

SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Volume 42-5
February - March 2009

Everybody's Got the Right... ... to see **Assassins!**

Producer Melinda Zarnoch, Director Joe Fava, Musical Director Sherri Strichman, and Assistant Director Michelle Sausa-Gatta are pleased to announce that SLOC's fourth show of its 82nd season, Stephen Sondheim's Assassins, is opening March 6 and running through March 15th! Assassins, with book written by John Weidman, brings a rollercoaster ride to the audience, in which assassins and would-be assassins from historical periods meet, interact, and inspire one another, all in the name of the American Dream. Weaving humor and parallel human symmetry, Assassins has been an audience and critical favorite since its successful Off Broadway run in 1990, and revival on Broadway, which garnered multiple Tony Awards. Assassins is intended for mature audiences.

The talented cast members include Thomas Dalton Bambury as John Wilkes Booth, Jason Biszick as Charles Guiteau, Jane Figueroa as Sara Jane Moore, Michael Gatzendorfer as Leon Czolgosz, Bob Hegeman as Proprietor, Jeffrey Hocking as John Hinckley, Stephanie Insogna as Lynette 'Squeaky' Fromme, Steven Leifer as Samuel Byck, Henry Liebers as Billy (Moore's son), Sev Moro as The Balladeer/Lee Harvey Oswald, Danielle O'Brien as Emma Goldman, and Tim Orcutt as Guiseppe Zangara. Ensemble members include Colin Holmes, Bill McColl, Rachel Newman, and Janice Walz.

The Production Staff also includes Joe Fava as Set and Costume Designer, Ken Zarnoch as Lighting Designer, Winn Huntley as Sound Designer, Marcia Lenehan as Makeup Designer, Bob Farquharson and Varro Clarke are the Set Construction crew, and Joe and Mary Ann Condra are the Publicity Coordinators. Please contact Melinda (sail4017@yahoo.com/382-8497) or Michelle (gattat4@aol.com) if you wish to assist on this production in any way.

Assassins will run March 6-8 and 12-15, at The Opera House, 826 State Street. Tickets may be obtained by calling 1-877-350-7378 or www.sloctheater.org. Don't miss out on this riveting evening of entertainment with Assassins!

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 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

Board of Directors
Adam M. Coons
Marlene Countermine
Joe Fava
Kate Kaufman Burns
Brett Putnam
Michelle Sausa-Gatta
Ross Snyder
Ken Zarnoch

Next Newsletter
Deadline:
March 23, 2009

SLOC Hits the Great White Way!

The Schenectady Light Opera Company is sponsoring its Spring bus trip to NYC.

DATE: Saturday, April 18, 2009

Cost: \$35 for SLOC members \$40 for non-members...still a steal at this price!

AM DEPARTURE: 7:30 AM Upper level of Crossgates Mall - Overflow parking lot. One Stop along the Route.

ARRIVAL IN NYC: Approx. 11:00 AM - Drop off in the Theater District usually at the Milford Plaza Hotel

DEPARTURE FROM NYC: 11:15 PM SHARP! pick up place TBA and announced on the bus

ARRIVAL BACK IN ALBANY: Approximately 2:30 AM.

Please contact me via phone or email to reserve a seat.
Payment due 10 days after reservation of your seat. All payments due by April 11, 2009 Please mail payment (checks payable to SLOC): Tom Heckert, 11 Nottingham Way South, Clifton Park, NY 12065

If you have any questions, please e mail or call 877-6777. SLOC has been going these trips for the last 5 years and needs your support to continue! If the bus isn't filled or SLOC operates this trip at a loss, future trips are in jeopardy. Reserve your seat now!



Spotlight on...

Etta Moore Winners
(page 3)
'09 - '10 Season
(page 3)

President's Notes...by Robert Farquharson

Happy New Year! The Schenectady Light Opera Company started the new year with a bang! We produced Jacques Brel & presented our Etta Moore Founder's Award plus our newly added Gwen E. Fraser Artistic Award. Let me begin by thanking the terrific production team, cast and crew for Seussical, our December production. It was a delightful show for the entire family. If you thought this was just for children, you were wrong! It was so much fun and it sent a sincere message about respecting each other even though we may be different. We need more messages like this in the world today. Thank you to all involved with this show.

Congratulations and sincere thanks to the production team, cast, crew, cabaret staff and ushers for our wonderful production of Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris. The four-person cast were terrific and the cabaret atmosphere was perfect for this show. We saved the beautifully painted scenes for special places in our new SLOC home.

We made several important announcements at our Jan. 31 Semi-Annual Potluck Dinner (a huge turnout!) We honored Tom and Michelle Sausa-Gatta with our annual Etta Moore Founders Award. This award is to honor a person or couple that have selflessly contributed their time and talents to SLOC in any capacity. Michelle joined SLOC 29 years ago and gradually her husband and sons, Richard and Tom have followed her footsteps. Michelle has performed in many shows, been a VP officer and currently is a member of the Board of Directors. Tom has helped so much with maintenance, especially plumbing problems. He led the team to install our new furnace, saving us \$16,000 for installation.

Our second announcement was the introduction of our new Gwen E. Fraser Artistic Award, created in memory of Gwen who passed away last year. She considered SLOC part of her family, performed in numerous shows for over 30 years and most recently directed "Sullivan & Gilbert". This award is to honor a person that has made significant artistic contributions to SLOC over many years. This may include performing, directing, musical directing, choreographing or designing for any of the technical aspects of production such as lighting, sets, sound, costumes, makeup, props and stage managing.

It seemed only fitting that the first recipient be Bonnie Williams, who has performed with SLOC since 1980 and presented audiences with such wonderful characters such as Mama Rose in our 2004 production of Gypsy. She was also Gwen's best friend and SLOC's immediate past President. Unfortunately for us, she is moving to sunny and warm Florida this March. We are going to miss Bonnie very much.

Please be sure to attend our last two shows for this season, Assassins in March and Scarlet Pimpernel in May. The rocky economic climate has negatively affected ticket sales in most performing arts venues, including Broadway. So, with this, we really need your continued support.

We look forward to seeing you in our audiences. Bring a friend!

With much appreciation,

President, Bob Farquharson

Fondly Remembered...

Since our final issue of 2008, SLOC sadly recognizes the passing of longtime, supportive members & sends support to their families:

John M. Baxter, Jr., long time SLOC supporter and husband of Donna Z. Baxter passed away in Nov 2008. He will be remembered for his sparkling personality, humor and support of to our theater community. The SPOTLIGHT Newsletter Staff appreciated his support by delivering issues to the post office. Warren G. May, Sr., father of longtime SLOC director and actress Deb May, passed away after visiting friends in Cape Cod. Warren was a big patron of the arts and support of Deb and the community. Pat LeFleur, longtime member passed away after many years of dedication to SLOC both on stage and off. Pat performed in the late 70's & '80's. Many were impressed how she played the ukelele & will miss her sense of humor & timing.

Two of our faithful patrons, Jim Caufield (42 years of support) & Florence LeMontagne (25 yrs of support) recently passed away as well. SLOC sends sincere condolences to performer, longtime member, Eric Weiskopf on the January 9th passing of his father.



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 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 Dalton 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. 6 of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT will be March 23, 2009. Issue No. 6 will be mailed by (approx.) April 2, 2009.

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



Area Premiere!

The Scarlet Pimpernel Finalizes Casting!

At press time for our newsletter, Director Suzanne Rayome, Producer Jennifer S. Depew, and Musical Director Michael Lotano were making their final decisions on casting the final show of SLOC's season, The Scarlet Pimpernel!

With nearly 60 people auditioning, the decision making process is certainly a daunting one! Those that are cast in this show will be posted soon on SLOC's website, www.sloctheater.org along with the remaining Production Staff members.

The Scarlet Pimpernel will be presented at SLOC May 1-3 and 7-10, and tickets are available on our website or by calling 1-877-350-7378. With Mother's Day right around this time, buy Mom a ticket to come see the French Revolution and all of its glory, with this audience and critical favorite, and area premiere for SLOC!

Congratulations!!!

Etta Moore Award Winners:

**TOM GATTA and
MICHELLE SAUSA- GATTA**

Gwen E. Frasier Artistic Award Winner:

BONNIE WILLIAMS

Congratulations to the following 2008 productions that received either a TANYS (Theatre Association of NYS) and/or a "TOP 10/Best of.." Media Recognition Awards:

Jan. 2008 - "Beguiled Again"
Directed by Barry Corlew

The Gazette granted a TOP 10 award: "A sexy & intimate review of the music of Rodgers and Hart which also served to illuminate the history of their career as a writing team - SLOC's cabaret was beautifully directed by Barry Corlew and featured veteran powerhouses Bonnie Williams & Alan Foster & stylish dreamy sets by Mary Kozlowski."

March 2008 - "Bat Boy: the Musical"
Directed by Tom Heckert

Company Premier - Voted #6 (METROLAND): "From its opening seconds SLOC's "Bat Boy: the Musical" engaged the audience with this very funny, lively production led by the protean Sean Patrick Fagan as the eponymous character. SLOC's production was community theatre at its too-rare finest."

TANYS Awards:

*Excellence in Performances: Sean Patrick Fagan (Batboy) and Laurie Larson (Meredith Parker)

May 2008 - "Anything Goes"
Directed by Eric Shovah

TANYS Awards:

*Excellence in Acting - Heather D'Arcy (BONNIE)
*Meritorious Achievement (Scenic Design) - Mike McDermott & Michael Mensching
*Meritorious Achievement in Dance - to the Entire Company

This Production also received the Proctor's Regional Arts Award and was the only non-professional production to receive the award.

December 2008 - "Seussical"
Directed by Eric Shovah

TANYS Awards:

*Outstanding Performance - Heather D'Arcy (GERTRUDE MCFUZZ)
*Excellence in Performance - the Entire Ensemble and Crew

*Excellence in Sound Reinforcement - Joel Lord

*Meritorious Achievement: Music Direction - Daniel Galliher

Schenctady Gazette Honorable Mention
Top Ten Shows of the Year



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 (cabaret style)</i>	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

~ * ~ 2009 - 2010 Season ~ * ~

The Pajama Game

October 2009 - Director Jennifer S. Depew

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

December 2009 - Director Matthew Teichner

Side by Side by Sondheim

March 2010 - Director Thomas Dalton Bambury

Kiss Me, Kate

May 2010 - Director Alan Angelo

To order your tickets, please call 1-877-350-7378 or visit us on the web at www.SLOCTheater.org.