



SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of
SLOC Musical Theater
Volume 45-1 85th Season
August 2011

Company Premier of **AIDA** has scheduled Auditions!

**Audition Dates: September 12 and 13, at 7pm (Callbacks Sept. 14, if necessary)
427 Franklin St., Schenectady NY**

Performance Dates: December 2-4 and 8-11, 2011

Show times: Thurs, Friday and Saturday performances at 8PM, Sunday performances at 2PM

Director – Michael C. Mensching Musical Director – Jason Dashew

Choreographer – Gregory Marsh Producers – Joanne Peal, Michael McDermott

ABOUT THE SHOW:

Part Broadway musical, part dance spectacular and part rock concert, *AIDA* is an epic tale about the power and timelessness of love. The show features twenty roles for singers, dancers, and actors of various races.

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.

ACTORS/DANCERS NEEDED: ALL ROLES ARE AVAILABLE

NOTE: We need a large multi-racial cast – Black, White, Hispanic, Asian, etc. – everyone is encouraged to audition. Where roles require a specific ethnicity, they have been noted below. The ages for the characters listed below represent the general age of the actor can “play” on stage. (For example, a man is 55, but can pass for 30.)

Radames (Male, 20s-30s) (Tenor: A flat - B flat) A handsome, Egyptian Captain, son of Zoser, who enjoys the adventures of war without realizing its devastation.

Zoser (Male, 40s-50s) (Baritone: F – F) A manipulative and evil Chief Minister of Egypt, father of Radames. He is power-hungry and lives without scruples.

Mereb (Male, 16-19) (Tenor: G - B flat) A young Nubian slave and servant to Radames, who is faithful to his Nubian heritage and dreams of a better life for his people. Black actor preferred, but will consider all ethnic performers.

Amonasro (Male, 40s-50s) King of Nubia and father of Aida. An honorable and peaceful man. Black actor preferred, but will consider all ethnic performers.

Pharaoh (Male, 40s-50s) Leader of Egypt and father of Amneris

Male Ensemble/Dancers (6-8 Males, teens-30s) (Low G – High A)

To double as both Egyptian military, and Nubian slaves.

Aida (Female, 20s-30s) (Mezzo-Soprano: Low F - High F) A beautiful Nubian Princess, daughter of King Amonasro, who truly loves her people and will sacrifice everything for their happiness. Black actor preferred, but will consider all ethnic performers.

Amneris (Female, 20s-30s) (Mezzo-Soprano: Low E - High F)

A beautiful, if materialistic, Egyptian Princess, daughter of the Pharaoh.

Nehebka (Female, 20s-30s) (Mezzo-Soprano: A – D)

A Nubian slave and friend of Aida's. Black actor preferred, but will consider all ethnic performers.

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

Web Site:
www.sloctheater.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:
Monday, September 12
approx. mailing date,
Monday,
September 26, 2011

President's Notes... by Kate Kaufman Burns

It is a great privilege to follow in the footsteps of my mentor and friend, Bob Harrison, as I assume the role as Board President at one of the most exciting times in the organization's 85 year history. For the first time in a long time we had one of the largest and most qualified slates of candidates willing to run for the Board, and I am very pleased to welcome: Sev Moro, Bob Farquharson, Brett Putnam, Tom Della Sala and Doug Peek who will be joining Nancy Stone, Jane Figueroa, and Michael Gatzendorfer in our efforts to provide effective and efficient leadership in the upcoming year. It was also a great pleasure to witness the receipt of the Gwen Fraser Award by our own beloved, Orlando Pigliavento, who accepted with his usual swagger at the Annual Meeting. Bravo, Orlando!

Our stunning new performing arts center complex has enabled us to increase ticket sales, attract new volunteers, and generate a new energy that is driving ideas for new programs and events. The arts center has also become a destination for rentals and community events, including our first wedding held in July, a book signing with John Sayles, and a magic show for children held by the Schenectady County Public Library. We have innovatively increased our operational capacity with an expanded role for John Samatulski and the Urban Initiatives group, our new on-site operations manager Mike Deyo, and our wonderful bookkeeper, Donna Hatch, who has choreographed her way with great poise and skill through our various spread sheets. It is our goal to ensure that the company is volunteer run and managed, but we simply cannot achieve our collective goals without professional guidance. We hope to creatively establish a minimal amount of staffing while maintaining our professional standards in everything we do.

One of my favorite quotes from an anonymous writer is, "By passionately believing in what does not exist, we create it." We have envisioned a new future for ourselves, and by passionately working together, we can continue to create those things that we believe in with all our hearts but cannot see yet with our eyes. So let's keep this dream moving ever forward. Come ride with us on the "Wheels of a Dream" as our exciting season opens this fall with RAGTIME, directed by Joe Fava. After all, we are nothing without our dreams and without the people we share them with.

2011 Gwen E. Fraser Artistic Award Winner Announced!!

At the June, 2011 Annual Meeting, Board President, Bob Harrison, awarded longtime member, Orlando Pigliavento, with this prestigious award. Congratulations, Orlando, from your SLOC family. Orlando joins the ranks of previous winners: Bonnie Williams and Allan Foster. SLOC thanks Orlando for his fabulous artistic contributions that supported many successful seasons:

From Orlando: "Receiving the Gwen E. Fraser Award for 2011 was definitely a moment for reflection. It was in 1960 that Eleanor and I first became active with SLOC. It was in the company's first production of "Oklahoma" directed by Irene Marmein and choreographed by her sister, Phyllis. Phyllis was the artistic director of the Schenectady Civic Ballet and my lovely wife was a member of that company. Well, Ted Cooke, a very gifted actor, was suppose to do the Kansas City number, but Ted did not dance. Phyllis invited me to do the dance segment of that number and I accepted. Actually, she kindly allowed me to choreograph my part.

It was from that humble beginning that things just snowballed. We choreographed a few shows and one day a dear friend, Glenn Soellner, convinced me that it was time to direct. The truth of the matter is that the thought of directing never crossed my mind. Glenn was dying to conduct "Most Happy Fella" and finally convinced me that I was up to the challenge. The company took a chance on this new guy and with a wonderful cast, orchestra and chorus we gave "Fella" a solid treatment.

Through the years, there have been many wonderful talented people in all aspects of producing SLOC shows. I wouldn't know where to begin naming all of them. Every actor, singer, dancer, producer, director, musical director, set designer and on and on made a major contribution to anything I ever did. Many of them have become life long friends and I am very grateful for their friendship and the talent they contributed to our shows.

Eleanor and I have many wonderful memories of our participation in SLOC productions. I sincerely appreciate the board honoring me with this award. It is an honor because Gwen was a talented, gracious lady, she loved SLOC and contributed to SLOC's success for many years."

Les Miserables: Student Edition TANYS Awards!!

The Theater Association of New York State (TANYS) adjudicated our April, 2011 Production of *LES MISERABLES: Student Edition* and recognized our show in 3 categories!! We send our sincere CONGRATULATIONS to all! BRAVO!!

Congratulations to the following *LES MISERABLES: Student Edition* production members who received individual certificates of "Meritorious Achievement": For Directing: Michael Gatzendorfer & Sev Moro. For Lighting Design: Matt Teichner and Michael Gatzendorfer. For Performance: Daniel Mosher for his portrayal of JAVERT. For Performance: Lexi Rabadi for her portrayal of COSETTE.

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 #2** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Monday, September 12, 2011**. Approximate mailing date for Issue #2 is September 26, 2011.

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

The Tony Award Winning Musical, *RAGTIME*, kicks off our 2011-2012 Season! CAST & CREW are announced!!

Following an incredibly large audition turnout in early June, the Production Staff for *RAGTIME*, has announced the cast & production crew!

SLOC welcomes to the stage this October a nice list of new faces as well as SLOC veterans:

FEATURED/NAMED ROLES: Nick Abouander(Tateh), Thomas Dalton Bambury(Willie Conklin), Dave Dixon(Harry Houdini), Mitchell Famulare(Little Boy), Lacy Farini(Little Girl), Gabriella Pizzolo(Little Girl), Eliza Figueroa(Sarah), Bill Hickman(Grandfather), Jeffrey Hocking(Judge), Gary Hoffman(Henry Ford), Jahmere Holland(Coalhouse), Joan Horgan(Mother), Steve Liefer(Father), Amanda Jo Marshall(Evelyn Nesbit), Deb May(Emma Goldman) and Nathan Meredith(Younger Brother).

THE PEOPLE OF NEW ROCHELLE: Frank Archina, Jeffrey Hocking, Bruce Holden, Sean Carter, Stephanie Foust, Gail Garrison, Jesse Herchenroder, Brianna Kelly, Mike Kern, Bill McColl, Kacie Rea, Nellie Rustick and Danielle O'Brien.

NESBIT GIRLS/THE PEOPLE OF NEW ROCHELLE: Stephanie Bartlett, Mikaela Holmes, Jacqueline Libby and Shelby Samelofshe.

IMMIGRANTS: Travis Brunell, Jamie Burton, Giovanni Grillo, Courtney Kevin, Barbara Mangino, Michelle Miller, William Sanderson, Keith Searles, Beverly Skoll and Janice Walz(also Harry Houdin's Mother).

THE PEOPLE OF HARLEM: Neyonna Watson, Doreen Watson, Felicia Copeland, Tamika Gordon, LaQuib Love, Lashonda Love, Eric Marte, Alexander Sanders, and Jason Tillery.

RAGTIME has a fabulously talented group of production staff to provide excellence in so many different areas. SLOC welcomes the following to our theatre: Director, Joe Fava; Assistant Director, Michelle Sausa-Gatta; Assistant to the Director/Choreographer; Sara Paupini-Fittizzi; Musical Director, Alex Diccico; Assistant Musical Director, Bruce Holden; Producers; Jane Figueroa and John Samatulski; Master Carpenter/Set Construction; Doug Peek; Lighting Designer; Jeffrey Scott; Costume Designer; Joe Fava; Costume Assistants/Execution; Julia Goodwin and Joe Fava; Hair/Wig Designer; John Fowler; Production Stage Manager; Kathy Schechtman; Sound Designer; Winn Huntley; Scenic Designer/Projections Designer; Jeffrey Scott and Joe Fava; and Car Designer/Execution; Travis Brunell.

Tickets are on sale now! Production Dates are October 14-16; 20-24, 2011. Call now: 1-877-350-7378. This acclaimed musical won 1998 Tony Awards for Best Score, Best Book and Best Orchestrations. *RAGTIME* also won the 1998 Drama Desk Award for Best Musical and Best Score. Please visit our website, slotheater.org, for more detailed information on this highly anticipated company premier! SLOC anticipates a sold out production---please don't wait to buy your tickets---Contact our box office now!

High School Musical Award Winners

SLOC's High School Musical Awards Committee has presented the awards for the 2010-2011 season and the winners are: First Place: Albany High School for *Cabaret*, Second Place: Saratoga Springs High School for *The Wedding Singer*. The Third Place award to a school that has not previously won a SLOC award goes to Greenville High School's production of *Once on This Island*.

After another year full of amazing individual performances, four "Outstanding Performer Awards" were presented to: Bridget McGlone from Albany High School as "Fraulein Schneider" in *Cabaret*; Ryan Palmer from Troy High School as "Moonface Martin" in *Anything Goes*; Lauren Rossi from Ballston Spa High School as "Jenny Lind" in *Barnum*; and Angelina Valente from Galway High School as "Lucy Van Pelt" in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*.

Special awards were presented to Galway High School: Outstanding Production Design for *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*; Ballston Spa High School: Outstanding Musical Number: "Black and White" from *Barnum*; and Mohonasen High School: Outstanding Male Ensemble (The Washington Senators) from *Damn Yankees*.

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

AIDA Auditions continued

Female Ensemble/Dancers (Female 20s-30s) (Low B flat - High A flat) To double as both Egyptian handmaidens and Nubian slaves

Also seeking 12-18 men and women for a balcony chorus. Have you considered auditioning for Aida but thought you weren't the right "type"? Are you a great singer but have two left feet? Would you really like to do the show but need a lighter commitment? We are looking for 12-18 phenomenal singers to be the main chorus for the show. You will be seated at the front of the balcony, dressed in black with your music in front of you. You will be performing in front of the audience. This is not a backstage back up group. Some of the women from this group will also be asked to be in the number "My Strongest Suit" as there will not be enough Egyptian women on stage (one additional rehearsal). This entire group will only be asked to come to music rehearsals and tech week rehearsals.

Please prepare 32 bars from the show if you are auditioning for the following roles: Radames, Amneris, Aida, Mereb. For the part of Amneris (Every Story Is A Love Story, showing both the Ballad and transitioning into the Rock)

For all other roles, please prepare your best 16 bars from a belty or rock song from a musical.

All men should be prepared to dance. All women should bring clothes for dancing should the choreographer want to see you move as well.

NOT ALL ACTORS WILL READ FROM THE SCRIPT.

We look forward to seeing you there!



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

As of the annual meeting(June, 2011) SLOC had 130 paid members. That is good news.

However dues became payable July 1, 2011 and as of August 8, 2011, only 35 members have paid their dues for this year . That is not such good news. It's time! Please send your check (\$10/member) to: SLOC; PO Box 1006; Schenectady, NY 12301-1006.

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 receive 7 issues of the SPOTLIGHT Newsletter. If you prefer to recieve the Newsletter via EMAIL please contact, Dave Dixon, Editor(luvsbabs@yahoo.com); 436-8295. To date: we have over 75 Email recipients. 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