



SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of
SLOC Musical Theater
Volume 45-2 85th Season
October 2011

RAGTIME kicks off SLOC's 85th season!

Book by Terrence McNally Music by Stephen Flaherty Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
Based on the novel, Ragtime, by E.L. Doctorow

Director **Joseph Fava** Producer **M Gatzendorfer**
Musical Director **Andrea Merrill**

Oct 14th, 15th, 20th, 21st, 22nd at 8:00pm
Oct 16th and 23rd at 2:00pm

Called by *Time Magazine* "A triumph for the stage," and by the *International Herald Tribune* "the best musical in twenty years," this acclaimed musical won 1998 Tony Awards for Best Score, Book and Orchestrations, and won both the Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Best Musical and Best Score.

RAGTIME is not only a powerful portrait of life in turn-of-the-century America, but also a relevant tale for today. Written by the award-winning composer/lyricist team of Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens (**ONCE ON THIS ISLAND**, **SEUSSICAL** and **LUCKY STIFF**), noted playwright Terrence McNally, (**KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN**, **MASTER CLASS**), and based on E.L. Doctorow's distinguished novel, the musical intertwines the stories of three extraordinary families, as they confront history's timeless contradictions of wealth and poverty, freedom and prejudice, hope and despair, and what it means to live in America.

The Tony-winning score by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty is just as diverse as the melting pot of America itself. It draws upon many musical styles from the ragtime rhythms of Harlem and Tin Pan Alley to the klezmer of the Lower East Side, from bold brass band marches to delicate waltzes, from up-tempo banjo tunes to period parlor songs and expansive anthems.

Featured are such show stopping songs as "Getting Ready Rag," "Your Daddy's Son," "Wheels of a Dream," "Till We Reach That Day," "Back To Before," and "Make Them Hear You." This thrilling musical is sure to inspire audiences all over the capital region, with a talented cast including: *Nick Abounader as Tateh; Thomas Dalton Bambury as Willie Conklin; Dave Dixon as Harry Houdini; Eliza Figueroa as Sarah; Bill Hickman as Grandfather; Gary Hoffmann as Henry Ford; Jahmere Holland as Coalhouse; Joan Horgan as Mother; Steve Leifer as Father; Robert Hegeman as Younger Brother; Amanda Jo Marshall as Evelyn Nesbit; and Debbie May as Emma Goldman.* So don't miss out! Come celebrate the start of our 85th Season!

To order tickets, visit our website, slotheater.org OR Call, 1-877350-7378. An opening night party is potentially being planned to celebrate our new season & the official, full-season grand opening of our new theatre. Please check out website for any possible updates on this event. Come join SLOC celebrate opening night! If you cant make opening night, you certainly have many other production dates to join us! Ticket Chairperson, Melinda Zarnoch, announces that tickets have been selling extremely well and some performances are very limited.

Submitted by Michael Gatzendorfer, Producer

BELATED THANKS for a Great Job!!

The Theater's courtyard got an unexpected makeover one Saturday in July, coordinated by the cast from our April production of *LES MISERABLES: Student Edition!*

New fresh coats of paint were applied to the gazebo, decking and benches. It underwent a complete "make-over" and has tremendously enhanced the property. The first use of the space was for an after-show event for RENT. SLOC anticipates using the new courtyard for any number of special events in the future. Thanks *LES MISERABLES* for a fabulous contribution!

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

Web Site:
www.slotheater.org

2011-2012 Season

Ragtime
Oct 14-16, 20-23

Aida
Dec 2-4, 8-11

Baby
Feb 10-12, 16-19

Fiddler on the Roof
Mar 16-18, 22-25

Hairspray
May 11-13, 17-20

Kate Kaufman Burns
President

Board of Directors
Kate Kaufman Burns
Tom Della Sala
Robert Farquharson
Jane Figueroa
Michael Gatzendorfer
Sev Moro
Doug Peek
Brett Putnam
Nancy Stone

Next Newsletter
Deadline:
Friday,
October 21

President's Notes... by Kate Kaufman Burns

Dear Friends,

Thanks to all who attended our August production of RENT, directed by Matt Teichner. RENT was a tremendous artistic success, and at a time when every dollar counts, we successfully raised almost \$4,000 for the Capital Campaign. These monies will go directly towards paying contractors for lighting and sound work already completed in the Theater. And in terms of future summer productions, we also learned valuable lessons. Can we sell tickets in the summer months? Absolutely. We also learned that pursuing artistic endeavors with minimal costs may be the best way to ensure financial success. Heartfelt thanks again to Matt Teichner, Sev Moro, Doug Peek, Sandy McCarthy and other key players who worked so tirelessly to raise funds for our Capital Campaign.

Another new initiative relevant to the management of SLOC is an Executive Committee whose purpose will be to assist the Board in dealing with day-to-day management issues as they arise. My desire is to establish a clear path of communication to the Board, provide for a more timely response for issues as they arise, and enable the Board to more fully focus their energies on the financial and operational management of the company. As always, your feedback is important to me, and I invite you to reach out to me directly at anytime as we implement this new system.

In terms of marketing, Matt Teichner has accepted the appointment as Chair of Marketing, expanding the role previously known as the Chair of Publicity. Matt will be working closely with me and John Samatulski to bring forward a plan to expand the marketing of our theatrical productions and other events. Matt will take the lead on the production of all theatrical advertising, including the production of show posters, Playbills, and the season brochure. Each show's Producer will also be actively involved in these activities, and we are evaluating the feasibility of having a publicity coordinator for each show.

Please join me in thanking Thomas Bambury for his years of service as our previous VP and later Chair of Publicity.

We are also looking to move forward with establishing a part-time events coordinator position that would be funded from a percentage of the net revenues from new rentals and special events. This key person will report to Bob Harrison and John Samatulski. As with the establishment of Mike Deyo as our part-time maintenance supervisor, the intent is to create new organizational capacity without draining any existing financial resources. The individual will be a self-starter who can work both independently and as part of a team – hopefully someone with event planning and management experience. *If you know of anyone that might be interested, please forward contact information to John Samatulski.*

Lastly, for those of you personally impacted by Hurricane Irene, please know my thoughts are with each of you and your loved ones. After watching several news stories about victims from all across the Eastern seaboard, I was struck by one father of six – who had lost his home and many possessions that were precious to him – who said simply about his future, *"I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic... I am only determined."* Determined to recover, determined to rebuild, determined to overcome. As we face our own obstacles in this time of expansion and transition, I invite you all to join in the spirit of determination as we move ever closer to creating a new home where each of you – and many others – can artistically and creatively continue to thrive.

Welcome to: "Archives Avenue"

Alan Angelo, Co-Chair for SLOC Archives is contributing a little SLOC trivia in each Newsletter issue. Here's your first one! Have fun....

1. What year was the Schenectady Light Opera Company founded?
2. What was the original name of the company?
3. Who founded the company?
4. Name one show between the years 1941-1946?

Answers in next month's newsletter.

Have fun.
Alan Angelo

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. 45, Issue #3** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Friday, October 21, 2011**. Approximate mailing date for Issue #3 is October 31, 2011. Please submit articles to Dave Dixon at luvsbabs@yahoo.com or 4 Hall Pl., Apt B, Albany, NY 12210

SLOC is expecting!! BABY Auditions Announced!

Audition Dates: November 14 and 15

(Callbacks November 16, if necessary) Sign in begins at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Schenectady Light Opera Company, 427 Franklin Street, Schenectady, NY

Performance Dates & Times: February 10-12 and 16-19, 2012 Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8 p.m./ Sunday at 2 p.m.

Director: Sev Moro **Assistant Director:** Jane Figueroa

Musical Director: Nathan Meredith

Producers: Michael Gatzendorfer & Sandy McCarthy

ABOUT THE SHOW:

Is there anything more exciting, frightening and utterly transformational than impending parenthood?

"Baby" tells the story of three couples on a university campus as they deal with the painful, rewarding and agonizingly funny consequences of this universal experience. There are the college students, barely at the beginning of their adult lives; the thirty-somethings, having trouble conceiving but determined to try; and the middle aged parents, looking forward to seeing their last child graduate from college when a night of unexpected passion lands them back where they started.

With a book by Sybille Pearson, the original production, nominated for 7 Tony Awards and 6 Drama Desk Awards (winning two), hit Broadway in 1983. Performers included Liz Callaway, Beth Fowler, and future screenwriter Todd Graff (Used People, The Beautician and the Beast). The writers, Richard Maltby, Jr. (lyricist of Miss Saigon and The Pirate Queen) and David Shire (Academy Award-winning composer of "It Goes Like It Goes" from Norma Rae) have created numerous on- and off-Broadway shows, including Big, Closer Than Ever, Starting Here, Starting Now and Take Flight.

SLOC originally "delivered" Baby" in 1991.

AUDITION INFORMATION:

Auditioners should come prepared, with sheet music, to sing 16 bars of music, not necessarily from the show. An accompanist will be provided. *There will be no a capella singing.* In addition, auditioners will be reading from the script and, possibly, participating in a simple movement audition. Please wear comfortable clothing.

Here is a partial character breakdown with ages and vocal ranges:

Danny Hooper (Male, Late teens-Mid 20s) (Tenor) – Young, idealistic musician. Wants to do the right thing in his new role as a father.

Lizzie Fields (Female, Late teens-Mid 20s) (Mezzo) – Young, extremely independent student and, soon-to-be, new mom.

Alan McNally (Male, Mid 40s-Early 50s) (Baritone) – College administrator, married to Arlene, with a new "surprise" on the way.

Arlene McNally (Female, Mid 40s-Early 50s) (Mezzo) – Married to Alan. Experiencing "empty nest" until a new "surprise" changes everything.

Pam Sakarian (Female, Late 20s-Late 30s) (Mezzo) – Slightly neurotic and married to Nick. Wants to be a mother more than anything in the world.

Nick Sackarian (Male, Late 20s – Late 30s) (Baritone) – A coach. Married to Pam. His sense of humor gets he and his wife through the struggles of trying to become parents.

In addition, an **Ensemble** of approximately 6-10 males and females will be cast to play a variety of different characters, with ages ranging from college age and up.

E-mail or call Sev Moro at sevmoro@hotmail.com or 698-7430 with any questions. The production team looks forward to seeing you at auditions!!

AIDA Cast is Announced!

SLOC is thrilled to announce its cast for the epic tale AIDA, to be performed December 2-4 and 8-11, 2011 under the direction of Michael Mensching. Part Broadway musical, part dance spectacular and part rock concert, AIDA is a story about the power and timelessness of love.

Winner of four Tony Awards when Disney's Hyperion Theatrical Group first brought it to Broadway, AIDA features music by pop legend Elton John and lyrics by Tim Rice, who wrote the lyrics for hit shows like Jesus Christ Superstar and Evita. Set in ancient Egypt, the story focuses on the Nubian princess, Aida, who is captured by an Egyptian captain, Radames. He saves her from a life of hard labor by giving her as a handmaiden to the Egyptian princess Amneris, his future bride. Amneris and Aida become close friends, even as Radames and Aida secretly fall in love. When this dangerous love triangle clashes with a plot to kill the Pharaoh, it shakes the ancient world to its core. A tale of love, loyalty and betrayal, Aida is ultimately the story of three people who are forced to make difficult choices for love, choices that will alter the course of history forever.

The production features the following cast:
Aida- Dashira Cortes; **Radames-** Nick Abounader; **Amneris-** Maggie Ecker; **Zoser-** Jeffrey Jene; **Pharaoh-** Kevin McNamara; **Amonasro-** Emmett Ferris; **Nehebka-** Jennifer Payeur. **Palace Women/Nubians:** Allyson Bullock, Sarah Clermont, Amanda Jo Marshall, Jennifer Payeur, Trish Scott, Aleatha Williams. **Ministers/Soldiers:** Travis Brunell, Matthew Dembling, Lorenzo Moore Johnson, Kevin McNamara, Andrew Palmateer, Bobby Ruggles. **Chorus:** Becca Belenchia, Peter Belenchia, Kara DiCaterino, Leslie Eliashuk, Jane Figueroa, Ashley France, Anne Gallagher, Maureen Gallagher, Amy Bonati Geiling, Jeffrey Hocking, Joe Kivlen, Michael Lotano, Maggie McLellan, Genevieve Mailloux, Donna Moore, Kelsy Norton, Crystal Potter, Will Sleasman, Amanda Shpigler, Jeffrey Sullivan, Jason Tillery.

Tickets are on sale now! Please call our box office, 1-877-350-7378 or order on our website: sloctheater.org AIDA tickets would make great Holiday Gifts. Why not think now & order tickets for a family or friend for those up & coming December Holidays!

WE NEED YOU!

SLOC is planning very hard for the season opener & the beginning of the 85th Season! But we still need more VOLUNTEERS to get in touch with us now. Don't miss out!

Housemanagers and Ushers should contact Becky Straight at slouchers@hotmail.com Training available.

SLOC is also looking for a volunteer(s) for Potlucks, which includes the Semi Annual Meeting(January) and the Annual Meeting(June).

Also a Concession Chairperson is needed. Why not gather a few of your SLOC friends & offer to Co-Chair this Department??

Potlucks and Concession Volunteers should contact Melinda Zarnoch(sail4017@yahoo.com) or 852-5729



**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
PAID
Albany, NY
Permit #767**

**Have you paid your dues?
SLOC dues are only
\$10 per year...**

We are pleased to report that SLOC received a nice amount of new & renewed memberships following the request in the Aug. 2011/Issue #1 Newsletter!! Thank you for your support!! But it's never too late to join the crowd & send us your membership dues! Please send your dues(\$10/member) to the address on the attached membership form.

Have you been receiving E-mail notices, SLOC Board Communications, Special Event information from SLOC? If not, we need your current e mail address? Please contact: Nancy Stone(nzstone@aol.com).

Paid members can receive the Newsletter by EMAIL by request only. Please ask Dave Dixon, luvsbabs@yahoo.com . If you know of a current paid member that is not receiving the newsletter, please let Dave know.

SLOC Membership Application

In order to become a voting member of Schenectady Light Opera Company, within the last two years you must have participated on a Company committee, participated in a company production or event , or volunteered time to the benefit of the company as determined by the Board or its designee. In addition you must pay dues of \$10.00 per year. Dues are owed from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. To remain a voting member you must participate in a qualifying activity at least once every two years.

_____ Full Name

_____ Street Address and Apt #

_____ City, State, and Zip code

_____ Home Phone # _____ Work Phone # _____ Cell Phone #

_____ E Mail Address

How have you qualified for membership in SLOC? Include the nature of the commitment including the production or event or volunteer activity and the approximate date .

1) _____ Activity/ Approximate Date

2) _____ Activity/ Approximate Date

3) _____ Activity/ Approximate Date

4) _____ Activity/ Approximate Date

With your application please submit a Check for \$10.00 for dues made out to SLOC and Mail to: SLOC; PO Box 1006; Schenectady NY 12301-1006