



SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of
SLOC Musical Theater
Volume 44-4 84th Season
January 2011

Tony Award Winning Musical, **THE DROWSY CHAPERONE,** makes its company premier!

Things are really looking up for the SLOC community...SLOC Musical Theatre is gearing up for the opening of *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

Directed by Michael Mensching, Music Directed by Frank Leavitt and Co –Produced/Publicity by Michael McDermott and Marcia Lenehan, *The Drowsy Chaperone* is a bizarre and funny homage to American musicals of the Jazz Age while examining the effects that they have on the fans who adore them. The show is seen through the eyes of the “Man in Chair” (Richard Roe), a mousy, agoraphobic Broadway fanatic, who tries to make himself happy by listening to his favorite recording, that of a fictional 1928 Broadway musical comedy. His dingy apartment is transformed into a full, on-stage production complete with quirky characters, glitzy, fabulous costumes (by Connie Rowe-Rauhausser), dance numbers (Choreographed by Melissa Lacijan and Christine Marcella), Lighting (Greg Rucinski) and Sound (Barry Streifert).

The show-within-the-show centers on Janet Van De Graaff (Heather D’Arcy), a showgirl who plans to give up her career in order to marry an oil tycoon, Robert Martin (Shawn Morgan). However, Janet is the star of “Feldzieg’s Follies” and a lot of money is riding on her name to sell the show; and Feldzieg (Peter Belenchia), her producer, is being threatened with bodily harm by two gangsters (Remy LaFargue and Bill Douglass) employed by his chief investor. Disguised as pastry chefs, these two pun-happy thugs threaten Feldzieg to stop the wedding, in order to ensure Janet’s participation in the next production of Feldzieg’s Follies. In order to save himself, Feldzieg enlists Aldolpho (Michael Lotano), a suave Latin Lothario (at least he thinks so), to seduce Janet and spoil her relationship with Robert.

The cast of kooky characters that become entwined in what follows includes Jeffrey Hocking, Carol Jones, Evan Russell, Elisa Verb and Karen Kolterman as the Drowsy Chaperone. Ensemble includes Michael Camelo, Bill Depew (also the Super) Amanda-Jo Marshall (also Props Mistress), Joanne Mensching and Bobby Ruggles. All of this mayhem and hilarity takes place on set designed by Mike Mensching and executed on the NEW SLOC STAGE by Doug Peek (who was instrumental in building the stage as well as the set for this production).

Rounding out the production staff for Drowsy Chaperone are Corie Rowe (Assistant Director), Chris Kowalsky (Stage Manager), Kathleen and Bob Stern (Props Assistants), Wid DeSantis (Rehearsal Accompanist), John Fowler (Hair), Marcia Lenehan (Makeup) and Thomas Dalton Bambury and John Samatulski (Publicity Support).

You won’t want to miss a minute of this production...Come and be a part of SLOC history and enjoy *The Drowsy Chaperone!*

Show dates: February 25-27 and March 3-6, 2011 Show times: Thurs, Friday and Saturday performances at 8PM, Sunday performances at 2PM. Ticket prices: \$18, \$22 and \$28

For tickets call: 1-877-350-7378.

If interested in purchasing multiple show or family packages please call to inquire.

"SEMI-ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER and MEETING-RSVP!!"

Date: Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011 - 6:00pm - HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Location: The Education Building (former Bethesda House on our new performing arts campus).

Required RSVP to: Dave Dixon; luvsbabs@yahoo.com OR 436-8295.

Please let Dave know: the Covered Dish, Salad or Dessert you would like to share (if you can, please bring your own utensils, serving trays...etc). Please let Dave know the # of attendees, too. Water, soda, tea & coffee will be provided. RSVP Deadline: Wed., Jan. 26, 2011

Agenda: Presidential State-of-the-Theatre address, Campaign Updates, Presentation of the Etta Moore Award and Formal Announcement of the 2011-2012 Season.

Potluck Set-Up Committee: Melinda Zarnoch, Dave Dixon and Thomas Dalton Bambury.

Clean-up Volunteers will be greatly appreciated following the event.

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

Nunsense
Dec. 3-5; 9-12

The Drowsy Chaperone
Feb. 25-27; Mar. 3-6

Les Miserables
(All Student Cast)
Apr. 13-17

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
Michael Gatzendorfer
Bob Harrison
Kate Kaufman Burns
Sev Moro
Nancy Stone

Next Newsletter
Deadline:
February 21, 2011
approx. mailing date,
March 3, 2011.

President's Notes...by Bob Harrison

2011 is upon us & we have so much to celebrate....together!!

This year we completed the purchase of our new home, and reached the \$1,000,000. mark in phase one of the capital campaign. This includes \$690,000 in local government and foundation grants, \$200,000 from SLOC members, patrons and others, as well as more than \$100,000. in donated materials and services.

The opportunity to secure new tenants vital to the center's operations also created major challenges by necessitating significant renovations in all three buildings. More than \$100,000. in funds had to be diverted to the Education Building to install a sprinkler system, fire alarm system, and other major improvements.

In a mailing going out to our members, donors and others sometime this month, we will provide a more detailed Update on the capital improvements undertaken over the past year, and our plans for 2011. We will also discuss this work at our Semi-annual Meeting/Potluck Dinner being held on Saturday, January 29, 2011 at 6 PM in the Education Building . Mark your calendars now, and we will look forward to seeing you there. RSVP is required. Please see separate article for more detailed information.

Another major development has been the upcoming sale of our existing property at 826 State Street . As with any home, the State Street theater remains fondly in our hearts, but the property has become a drain on resources needed at our new facility. We are working closely with the non-profit organization purchasing the building in order to make the code improvements required by the city and essential to their use, and therefore essential to the purchase.

We are also implementing a new Show Selection Process and Timeline that should both enhance the quality of productions and allow more time essential to marketing the season.. Stay tuned!!

A giant tip of the "veil" to those five beautiful ladies and their production staff and crew that blazed across our stage with "Nunsense." The humor was infective....the singing was robust.... the dancing was outstanding. Altogether a tremendous job.....well done!!!

The new year promised to be one of the most exciting in the history of our company. I believe two essential elements to our success for the upcoming year will be flexibility and understanding. The flexibility to adapt and accept the multitude of unforeseen circumstances that will most certainly arise again this year with a project of this magnitude. And the understanding that what we are creating together will serve our theater company, our members and the community for many more decades.

Whatever comes our way during the next three (3) shows.....let's pull together, have fun and enjoy one another!

I wish each and every one of you the very best for the New Year!

Bob Harrison, President

LES MISERABLES (Student Version) **is fully cast following a record-breaking audition turnout!**

This Broadway's legendary musical has been specially adapted to meet the needs of young performers. This author-approved edition has been abridged to a running time of just over two hours, while carefully maintaining the integrity of one the greatest musicals ever written.

This epic story recounts the struggle against adversity in 19th century France. Imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread, petty thief Jean Valjean is released from his 19-year term and not only becomes an honest man, but the mayor of a prosperous town and a loving adoptive father - violating his parole in the process. The relentless Inspector Javert, who makes a decent life for Valjean impossible, consequently pursues him. Only years later, after Valjean proves his mettle during a bloody student uprising and saves the life of a young man hopelessly in love with Valjean's adopted daughter, does the ex-convict finally feel fully redeemed.

On behalf of the *Les Miserables* production staff, we're proud to announce that we have selected a cast of 36 strong, talented individuals from the Capital District. 110 students auditioned between December 13 and 14, 2010. Casting decisions were not easy. Many obstacles came into play when making the final decisions. One might even ask, where do you begin? Nevertheless, I can assure each of you that you are in for a magnificent delight. Lead cast members include: **Jean Valjean** (Michael Aniolek); **Javert** (Daniel Mosher); **Fantine** (Sarah McNally); **Eponine** (Margie Zarcone); **Cosette** (Lexi Rabadi); and **Monsieur & Madame Thenardier** (Jesse Herchenroder & Darcy Schacher).

Don't miss out on this spectacular and legendary musical happening on April 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th at 7pm, April 16th at 1pm and April 17th at 2pm. For tickets and pricing, please go to www.slotheater.org

Hope to see you all there, Michael Gatzendorfer, Director

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.slotheater.org; 1-877-350-7378.

DEADLINE for submissions to **Vol. 44, Issue #5** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Monday, February 21, 2011**. Approximate mailing date for Issue #5 is March 3, 2011.

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

Auditions for the Rodgers & Hammerstein classic, **CAROUSEL**, are scheduled!!

Auditions for SLOC's final show of the season, Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic "Carousel," are scheduled for February 27 and 28 and March 1 – a Sunday through Tuesday, at the new theater, 427 Franklin Street, in downtown Schenectady. Roles will be cast for all ages. Sign-in will begin at 7 p.m. Call-backs will be scheduled only if needed.

Rodgers and Hammerstein's follow-up to their smash debut "Oklahoma!", "Carousel" depicts a different side of the American dream in a tale of romance and tragedy and hope and redemption. Set in a gritty nineteenth-century Maine mill-and-seafaring town, it centers on the unexpected and rocky romance of a tough drifter, carnival barker Billy, and Julie, a willful mill girl, who must face the consequences of their rash choices – and their impact on the next generation. Frank in its depiction of harsh working class life, and violence, in an earlier age, the play nonetheless is "bustin' out all-over" with life, and with the hard-won faith that "you'll never walk alone." Carousel has arguably Rodgers and Hammerstein's best score – almost a common man's operetta: "If I Loved You," "When I Marry Mr. Snow," Billy's "Soliloquy," "A Real Nice Clambake," "When The Children Are Asleep," "What's The Use of Wond'rin'?" are just a few of the highlights.

The show is slated for performances on May 13-15 and 19-22, at the new Opera Theater. Rehearsals will likely be Sundays, either afternoon or evening, and Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights, though occasional deviations from that schedule may be necessary. (Please note that the rehearsal schedule includes spring break!) The show is directed by Joe Phillips, his fourth production at the helm for SLOC, and produced by Joe and Mary Ann Condra; Sherri Strichman will be musical director, and Donna Hatch, choreographer.

Auditioners should prepare a brief musical piece, preferably a traditional-Broadway-style song or light opera selection, and should be prepared to read from the script and participate in a brief movement audition; some dancers may be asked to do something a bit more skilled. Please bring detailed schedule conflicts to auditions! Children younger than 15 may attend, but will be only briefly seen, at auditions, or can also contact Joe Phillips (at 464-2698 or joepdrew@aol.com) if interested.

Principals – Relevant age ranges are noted; please note also that Julie, Carrie, Nettie, Enoch and Bascombe must credibly age 15 years over the course of the play.

Billy Bigelow – streetwise New Yorker "not from around here," ruggedly handsome, quick-tempered but insecure, rash; heart's in the right place, but admits he lacks common sense. Probably late 20's to late 30's. A strong baritone with range to a high G.

Julie Jordan – might be late teens to mid-twenties at most in Act I; an independent-minded, free-spirited, stubborn, needy, romantic, dreamy-eyed, complicated young woman. Soprano to F sharp.

Carrie Pipperidge – same age as Julie, maybe a bit younger. The future Mrs. Snow is romantic, giddy, naïve, but can be practical and witty. A "good girl" who will be a good wife and mom – but fun-loving and needs to be a comedienne. Lyric soprano to G.

Enoch Snow – a hardy New England fisherman, honest, flinty, hard-working, enterprising; puritanical, judgmental; handsome and young (older than Carrie) but weathered, a man of few words but occasionally melodramatic. Facial hair would be a plus. Tenor to high A.

Jigger Cragin – A sailor, crafty, sly, funny; but rough-edged, bawdy-minded, given to violence; "rough trade". Age negotiable. Baritone; good enough "character" singer to lead a couple of songs.

Nettie Fowler – probably middle-aged (almost any age really), a widow with a young soul. Salt of the earth; vital, warm, lusty, fun-loving, though wise and protective; may or may not be Julie's biological cousin but she's "Cousin Nettie" to everyone. Strong mezzo with range up to G, but not operatic.

'Non-singing' principals – which means they do not have solos and are not participants in most ensemble chorus numbers. However, virtually everyone will sing in the finale.

Mrs. Mullins – Brassy, tough, jealous, middle-aged "cougar" and a widow, she owns the carousel at the carnival and wants to possess Billy too.

Louise – daughter, about 15, to Julie and Billy in Act II, a mix of her parents' best traits; strong-willed, lonely, vulnerable, trusting. Needs to be a solid actress and dance well. May be used in spots in Act I.

David Bascombe – Rich, arrogant, authoritative, the owner of mills and ships, a little prim and highfalutin; Older character actor.

The Starkeeper/Doc Seldon – An otherworldly Down-Easter, flinty and no-nonsense but kind, with a twinkle in his eye; the Almighty as if a native of coastal Maine. The beloved town doctor at the finale.

Heavenly Friend – there are two in the script, but probably only one here. Might be male but probably female. Another rugged New England type, maybe a bit harder-edged than Starkeeper.

The Captain of the Nancy B (will prob. double as the Schoolmaster) – An authority figure. Older character actor. Probably used at opening.

Timony – an imposing constable, may be used in the ensemble in spots.

Enoch Jr. – about 15-ish, Enoch and Carrie's son in Act II. A chip off the old block; clean-cut, self-important. Probably used elsewhere in the show.

The Ensemble: a variety of ages (teens to 60+), vocal ranges and dance skills. A mixed chorus of Roustabouts (men), laborers, working class, and their counterparts, the Mill Girls and Women (which includes Arminy, an unhappy young housewife who has a brief solo), probably five to eight of each, the "clambakers" from the middle of the show. Some facial hair would be useful on some of the men. There will also be two or three Sailors, separate from the clambakers, who need to be solid singers, rugged, and should move well. We also need at least several Teenagers of roughly the age of Enoch Jr. and Louise, enough to form a plausible one-room-schoolhouse graduating class for the finale. From among all these ensemble folks will be drawn the participants in the opening "Carnival Waltz" and mid-Act II dream ballet, and the graduation crowd at the finale.

The Snow Children: several, male and female, of various ages younger than Enoch Jr. Some simple choreography. One has a bratty line or two. Probably also in opening scene. Attend auditions or contact director and/or choreographer if interested.



**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"!

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A Tribute to Virginia "Ginnie" Ward Mills

SLOC was saddened to learn of the passing of longtime member & benefactor, "Ginnie" Mills on October 26, 2010. "Ginnie", a noted artist & art educator in the Capital District, was 80 years old.

Ginnie and her husband, the late Drew Mills, had been dedicated members for about 50 years.

She wore many hats at SLOC including: Producer, Sign Painter, T-Shirt Designer and, most often, Set Designer and Painter. She taught many of us how to paint a set to make it most effective for the production. She had a wonderful, but sometimes biting, sense of humor – Allan Foster recalls asking her for a "cartoonish" set design for his "....Forum".. "Ginnie" designed a wonderfully decadent set without a single straight wall, and all the buildings were of Romanesque-gingerbread design.

"Ginnie" loved teaching us and was wonderful to work with. In the 1950's and 1960's when SLOC did not have a home, the cast and crew plus anyone interested in SLOC often gathered at the Mill's home for a fun social and singing for hours. In later years she often hosted a holiday gathering that we all looked forward to. She made the best raspberry sauce to pour over ice cream or an angel food cake. Ginnie, Thanks for sharing and caring for us.

A lover of the arts & a great friend to many. "Ginnie" will surely be missed.

Contributed by Bob Farquharson and Allan Foster.

'CAROUSEL' SEEKING PRODUCTION STAFF

SLOC's final production of the season is still assembling a staff for the production to open in mid-May. As we move into our new theatre space, we welcome and need many volunteers! We're seeking set building crew; stage hands; lighting and sound techs; a prop crew; and costumers! Please contact producers Joe and Mary Ann Concra, 877-5340 or Jvconcra@aol.com, or director Joe Phillips, 464-2698 or joepdrew@aol.com, if you are interested. Design and production staff will be announced in our next Newsletter.

"Diet or Regular?" "M&M's or a Snickers Bar?"

Intermission is a time to stretch, a time to discuss your excitement about Act 1 and also a time to have a snack in our green room. To make our concession stand continue to run smoothly we still need volunteers! It's easy and a huge help! Please contact coordinator, Melinda Zarnoch, 382-8497 or sail4017@yahoo.com. Concession helpers set up, sell snacks & beverages and clean up. A great way to meet new people too! We look forward to hearing from you soon.