

SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Volume 41-5
February 2008 - March 2008

Bat Boy Seen in Flight Over the Opera House

If you look into the skies on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday, you just may see Bat Boy in flight as he leaves the Opera House! Bat Boy has been keeping close tabs on the production and has bared his fangs as a seal of approval. We may not see much more of him since he was just made aware of the dreaded "white nose disease" that has been spreading in the local bat population and he wants to stay healthy to be in the audience for opening night.

SLOC's third production of the season tells his story—from his discovery in a cave in West Virginia through the trials and tribulations of his life and integration into society, but everything comes with a price. *Bat Boy: The Musical* won the New York Outer Critics Award in 2001 and has had productions from New York to London. Music and Lyrics are by Laurence O'Keefe, who also penned *Legally Blonde* currently on Broadway and book by Keythe Farley and Brian Fleming providing the cast with a strong script and score...and they know how to make it rock!

Cast members include: Sean Fagan (Bat Boy aka Edgar), Laurie Larson (Meredith), 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. Gunther (Ned), Paul Smith (Clem/Doctor/Young Parker), Amanda Serano (Dillon/Ensemble) and Alexandra Gary (Young Meredith, Ensemble).

The production team, lead by Theresa Fitzmaurice (Musical Director), Ted Vickery (Co-Producer), Marlene Countermine (Co-Producer; Assistant to the Director) and Tom Heckert (Director) includes: 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 Condra (Publicity), Jeffery Scott (Choreography) and Kit Goldstein (Stage Manager).

Bat Boy wants all of you to come and see his story. *Bat Boy: The Musical* makes it's regional premiere on March 7, 2008 and runs through March 16, 2008. Tickets are available by calling 1-877-350-7378 or visiting www.sloctheater.org. If you see only one show this year, make it *Bat Boy: The Musical*!



826 State St.
Schenectady, NY 12307
393-5732

Web Site:
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

Board of Directors
Regina Baker
Donna Z. Baxter
Marlene Countermine
Mary Kozlowski
Brett Putnam
Michelle Sausa-Gatta
Eric Shovah
Ross Snyder

Next Newsletter
Deadline:
April 3, 2008



SLOC Bus Trip - April 12, 2008

The Board of Directors has approved another spring bus trip to NYC. SLOC members and their friends will invade the Big Apple on Saturday, April 12, 2008. The bus will leave from Crossgates Mall at 7:30 AM, arriving in NYC approximately 10:30 AM. The day in NYC is on your own. Bus departs NYC at 11:00 PM (plenty of time for shopping, shows, dinner or whatever else you may like to do!) Cost: \$30 for members, \$35 for nonmembers. Seats are available on a first come, first served basis - Get your check in early!! Twenty seats are already paid, leaving 35 still available at press time.

If interested, please send a check (payable to SLOC) to: Melinda Zarnoch; 7 Horstman Drive; Scotia, NY 12302. For more information: sail4017@yahoo.com or call 382-8497. Our goal with the pricing is to break even with the cost of the transportation. Let's fill this bus to insure that the Board will approve trips in the future!

Spotlight on...

Etta Moore Award

(see article on page 3)
**08-09 Season
Announced**

(see article on page 4)

President's Notes...by Robert Farquharson

President Bob

Our highly successful 81st season is rolling along. *Beguiled Again* just closed after playing to almost sold out performances. My thanks to the terrific production team and cast for a delightful show and history lesson on Richard Rogers and Lorenz Hart.

Our next production, *Bat Boy: The Musical*, is in full rehearsal preparing for their March 7th opening. We hope you'll see this unique Off Broadway creation. Also, *Anything Goes*, our last show of this season has just held auditions. If the great turn out for the first night of auditions is an indicator, you're in for a terrific cast and production of this famous Cole Porter musical.

Unfortunately I have sad news about two well known thespians. Colin McCarty and Doug de Lisle have both passed from this earthly life. Colin is a major loss for SLOC. He was highly involved in the company. We will miss his warm personality and wonderful performances that showed his great comedic timing and facial expressions that brought on the tears of laughter. We also lost Doug de Lisle, who was a respected regional art critic for the Troy Record. He was also involved in many community theater productions from both on-stage and off-stage perspectives. They were a delight to work with.

Each year the SLOC Board of Directors selects a recipient for the Etta Moore Award. Etta Moore founded our company in 1926. This annual award is given to members that have contributed significant time and talent towards the success of the company. I am pleased to announce this year's winners are Donald and Marlene Counterline. They have provided tremendous support during their thirty-plus years of involvement. There is more about them in this newsletter. Congratulations Don and Marlene!

Do you want a day in New York City to see a show or two, shop, visit friends, site see? Well then- mark your calendar for April 12th! We have a bus trip that will allow enough time to see two shows. See the information in this newsletter. Better reserve your seat right away. April is a great time of year to visit NYC and the price is right.

Our exciting 82nd Season is announced in this newsletter. Several of these shows are regional premieres for the Capital District. We are reprising *Jacques Brel*, which was performed the first year SLOC moved into our current building in 1972. We thought it would be fitting to reprise this show before we move to another facility, since it has special significance for many of our members and patrons.

As to a new home for SLOC, we have been diligently doing our homework, working with the Metroplex and SRG architects. While this type of a project takes a lot of time, we are progressing very well. I'll keep you posted on this exciting venture. I want to thank the many who have expressed support for this capital project. We've even been asked about buying a seat. You can be assured that we are considering parking, handicapped access and many other factors for our patrons as well as the production team's needs in making our decisions.

Thank you for your wonderful support.

Robert C. Farquharson, President

In Our Memories and Hearts...

"SLOC is greatly saddened to share the news of the sudden passing of Colin McCarty on February 6th. Colin joined SLOC in the late 1980's (one of his first performances was in *Mame*). Colin went on to shine as the "MC" in SLOC's *Cabaret*. He had memorable lead roles in: *Chicago*, *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Falsettos*, *Me & My Girl*, *Ruthless* and *Triumph of Love*. Colin was Co-Producer for SLOC's *Sweeney Todd* and was also extremely active at Schenectady Civic Players.

He was a gifted actor who took his roles very seriously. Colin's great comic timing and dramatic importance will be missed by so many who watched him. A memorial service is scheduled for April 19, 2008. Please refer to SLOC's website for more service information. SLOC sends sincere sympathy & support to Tom Heckert. We also extend kind thoughts & prayers to his family & his many, many theatre friends.

SLOC also recognizes the sad and sudden passing of Doug deLisle on February 1st. Doug was a memorable presence in area theatre entertainment and acted and directed for SCP, ACT and SLOC. Doug joined the Troy Record in 1974 (Arts Features Dept) and was also a genuine supporter to SLOC's success and publicity. A memorial service will be scheduled at ACT at a future date. SLOC sends condolences to his family and his many theatre 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: Dave Dixon, Eric Shovah, Donna Z. Baxter, and Joe and Marianne Concr. 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. 6** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT will be Thursday, April 3, 2008. Issue No. 6 will be mailed by April 17, 2008.

Please submit articles to Dave Dixon at
luvsbabs@yahoo.com or
4 Hall Pl., Apt B, Albany, NY 12210

Etta Moore Award 2008

Winners - Don and Marlene Countermine

Congratulations to Marlene and Don for receiving the Etta Moore Award for their years of valuable contributions to SLOC's history and success. Bob Farquharson, SLOC President, presented the award at the 1/26/08 Semi-Annual Pot Luck Dinner/Meeting.

Don and Marlene caught the 'theatre bug' about 35 to 40 years ago. Marlene's first SLOC show (at Niskayuna High School) was *Funny Girl*; other early shows included appearances in: *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Gypsy* and *High Buttoned Shoes*. In 1972, Don & Marlene's paths crossed at a rehearsal with The Triune Musical Company (Latham). They began dating, got married, and came home from their honeymoon to appear in their March production, *Anything Goes*. Another show that season was *The Music Man*. Later, Marlene asked Don to help her with the ushering duties for *Jacque Brel is Alive & Well & Living in Paris* (the 1st SLOC show that was staged at our present State St. location!) What a coincidence that the next SLOC show that Marlene will produce is *Anything Goes* (May, 2008), SLOC's Jan. 2009 show will be *Jacque Brel....* and Marlene was Co-Producer for the *Music Man* (Proctors, Nov 2008).....it's de ja vue all over again for the Countermines! Don & Marlene were both cast in SLOC's *Promises, Promises* and *The Apple Tree*. Don recalls his role as Chuck Baxter & Marlene spending most of her time in the pit singing with Iris and Gwen...however, the 3 girls did come up on the stage from time to time!! Don's highlighted SLOC contributions: former Board Member, Director (4 shows), Set, Lighting & Sound Designer; current House Manager. Aside from Marlene's numerous Producer duties this season, she is also Show T-shirt Coordinator.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARLENE AND DON!! - SLOC APPRECIATES ALL YOUR VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS!!



Don and Marlene Countermine accept their award at the SLOC Potluck.

(photo by Donna Z. Baxter)

WANTED - Ticket Sale Volunteers!

Enjoy talking to people? Comfortable with computers? Then SLOC has the perfect volunteer opportunity for you! This season, SLOC upgraded to an electronic ticket sales system & has welcomed some new ticket sales volunteers. But we can still use more help taking and processing ticket orders. Basic duties include: answering phone calls (received via our #877 number); processing ticket sales using your home computer and/or the box office computer; staffing the box office during performances. Requirements: A computer with Internet access. Cable or DSL is preferable. If interested or just want to know more about how this works, please contact Mary Kozlowski at 253-2859 or skozlow1@nycap.rr.com.

WILL TRAIN NO PRIOR TICKET SALES EXPERIENCE NECESSARY



BON VOYAGE
To the Cast
and Crew of
Anything Goes!



The closing show of the 81st season here at SLOC has set sail and auditions are now complete. Leading the ship to sea in this crew are Producer Marlene Countermine, Musical Director Cathy Mele, Choreographer Heather D'Arcy, and Director Eric Shovah. Also joining the creative team are Ross Synder (Assistant Director), Regina Baker (Stage Manager), Bob Farquharson (Board Liason), Joel Lord (Sound Design), Greg Rucinski (Light Design), Michael Mensching and Michael McDermott (Set Design), Adam Coons and Jodi Gilman (Props), Constance Rauhauser (Costume Design), Michael McDermott (Public Relations) and Marcia Lenehan (Make-up).

Cast members to set sail include Michael Mensching as stow away Billy Crocker, Laurie Burns as the night club singer - turned evangelist Reno Sweeny, Adam Coons as public enemy number thirteen, Casey Dinkin as the ingénue Hope Harcourt, Bob Hegeman as the up-right Brit Evelyn Oakley, Heather D'Arcy as the gun mol Bonnie, Rita Russell as the prying mother Mrs. Harcourt, and Bill Hickman as Wall Street tycoon Elisha Whitney. There are a host of old and new faces in the cast as well! The talented group includes Victoria Sheehan, Melissa Beatrice, Laura Smith, Andrea Berger, Joel Shapiro, Michael Whitney, Chris Byrne, Dan Pigiavento, Joe Malone, Keith Searles, Michael McDermott, Ray Burns, Patricia Keister, Hollie Wilkie, Laurel Burns, Aubrey Mullally, Rachel Newman, Jim D'Arcy, and Marlene Countermine.

The show opens on May 2 and runs through May 11. If ticket sales warrant, the board is considering adding performances or a third weekend, so order your tickets early! Set sail with us on this wonderful show, filled with toe tapping ditties and beautiful tunes penned by the immortal Cole Porter. It is sure to be D'Lovely!

"Life WAS a Cabaret!!"

On behalf of SLOC, Jeff Hocking (Cabaret Coordinator for *Beguiled Again*) would like to thank the following cabaret volunteers for all their hard work & support: Amanda Adkison, Regina Baker, Susan Beckhardt, Pat Casey, Jessica Covert, Jessica Crisci, Heather D'Arcy-Shovah, Dave Dixon, Jennifer Flatebo, Anne Gallagher, Jodi Gilman, Kit Goldstein, Jodi Hocking, Neilson Jones, Karen Kolterman, Melissa Lacijan, Yvonne Masse, Sev Moro, Valerie Portanova, John Schmiederer, Lynn Scott, Pamela Spicer, and Becky Straight.



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



SLOC makes the Schenectady Gazette's
"YEAR IN REVIEW (Theatre) - The Best of 2007"

Kiss of the Spiderwoman - Honorable Mention (for its outstanding production)
Annie - "the costumes for *Annie* convincingly established character and time period..."

CONGRATULATIONS to the Cast & Crew

SLOC's New Season is Official

At the January 26, 2008 Semi-Annual Potluck Dinner/Meeting, Michele Sausa-Gatta & Eric Shovah (Co-VP/Artistic) announced the 2008-09 season:

Sept. 2008 - *Thoroughly Modern Millie* - Jeffrey Scott, Director

December, 2008 - *Seussical: the Musical* - Eric Shovah, Director

January, 2009 - *Jacques Brel is Alive & Well & Living in Paris* - Allan Foster, Director.

March, 2009 - *Assassins* - Joe Fava, Director

May, 2009 - *The Scarlet Pimpernel* - Suzanne Rayome, Director

