

SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Volume 42-3
November/December 2008

Oh the Things You Can Think! Oh the Places You'll Go! ~ Company Premiere of *Seussical* ~

The second production of SLOC's 82nd season is well underway and looking forward to a wonderful opening on December 5, 2008. *Seussical*[™] - a musical adaptation of the many works of Dr. Seuss - will be presented as another SLOC premiere this season. *Seussical*[™] follows the story of Horton the Elephant trying to save the small world of Whoville resting tenuously atop a clover. Also intertwined in this romp of a musical (co-conceived by Monty Python's Eric Idle) are Seuss favorites such as Gertrude McFuzz, Mr. and Mrs. Mayor of Whoville, Mayzie LaBird, Sour Kangaroo, Yertle the Turtle, The Grinch, The Wickerhams, and of course, The Cat in the Hat. This musical features a variety of song styles by Ahrens and Flaherty and is very strong portrayed by an extremely talented cast, supplemented by a well versed production team (with over a dozen local area directors on hand in the cast and crew). And just like the Dr. Seuss books, they can be enjoyed on many levels, by both children and adults.

Playing some of the leading roles are Adam Coons (Horton the Elephant), Brian Avery (Cat in the Hat), Joe Davila (Jojo), Heather D'Arcy (Gertrude McFuzz), Amanda Serrano (Mayzie LaBird), Dashira Cortes (Sour Kangaroo), Gary Hoffman (General Schmitz), Melissa Putterman Hoffmann (The Mayor's Wife) and Ross Snyder (The Mayor of Whoville). Rounding out the cast is a strong (and very active) ensemble playing a multitude of Seuss familiars. This ensemble includes Jahmere Holland, Ryan Glynn, Marc DiNicola, Victoria Sheehan, Kara Cregin, Katie DiMaria, Melissa Pelletier, Frank Archina, Connor Olney, Kody Carpenter, Marina Macherone, Andrea Burger, Brendan Charles, and Sarah Bobok.

The *Seussical*[™] production also includes a dynamic production team lead by Marlene Countermine (Producer/Assistant to the Directors) and Eric Shovah (Director). The group welcomes first time SLOC musical director Dan Gallither and the return of choreographer Melissa Lacijan. Also on this production staff are Kate Kaufman Burns (Assistant Director), Regina Baker (Stage Manager/Props), Joel Lord (Sound Design), Greg Rucinski (Light Design), Thomas Dalton Bambury (Costume Design/Hair/Wigs), Michael C. Mensching (Co-Set Design), Michael McDermott (Co-Set Design/PR), Marcia Lenehan (Make-up Design), Sean Patrick Fagan (Co-Circus Arts Choreographer), and Donna Baxter (Board Liason).

As this is a very popular show, we have added Saturday matinees to the schedule. Tickets are on sale and going quickly! To order tickets call our Box Office: 1-877-350-7378 OR order on-line: www.sloctheater.org. Performance dates are December 5-7 and 12-14. Evening performances on Friday and Saturday are at 8:00pm and matinees performances on Saturday and Sunday are at 2:00pm. Please join us and remember, like the Cat and the Hat says, "When you open your mind, all the things you will find, lining up to get loose... oh, the things you can think, when you think about SEUSS!"



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

Web Site:
www.sloctheater.org

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

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

JACQUES BREILS 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

Board of Directors
Marlene Countermine
Joseph Fava
Kate Kaufman Burns
Brett Putnam
Michelle Sausa-Gatta
Eric Shovah
Ross Snyder
Ken Zarnoch

Next Newsletter
Deadline:
November 1, 2008

Spotlight on...

Assassins Auditions

(see article on page 3)

SLOC Bus Trip

(see article on page 2)

President's Notes...by Robert Farquharson

President Bob

We opened our 82nd season with a terrific production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. My thanks to the talented and energetic cast, director/choreographer, musical director plus the stage, lighting, sound, costumes, make up, orchestra and dedicated producer and her team. You see it takes a lot of people to "put on a show." We are all volunteers. So if any of the above areas interest you or other behind the scenes operational areas listed in the back of your program, please let us know. You can call us at 393-5732 or email us via our website at sloctheater.org.

Hurray, we have a new furnace! Dedicated volunteers worked very hard all summer and early fall to remove the old furnace and install a new one. This effort was led by Tom Gatta, with Ted Vickery's assistance. I have been hearing that we need a new furnace, since I joined the company in 1974! Even though we plan on moving, we felt it was in our best interest, and yours, to make sure we have heat. The SLOC Board felt this would benefit our comfort while we are still here, reduce fuel costs and improve the sale's value of our facility.

Don't forget to purchase your tickets for the upcoming productions. We have *Seussical™* and *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* in full rehearsals. We added Saturday matinees for *Seussical™* since this show will appeal to children as well as adult Dr. Seuss aficionados. The dates for these and our spring shows, *Assassins* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel* are on the front of this newsletter.

There may be a few seats left for our November 15th bus trip to New York City. The bus will leave Crossgates Mall at 7:30 am (overflow parking lot behind Macy's) and depart from NYC at 7:00 pm. So you can go shopping, attend a matinee, and have dinner in the Big Apple. The price is \$ 35 (members)/\$40 (nonmembers). If interested, you can check with Tom Heckert by calling 877-6777 or emailing him at tomh823@aol.com.

Your support is very important to the success of this community theater company. Please encourage your family and friends to buy tickets, become a donor and/or volunteer.

Thank you for supporting us and have fun!

Robert C. Farquharson, President

Don't Lose Your Seat!

Saturday, November 15th, 2008 - Tickets Still Available!

Bus will leave Crossgates Mall at 7:30am (arriving at approx. 10:30am). Meet in the overflow parking lot behind Macy's. Departing NYC at 7:00pm (returning approx. 10:30pm). The day in NY is on your own for shopping, shows, museums, dinner or whatever else you might like to do! COST IS: \$35/SLOC members; \$40/non-members. Seats available on a first-come-first-serve basis. To reserve a seat, please send a check (payable to SLOC) to Tom Heckert, 11 Nottingham Way S; Clifton Park NY 12065. For more information, please email Tom: tomh823@aol.com or call Tom: 877-6777. Our goal is to break even with the cost of the transportation - Let's sell all the seats so SLOC can continue to provide low cost/round trip transportation to NYC!



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. 4** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT will be November 1, 2008. Issue No. 4 will be mailed by approx. December 2, 2008.

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

Announcing Auditions for:

~ ~ ~ Assassins ~ ~ ~

Director Joe Fava, Producers Melinda Zarnoch and Jeffrey Scott, and Music Director Sherri Strichman are pleased to announce auditions for SLOC's 4th show of the season, *Assassins*. Auditions will be held at the Opera house on December 16 and 18, 2008 at 7:00 at the Opera House 826 State Street. Please prepare 16 bars of a musical theater piece, not necessarily from the show. Accompanist will be provided. A brief choreography/stage movement audition may also be part of the proceedings.

With music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by John Weidman, *Assassins* takes a detailed look into the motivations and political cultures of the time, of individuals who attempted to assassinate U.S. Presidents. *Assassins* won multiple Tony Awards, and has been an audience favorite since its successful Off-Broadway run in 1990. It has very common themes strung throughout, and really makes one ponder about how the extraordinary freedom of living in the U.S. has created a land where accidents of all kinds can happen, and how any kid can grow up to be the President...or a killer.

Roles to be cast:

Proprietor: 30-50 years old

Leon Czolgosz: 25-35

Jon Hinckley: 30-40

Charles Guiteau: 30-50

Giuseppe Zangara: 30-50

Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme: 35-50

Sara Jane Moore: 40-50

John Wilkes Booth: 20-30

Samuel Byck: 40-50

Balladeer/Lee Harvey Oswald: 20-30

Other minor roles to be cast include Emma Goldman, Presidents Garfield and Ford, and Sarah Jane Moore's son Billy, 9-10 years old.

There will also be an ensemble of 6-10 playing reporters, tourists, photographers, etc.

Production dates are March 6-15, 2009.

For further information on roles/historical considerations contact Director Joe Fava at 374-6190 or jfava@realityusa.com or Musical Director Sherri Strichman at 346-6722 for any musical inquiries. If you wish to help on this show in any way, please contact Producer Melinda Zarnoch at 382-8497.

** CABARET VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - January 2009 **

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

Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living In Paris * Cast Announced *

All of a sudden, SLOC's 3rd show of the 2008/2009 season has kicked into high drive. The set for Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris is largely in place at Taurus Rd, we have arm-wrestled the vocal scores from Dramatists Inc in NYC, and auditions concluded October 9th.

This is SLOC's third Brel production. - the first one actually opened the SLOC House some 35 years ago. For those of you who did not catch the earlier ones, it is a collection of poignant songs as written by one of Europe's top song writer-singers in the 1970's. These songs were translated into English, and put into cabaret format in 1967, when they quickly became a hot ticket. They are timeless and melodic in style - as applicable today as back then, and deal with such diverse subjects as love, life, hypocrisy, humor, children and the circle of life.

So mark your calendars now and join us January 9, 10 or 11th and 15, 16, 17 & 18, 2009. Call our box office, 1-877-350-7378 or contact our website, www.sloctheater.org to confirm the start of our 'on-line' booking dates.

SLOC is pleased to announce the following cast members who will be bringing Brel to you: Heather Haskins and Rich Satterlee- both who have graced the SLOC stage before. We welcome SLOC newcomer Robert Rice to compliment this fine ensemble. At the time of printing, the production staff is still looking for one female to fill out this talented cast. If you are interested in auditioning, please contact the production staff as soon as possible.

The fabulous Production staff include: Jennifer S. Depew, Producer; Allan Foster, Director & Set Design; Andrea Merrill, Music Director; Donna Hatch, Choreographer; Gina Kornrumpf, Rehearsal Secretary; JoAnna Hepinstall, Set Decor; Richard Lenehan, Set Construction, Pat Casey, Costumes; Ken Zarnoch, Lighting; Ric Bello, Sound; Marcia Lenahan, Makeup, Jeff Hocking, Cabaret; Melinda Zarnoch, Tickets; Board Liaison, Michelle Sausa-Gatta; Playbill, Donna Baxter; and that smiling jack-of-all-trades Regina Baker as Stage Manager, Props, and Show Publicity.





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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

In Sympathy...

The SLOC family sends sincere condolences to longtime members & performers Joe and Margot Phillips and family on the passing of Joe's father, Thomas A. Phillips Sr. on October 7th.

"May Flights of Angels Sing Thee to Thy Rest..."



POT LUCK DINNER!!!



Mark Your Calendars for the Semi-Annual meeting on January 31, 2009. We will be announcing our Etta Moore award recipient, catching up with friends with a dish to share, and announcing SLOC's 2009-2010 season!. More information to follow in the next newsletter.

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.