

# SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the  
Schenectady Light Opera Company  
Volume 42-7  
May/June 2009

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

Next Newsletter  
Deadline:  
July 16, 2009

## *Pajama Game - Audition Information*

Auditions for the first production of SLOC's 83rd season, *The Pajama Game*, are set for Tuesday, June 16th and Thursday June 18th, 2009, at the Opera House, 826 State Street, with sign in beginning at 7:00 p.m. Auditions will begin promptly at 7:30. *The Pajama Game* is a romping musical set around a pajama factory in the 1950's. Conditions at the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory are anything but peaceful as sparks fly between new superintendent Sid Sorokin and Babe Williams, leader of the union grievance committee. Their stormy relationship comes to a head when the workers strike for a 7 ½ cent pay increase, setting off not only a conflict between management and labor, but a battle of the sexes as well.

Director Jenny Depew is working closely with her Producers, Jodi Hebert and Regina Baker, Musical Director Malcolm Kogut and Choreographer, Donna Hatch, to staff the show. Anyone interested in working on the show is invited to contact the names above.

Each auditioner should prepare 16 bars of music that will showcase their vocal talent. A song from the show is preferable, but another similar tune will be acceptable. An accompanist will be provided. There will be a dance audition for everyone as well as set reading. Character descriptions are below. The production dates are October 16-18 and 22-25, 2009. If you have questions regarding the audition process or other concerns, you may contact Jenny (518-456-5504) or Jodi (518-869-4074) or Regina (518-377-1822). Scripts or vocal scores are not available from the production team prior to auditions.

### CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

**Sid Sorokin:** lost in life, Sid is finding a new job and new love at the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory. He is the handsome Superintendent that falls for the head of the union's Grievance Committee. Sparks fly...literally! Songs: A New Town is a Blue Town, Hey There, Small Talk, There Once was a Man. Range: Bari-Tenor

**Babe Williams:** the head of the factory's grievance committee. Babe is strong willed and tough, but woman enough to see the new superintendent as a good catch. Will the need for a pay raise come between union and management in their relationship also? Songs: I'm Not at All in Love; Small Talk, There Once was a Man, Hey There. Range: Mezzo-Belt

**Hines:** comedic time-study man, often drunk, always in a hurry. Songs: *The Pajama Game*, I'll Never Be Jealous Again, Think of the Time I Save. Range: Bari-tenor

**Prez:** Union President, a bit of a leech with the ladies. Songs: Her Is, 7 ½ cents. Range: Baritone

**Gladys:** PJ Factory worker that helps entertain the workers with Steam Heat at the union rally. Legit dancers needed. Songs: Her Is, Steam Heat. Range: Mezzo

**Mabel:** older secretary in the factory; a real spitfire. Song: I'll Never Be Jealous Again. Range: Soprano

**Hasler:** Factory President, tough on finance; keep-your-dukes-up attitude. No song.

**Mae:** misguided worker. Song: Her Is. Range: Alto/Mezzo

**Pop:** Babe's agreeable father. No song.

There will be an additional 10-12 actors cast for other characters as well as the dancing and singing ensemble.



*Spotlight on...*

**Board Election Info  
and Biographies**  
(see articles on page 3 - 4)



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

### *President Bob*

We just wrapped up our 82<sup>nd</sup> season with a terrific production of "The Scarlet Pimpernel." Thanks so much to the production team, cast and crew for a wonderfully entertaining and high quality show. I simply love the music from this show. The Theater Association of New York State adjudicated this production and we received several awards. In addition, I understand that theater buffs who follow this show, seeing almost every production of it, stated how much they loved this one. So extra Kudos to each person involved.

**Salon Musica on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 7-9 pm:** This is our first annual fund raising event, which really is going to be very nice. Please join us for a night of terrific music, dessert and beverages in three elegant GE Plot homes. You can visit all three homes and take in the venue of music scheduled per home as well as the beauty of each place. Tickets are \$50 per person and you can make reservations by calling 518-527-9757 or via SLOC's website. This will be an outstanding event. Several local businesses are supporting this fund raiser and we hope you will, too.

**Annual Meeting on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm:** Don't forget our meeting to catch up on news and the latest plans for our new SLOC home, receive annual reports and elect new board members. We will be having dessert and beverages. We may change the location for this. Please check the SLOC website within the next few weeks regarding any locations changes - if you do not have access to a computer please call Melinda Zarnoch at 382-8497 to confirm location.

**83<sup>rd</sup> Season:** Our shows for next year provide a nice mix of entertainment. They are *The Pajama Game*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, and *Kiss Me Kate*. We hope you will purchase season tickets and have provided season packages to suit your taste and schedule.

**New Home:** We are nearing our final details in selecting our new SLOC home and plan to make a public announcement before the next newsletter. Things are progressing very well. This effort takes a lot of patience and fortitude. We will be officially starting our capital campaign soon. I hope you will support this great project that will benefit everyone involved: our membership, cast and crews, as well as our audiences.

**Thank You:** As I wrap up my last month of being President for the Schenectady Light Opera Company, I have many thoughts. It has been a wonderful honor to hold this office for the past two years. Our company bylaws limit the term to two years and I think that is good thing. It has been a lot of hard work, exciting and tough challenges, insightful with learning curves and most of all, very rewarding. I truly thank each person who helped me and the company. We would not be where we are and where we are headed without YOU. This is an exciting time for SLOC.

Robert C. Farquharson, President

### *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. 43 Issue No. 1** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT will be July 16, 2009. Issue No. 1 will be mailed by approx. July 31, 2009.

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

# Board Biographies

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The SLOC Nominating Committee of Michelle Sausa-Gatta, committee chair, and the committee, Jodi Gilman and Kate Kaufman Burns were seeking members to fill the five positions that would be vacant in June 2009. They are pleased to announce that candidate's names were received & their Election BIOS are inserted in this issue. Those who will be remaining on the Board are Bob Farquharson, Kate Kaufman-Burns, Brett Putnam, and Ken Zarnoch. Board members whose terms end in June are Adam Coons, Joe Fava, Michelle Sausa-Gatta and Ross Synder.

## THOMAS DALTON BAMBURY

SLOC Musical Theater is at a crucial time and we need to work together to ensure both its artistic and financial longevity. Currently in my third decade with SLOC, I have worn many hats over the years (Director, Actor, Choreographer, Producer, Stage Manager, Hair Makeup and Costume Designer, Usher, Properties, several VP terms, Board Member and more) and have had the pleasure of collaborating with so many talented people on so many levels. I have truly seen first hand how we got where we are today, and what we need to do to continue providing quality theater to our patrons, and a positive community environment for all of us. Chairing both Critique and concessions committees this season, as well as being involved on stage and off for several productions and in many capacities, has allowed me many more opportunities to meet a vast array of new faces at SLOC, and to continue the bond I have with so many long term members of the SLOC community. I am grateful for all of the opportunities SLOC has provided me over the years, and I will do all I can as a Board member, to ensure SLOC's artistic and financial longevity.

## JOE FAVA

Joe has previously served on the Board of Directors and as President of Schenectady Civic Players(SCP). He is currently VP of SLOC's Community Operations. Joe has been extremely instrumental in SLOC's search for a new home as well as building community and financial support for it. He has directed or appeared in over 300 productions in virtually every theatre group in the area. Joe has directed Company, A Little Night Music, 1776, Carnival, Oliver, Funny Girl, Shenendoah, The Music Man(at Proctor's GE Theatre) and most recently Assassins. He has appeared in I Love My Wife, The King and I, Charlie Brown, The Robber Bridegroom, and Godspell. At SCP he had directed Cyrano, School for Scandal, Cat on the Hot Tin Roof, The Time of Your Life, Moon over Buffalo, Private Lives, A Midsummer Nights Dream, The Royal Family, Our Town, and Stage Door. He has appeared in several productions, most recently Private Eyes and The Fantasticks. Elsewhere, he had directed Follies, Three Tall Women, The Fifth of July and Side by Side by Sondheim. This season, he directed Moonlight and Magnolias for SCP.

## LISA FRANKLIN

I am honored to be running for the SLOC Board. I am privileged to have been the VP Artistic at SLOC for the past year, as well as the Chairman of the Outreach Committee. In the past eight years I have performed many roles on the SLOC stage and have also worked on props, costumes and opening night celebrations and have been Vocal Coach and Assistant Musical Director here. My proudest contribution to SLOC is my four children, all who have performed leading roles on the SLOC stage. I would like to see a youth theater program implemented at SLOC. There are so many children in the area longing for a chance to perform. A youth theater program can not only financially benefit SLOC, but also build performers who will grow and appreciate SLOC and musical theatre. I have a great deal of fundraising experience and have many different fundraising ideas, including a SLOC Broadway Idol competition. I hold a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from the USA and a Master's Degree in Opera from Germany. I am past president of the Crane Opera Guild and presently assistant and musically direct shows at the Academy of the Holy Names, where I teach private voice lessons. In the past two years I have musically directed at Upstage Productions and at the Glove Theater. I have also been a rehearsal accompanist at Park Playhouse and at SLOC. I have been a vocal coach at NYSTI and presently run a vocal studio in Loudonville with 85 students. I am active in so many aspects of the musical theater world and I feel that my extensive education and leadership skills would benefit SLOC immensely.



## BOB HARRISON

Background - 40 years of fund raising, public relations, community organization experience with non-profit membership organizations. Broad experience in radio, television, advertising, lecture and seminar leader. Volunteer recruitment, training and management a primary responsibility.

33 year SLOC member. Actor, singer, Master of Ceremonies for SLOC auditions, and currently Vice President of Fund Raising and Development.

### Personal & Organization Objectives

Help secure funding to implement SLOC's Strategic Plan, and assure our present and future financial viability by:

- 1.) Expanding our membership.
- 2.) Developing a system of corporate underwriting and sponsorship for our productions, expand grant writing and other fund raising.
- 3.) Help transition our company to its new location downtown.

## ORLANDO PIGLIAVENTO

Company member since 1960 - director, choreographer, performer, producer and past member of the Board of Directors. The company is entering an exciting time in its history and, if the membership desires, I would be honored to serve on the Board.

# Board Biographies (continued)

## NANCY CARLSON STONE

I have previously served as a member of the Board for Tri Cities Summer Savoyards  
Octavos Chamber Singers  
Niskayuna Friends of Music

I first joined SLOC in 1988 as a member of the Gondoliers chorus. My next show for SLOC was in 1993 as Theodora Barracuda in Tied to the Tracks: A Melodrama. Because of family and work responsibilities this was followed by a long hiatus from theatrical performance during which my involvement with SLOC was as a frequent and appreciative audience member. In 2005 I was cast in Sullivan and Gilbert and most recently I was one of the four performers in the 2009 production of Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris.

As well as SLOC I have performed with Opera Excelsior, Temple Thespians and Glimmerglass Opera; in cabaret performances with Holy Smoke Productions; and as an oratorio soloist with Octavo Singers and Voices of Cooperstown. I have been a cantorial soloist at Congregation Gates of Heaven in Schenectady for 24 year and recruit and hire the professional quartet for the High Holiday and special services.

For 25 years I worked for NYS state as an analyst within the field of Human Resources, retiring as a manager of a small group of analysts. My work required highly developed analytical and problem solving skills as well very strong communication and interpersonal skills. It also required the ability to balance multiple competing priorities and to constantly deal with a variety of people all seeking to achieve their own goals as soon as possible often while providing as little cooperation as possible.

Producers, directors, performers, technical people all have to be passionate about what they are trying to accomplish and must advocate for their projects. I think my experience as a performer and my skills in problem solving and balancing competing priorities from multiple sources is good preparation for facing and evaluating the many new problems and opportunities that will present themselves to SLOC in our new and much expanded venue.

### \*\*\* ABSENTEE BALLOTS \*\*\*

A member qualifying as a voting member shall be entitled to personally request one (1) absentee ballot from the Secretary. The request must be made at least two (2) days prior to the June 5th Annual Meeting. The Secretary will provide the ballot and a covering envelope with the instructions to vote for candidates. The ballot MUST BE marked, sealed in the covering envelope, which MUST BE signed by the voter on the outside, and returned to the Secretary prior to the Annual Meeting. Any absentee ballots received after the voting process has commenced during the Annual Meeting, or in an unsigned covering envelope shall be declared void. Please contact Secretary, Melinda Zarnoch, 382-8497 to obtain an absentee ballot.

## ANNUAL MEETING

~ and ~

## BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

**\*\* HAVE YOUR DESSERT AT SLOC ! \*\***

Annual Meeting - Board Elections

Friday, June 5, 2009 - 7pm

Come join our Board President, Board of Directors, VPs and fellow members and friends & celebrate the end of an incredible season & salute our 83rd season!

Agenda includes: 2009 SLOC members elect Board members, Updates on SLOC's new theatre location, updates on The Pajama Game auditions, President/VP annual reports, lots of fun and laughs.

We hope members will attend so we have the quorum required to elect members to the open Board seats.

NO RSVP required.

FYI: The Annual Meeting has been on Saturday's at 6pm in past years.

Please note: this year's meeting will be on a Friday at 7pm.

SLOC will provide desserts, coffee, tea & water following the meeting.

**\*MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! :**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 5TH: THE ANNUAL MEETING!!\***

## With Deepest Sympathies...

SLOC was saddened to learn of the passing of Olga Kirchmayer, a 50+ year member & patron. Olga was very active at SLOC and was in the chorus of many productions (even at the Erie Theatre on State St. and Erie Blvd). Olga was also SLOC's Newsletter Editor and Scholarship Chairperson. She met her late husband, Leon, at SLOC (Leon: SLOC's President, 1955-56). We send our sincere sympathy to Olga's family and dear friends.

SLOC also sends sincere sympathy & prayers to:

Longtime performers & volunteers, Heather (D'Arcy) Shovah and Gail D'Arcy and their families on the April 13 sudden passing of Dorothy Gueperoux (grandmother & mother, respectively).

Joe Agostine, Jr (Longtime member/performer & Past SLOC President) and families on the passing of Joe's father, Joseph Agostine, Sr. on April 2nd.

# Help Wanted Section!

## WANTED:

### Intermission Concession Volunteers

Thomas Bambury, current Concessions Coordinator, is still accepting more names for Concessions Volunteers - Minimal Duties required, including being available 1 hour prior to intermission to set up, make sales, conversing with the audience members & minimal clean up following your duties. If interested, please contact Thomas at: 436-8295 or thomas\_bambury@yahoo.com. He will be accepting volunteers to assist for one particular show(based upon your availability) or better yet, be available for the entire season!

## WANTED:

### Playbill Editor

SLOC is still accepting names to fill the volunteer position of PLAYBILL EDITOR for the 2009-10 season!! Four(4) playbills will be printed next season. You can be involved with the shows and still do the work at home.

For more information & detailed job requirements, please contact Donna Z. Baxter(Former Playbill Editor): dzbaxter@nycap.rr.com, home: 472-8189 OR Thomas Bambury(Current Co-VP/PR): thomas\_bambury@yahoo.com. Donna Z. Baxter will provide all the necessary training for this position.

This is an immediate & available, volunteer position!

Why not utilize your current computer/layout skills, or learn a new community theatre duty & contribute to the success of SLOC's future!!

## WANTED:

### Ushers and House Managers for Performances

SLOC has been expanding its usher & house manager volunteer list but we still have space available for you! If you'd like to assist us, please email your name to SLOCUSHERS@hotmail.com or email us via our website: sloctheater.org.

No prior experience necessary. - Come join the fun!

## WANTED:

### Technical Volunteers

The technical departments of theatre: set, lighting, sound, costume designers/builders, set painters/sketch artists and make-up designers are always seeking new volunteers to be part of our ever-growing team! If you would like to share your expertise or would like to learn one of the above duties, please let SLOC know! Call 1-877-350-7378 or leave us a message on the website: www.sloctheater.org (SEE "Tech Volunteer" section).

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!**

**AUDITION  
DATES FOR  
THE ENTIRE  
83rd SEASON  
AT SLOC!**

Audition dates for  
next season (2009-10) are as follows:



*The Pajama  
Game*  
June 16 &  
18, 2009

*Joseph and  
the Amazing  
Technicolor  
Dreamcoat*  
September 14  
& 16, 2009



*Side By Side  
by Sondheim*  
December 16  
& 17, 2009

*Kiss Me  
Kate*  
February  
9 & 10,  
2010





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  
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Schenectady, NY  
Permit No. 120

# Ad for Ads!

If you have not already done so, please consider taking an advertisement in our program which is passed out to hundreds of theatergoers each show!

Benefits even include complimentary tickets with some packages. Continue to support the arts in the City of Schenectady and promote your own business in the process. Please consider helping both your business and ours in this wonderful way.

Please contact Heather at [hdarcy78@hotmail.com](mailto:hdarcy78@hotmail.com) if you'd like to take out an ad.

To those who have taken out ads this past year, we thank you for your patronage and hope you will continue to support us!

## FINAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 2008-2009 SEASON AT SLOC:

This is the final issue for the 2008-09 season. (Can you believe it?)

The SPOTLIGHT Newsletter Staff (Dave, Eric and Thomas) want to wish everyone a happy & safe spring & summer! It's our pleasure to do our best to promote SLOC and alert our members and friends of the great events & happenings that are going on. We'll be back in late August, so until then: Why not consider:

...becoming a benefactor next season?

...auditioning for a show? or volunteering "behind the scenes"?

...spreading the word about SLOC and our 83rd (yes, 83rd!) season?

...Why not make it a goal to invite some new friends or family members to join our audiences next season?