



SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of
SLOC Musical Theater
Volume 44-1 84th Season
August/September 2010

Nonsense Auditions!!

The Production Team for "Nonsense" proudly announces audition dates. Mark your calendars now!

Audition Dates: September 13 & 15 Call backs Sunday September 19 – 2:00PM

Performance Dates: December 3 – 5 and 9 – 12, 2010.

Rehearsals: Sundays, Mondays, Wednesday, Fridays (The rehearsal schedule will be fine tuned when the show is cast.)

Location: Schenectady Light Opera Co. 427 Franklin St, Downtown Schenectady

Audition Information: Check in is at 6:30PM. Prepare 16 measures of music, bring your music, an accompanist will be provided.

Cast of Characters:

Sister Mary Regina, Mother Superior – A feisty overweight Sophie Tucker type who can't resist the spotlight. Mezzo middle to d2

Sister Mary Hubert, Mistress of the Novices – The second in command, she is always competing with Mother Superior. Alto low Bb to D2

Sister Mary Robert Anne – A street wise tough character from Brooklyn. A constant source of aggravation for the mother superior. Alto belt low a to C2

Sister Mary Amnesia – This nun lost her memory after a crucifix fell on her head. She is very sweet. Soprano low Ab to high A

Sister Mary Leo – The novice, who entered the convent with the firm desire to become the first nun ballerina. Soprano middle c to high g

The audition will consist of set readings, vocal audition and some movement. *Sister Mary Leo* should have ballet training and a modest ability to dance on point.

Production Team: Producer: Brett Putnam; Director/Choreographer: Orlando Pigliavento; Music Director: Vince Bonafede

Description: *Nonsense* begins when the Little Sisters of Hoboken discover that their cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, has accidentally poisoned 52 of the sisters, and they are in dire need of funds for the burials. The sisters decide that the best way to raise the money is to put on a variety show, so they take over the school auditorium, which is currently set up for the eighth grade production of "Grease." Here we meet *Reverend Mother Regina*, a former circus performer; *Sister Mary Hubert*, the Mistress of Novices; a streetwise nun from Brooklyn named *Sister Robert Anne*; *Sister Mary Leo*, a novice who is a wannabe ballerina; and the delightfully wacky *Sister Mary Amnesia*, the nun who lost her memory when a crucifix fell on her head.

Featuring star turns, tap and ballet dancing, an audience quiz, and comic surprises, this show has become an international phenomenon. With more than 5000 productions worldwide, it has been translated into 21 languages.

Winner of four 1985 Outer Critics Circle Awards including Best Off-Broadway Musical in its original New York production, this hilarious international hit was revived in New York. Updated with new jokes, additional lyrics, two new arrangements and a brand new song, this zany musical has been videotaped for television starring the late Rue McClanahan as the Mother Superior.

427 Franklin St.
Schenectady, NY
1-877-350-7378

Web Site:
www.sloctheater.org

2010-2011 Season
The Pirates of Penzance
Oct. 15-17; 21-24
Auditions: June 22 & 24

Nonsense
Dec. 3-5; 9-12
Auditions: Sept. 13 & 15

The Drowsy Chaperone
Feb. 25-27; Mar. 3-6
Auditions:
Nov. 30; Dec. 1

Les Miserables
(All Student Cast)
Apr. 13-17
Auditions:
Dec. 13, 14 & 15

Carousel
May 13-15; 19-22
Auditions:
Feb. 27, 28; Mar. 1

Bob Harrison
President

Board of Directors
Thomas Dalton Bambury
Joe Fava
Jane Figueroa
Lisa Franklin
Michael Gatzendorfer
Bob Harrison
Kate Kaufman Burns
Sev Moro
Nancy Stone

Next Newsletter
Deadline:
August 30, 2010

Did You Know That...

**The Pirates of Penzance
premiered in NYC on
31 Dec 1879...
131 years ago!**

President's Notes... by Bob Harrison

84 years of quality, community-based musical theater is a proud achievement that every SLOC member, past and present, should celebrate...and we ARE!

In the past 2-1/2 years we have completed an in-depth Strategic Plan, set realistic goals, organized a 3-phase Capital Campaign that is already three-quarters of the way to reaching our Phase 1 campaign goal. We have updated our By-laws, organization chart, and operational procedures, and we are working hard to expand our SLOC membership and volunteer base, AND have secured the solid support of a broad cross-section of community leadership.

We own our new facility and are transforming it into a regional performing arts and entertainment entity that will soon be a national model for community theaters. We have been warmly welcomed into Schenectady's Downtown Arts Government and Business District. Our facility is an "Oasis" in the very heart of our city with parking, handicapped accessibility, and is large enough to consolidate all our operations with room for growth for the foreseeable future.

We have not lost sight of our original purpose to provide quality musical theater that is solidly volunteer-based. Without a doubt there are multiple daily challenges managing our expanded facility, but our tried and true SLOC volunteers are stepping up to the plate, and our work is progressing steadily toward presenting our first show of the coming season "Pirates of Penzance" in our sparkling new theater on Franklin Street.

I want to sincerely thank each of you who have also "stepped up to the plate" by contributing to our Capital Campaign and supporting us as volunteers.

More dollar contributions, more volunteers, more season subscriptions and members are urgently needed to help us reach our multiple goals. I encourage each of you to spread the word about SLOC at every opportunity.

If you have questions or want to participate in any way call us at 280-3216.

It is a singular privilege to serve as your president at this exciting time!

Remembering the Pedersens...

Many of you know that SLOC's dear friend Larry Pedersen passed away May 21, 2010. An immediate family/SLOC member memorial service was hosted at our new Performing Arts Center in July.

Indeed, a wonderful group attended and offered kinds words, sincere tributes & beautiful music to honor his memory. Larry was involved with SLOC for over 40 years. He had been a dependable SLOC supporter in so many ways. Larry helped many times with moving show sets & was the VP of Facilities for many years. SLOC always knew the buildings and grounds would be up to date. He was involved in purchasing our current set facility in Niskayuna. He was a season subscriber/donor for 42 years (along with his wonderful, hard-working wife, Chris, who predeceased him on 12/18/09). While both Larry and Chris helped with the purchase and move to SLOC's State Street Theater in 1970 they both saw the vision for our new Franklin Street Theater and were one of the first to donate a sizeable gift. Larry certainly was excited as anyone at our first press conference announcing our project for our new & current home. Larry & Chris Pedersen are missed very much.

Goodluck to the Codellas!!

At our June 12 Semi-Annual Meeting SLOC members learned that Peter and Madeline Codella, longtime members & patrons were moving to Utah. The Codellas joined SLOC in 1984 ("Hello, Dolly" set).

On behalf of SLOC, Bob Farquharson presented a gift to wish them well & acknowledge all the many, many years of combined service to our theater family. Their highlighted contributions included: Directing, Producing, set building & painting (great artistic detail!), newsletter editing, playbill editing. Peter was Past President & a Former Board Member for many seasons. They were the recipients of the Etta Moore Award. Both their list of volunteer duties & years of service are endless & SLOC says, "THANK YOU AGAIN for all your dedication & support!" Following the gift presentation, a standing ovation took place to honor them.

The Codellas: 1174 South 500 East; New Harmony, Utah; 84757-0495. ALL THE BEST TO THE CODELLAS---Keep in touch. You will be missed.

In Our Thoughts... Sincere sympathy & prayers are extended from the SLOC Family to longtime member, Melissa Lacijan & Family on the passing of her father, Peter Mason, on July 21, 2010.

Congratulations... to Jodi (Gilman) and John Hebert as they welcomed Ari Michele into the world on Tues, August 10th. Proud Grandmother is Della Gilman. All the best to everyone!

SLOC Spotlight

SLOC Spotlight is the newsletter of SLOC Musical Theater, a community volunteer musical theater arts incorporated non-profit 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, N.Y.

Newsletter Staff: Dave Dixon, Thomas Dalton Bambury and Greg Rucinski. To become a member (members receive the newsletter) please contact us: www.sloctheater.org; 1-877-350-7378.

DEADLINE for submissions to **Vol. 44, Issue #2** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Monday, August 30, 2010**. Approximate mailing date for Issue #2 is September 10, 2010.

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

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE, our season premier, is fully cast!

Ross Snyder, Director, has announced the cast & crew for our season's opener...Ryan Sperry as Frederic, Amy Shake as Mabel, Nancy Stone as Ruth, Richard Mazzaferro as Pirate King, Michael Murphy as Major General Stanley, Kara Cregin as Edith, Margaret Van Norden as Isabel, Megan Culbert as Kate, Christina Pickreign and Kate Kampf as Wards. Pirates will be played by Joe Malone, Alan Angelo, Travis Brunell, Brendan Dwyer, Tommy Swimm, Dan Lyng and Steve Nolte. Appearing as Policemen will be John Wood, Ken Kasch, Bill McColl, Winn Huntley, Adam Fine, Don Berens and William Sanderson.

The Production Team includes Director Ross Snyder, Choreographer/ Asst Director Thomas Bambury, Music Director Andrea Merrill, Producer and Set Builder Richard Lenehan, Set Designer Mary Kozlowski, Lighting Designer Greg Rucinski, Sound Designer Mark Norton, Props by Joseph & Mary Ann Condra, Hair & Wigs by John Fowler, Publicity by Dave Dixon, and Stage Manager/Rehearsal Secretary Rachael Sheffer.

Rehearsals have just started for "The Pirates of Penzance" which will be the first production at our new theater on Franklin St. Production dates are: Friday-Sunday, October 15-17 and Thursday-Sunday, October 21-24.

SLOC is doing the updated version of the show that was revived on Broadway in 1980. If you are a Gilbert & Sullivan purist, don't despair, this version is very true to the original. All the same songs are included, in fact two additional Gilbert & Sullivan songs were added (both from *Ruddigore*). These music changes are subtle, tasteful, and appropriate.,

We're still looking for people to help with costumes, and make-up. If you can help please contact Ross Snyder or Nancy Stone. Buy your tickets NOW...we hope to see you in October!!!

SLOC needs VOLUNTEERS to assist in our MOVE TO THE NEW THEATER!!

We are on a mission to get into our new theater by this Fall. We have several projects planned! We need YOU!!!

1. Theater demolition and construction:

Doug Peek is already leading the effort to create the theater improvements. Doug & his team have removed a wall & the top deck of the altar so the new stage can be built. We also need to build sound & lighting booths, a box office & a concession stand. He's working Tuesdays & Thursdays from 7-10 pm & Saturdays from 10 am - 4 pm. Anyone interested in helping can contact Doug (cell phone 928-7005 or email at dpeek12@nycap.rr.com)

2. Preparing to Move from Current Opera House:

Matt Teichner is leading the technical aspects (moving lighting, sound, costumes, props, & makeup.) He'll schedule these for September. Pat Casey is coordinating costumes at 418 Liberty Street, former Bethesda House. Her final WORK DATE is Sat., September 11th from 10am-4 pm. Please email Bob Farquharson to let him know if you plan on helping that day (rfarquharson77@hotmail.com.)

3. Preparing space for tenants:

We also have to remove some interior walls in our other buildings for our lease tenants. If that is something you can help with, it will save us hiring someone. This project is not scheduled yet, but we'd like your name(s) now.

We would love to see you at SLOC & lend a strong hand - invite your friends.

Thanks, Bob Farquharson, Relocation Committee Chairperson.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION RESULTS

At the June 12th Semi-Annual meeting SLOC members elected Board members: those newly elected are Jane Figueroa and Michael Gatzendorfer, Re-elected: Kate Kaufman Burns and Nancy Stone.

A huge congratulations to these 4 above names as they join the following members who will remain on the Board: Thomas Dalton Bambury, Joseph Fava and Lisa Franklin.

At a separate Board gathering Bob Harrison was elected as SLOC President - All the best, Bob!

Sev Moro was also selected to fill the sudden vacancy of a Board Position at the August Board Meeting. Congratulations to Sev and welcome aboard!

Sincere thanks & gratitude to Bob Farquharson, Orlando Pigiavento, Brett Putnam, and Ross Snyder (2009-2010 President) for their past years of dedicated service, support & leadership. BRAVO!

A NEW SEASON - A NEW BEGINNING: "CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!"

Volunteers are needed to help with the Box Office. If anyone is interested in becoming a ticket agent please contact Melinda Zarnoch. Training is available - it's not hard and can be done from home. It is fun and easy.

Melinda is also looking for a chairperson and volunteers for Concessions - set up, sell beverages and snacks and clean up.

Housemanagers and ushers - we need you! Will train!!

If you have any questions or are interested in any of these volunteer positions please contact Melinda 382-8497 or email sail4017@yahoo.com

2010 Gwen E. Frasier Award Winner Announced

Congratulations to longtime member, performer, director and Past President, Allan Foster for being the 2010 Gwen Frasier Artistic Award Winner. This prestigious recognition was created in Gwen's memory who passed away in 2008. Gwen considered SLOC part of her family, performed in numerous shows for over 30 years and directed "Sullivan & Gilbert". This award is to honor a person that has made huge & significant artistic contributions to SLOC over many years. This may include performing, directing, choreography, and set design.

At the June 12 semi-annual meeting it seemed only fitting to announce Allan's name as the 2010 award recipient! Congratulations from all of us to you, Allan, on this wonderful honor. Well deserved!



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLAY A PART! Our new theatre will be the centerpiece of a new downtown performing arts & education center. YOU can support our new venture through financial contributions to the CAPITAL CAMPAIGN - visit slotheater.org to learn more about how YOU can "Play a Part"!

**Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
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Permit #120**

2009-2010 High School Musical Award Winners Announced

SLOC's High School Musical Awards Committee presented the awards for the 2009-2010 season and the winners were: First Place : Saratoga Springs High School for *Bells Are Ringing*. Second Place : Columbia High School for *Aida*. The Third Prize award to a school that has not previously won a SLOC award goes to Hoosic Valley High School 's production of *Seussical*.

Many incredible performances made for an exciting year and resulted in the presentation of five "Outstanding Performer Awards." The recipients of the 2009-2010 awards are Jonah Coe-Scharff from Greenville High School as "Sir Evelyn Oakleigh" in *Anything Goes*; Ciara Cristo from Columbia High School as "Aida" in *Aida*; Lily Holgate from Saratoga Springs High School as "Ella Peterson" in *Bells Are Ringing*; Kevin Orlando from Shenendehowa High School as "Moonface Martin" in *Anything Goes*; and Anthony Rotondaro from Colonie Central High School as "Matt" in *The Fantasticks*.

Also, special awards were presented to Colonie Central High School for Outstanding Musical Number: "I Can See It" from *The Fantasticks* (Performers: Bill Hennings and Anthony Rotondaro); Galway High School for Outstanding Musical Number: "The Dream" from *Fiddler on the Roof*; Greenville High School for Outstanding Scenic Design for *Anything Goes* (Scenic Designer: Jonah Coe-Scharff); and Outstanding Artistic Vision: Albany High School for *Into the Woods* (Director: Ward Dales).

Committee Co-Chairs Sue and Greg Rucinski thank fellow committee members Thomas Bambury, Dave Dixon, Ted Rucinski and Melinda Zarnoch, for their insights and time "on the road."

WANTED - Playbill ADS/ Business AD Patrons

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 Playbills. We have a variety of AD sizes and prices to fit any company or business need.

Most AD packages include complimentary tickets. To advertise, please contact Publicity Chair Thomas Dalton Bambury at thomas_bambury@yahoo.com, or 436-8295. Deadline for submission for the 2010-2011 season is September 15, 2010.

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

Have you renewed your membership for 2010-2011? Dues for 2010-2011 became payable July 1, 2010.

SLOC membership dues remain \$10.00 per year per person. To renew your membership please write your check to SLOC and send it to: SLOC, PO Box 1006, Schenectady, NY 12301-1006