option please contact Dave Dixon at [lvsbabs@yahoo.com](mailto:lvsbabs@yahoo.com).

**2008-2009 Season**

<i>Thoroughly Modern Millie</i>	October 3-5, 10-12
<i>Seussical: The Musical</i>	December 5-7, 12-14
<i>Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris</i> (cabaret style)	January 9-11, 15-18
<i>Assassins</i>	March 6-8, 12-15
<i>The Scarlet Pimpernel</i>	May 1-3, 7-10

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**2008-2009 New Membership/Membership Renewal Form**

Please return by February 1, 2009 to:

Jennifer S. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 2009.

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

\*\*\* Checks Only Please.

Thank you for your support.

# 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. 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](mailto:hdarcy78@hotmail.com).