



SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of
SLOC Musical Theater
Volume 45-7 85th Season
April/May 2012

"WELCOME to Baltimore, 1962!" (SLOC's premier of the Tony Award Winning Musical, **HAIRSPRAY**, opens May 11, 2012!)

Music Marc Shaiman

Lyrics Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman

Book Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan

Director: Michael Gatzendorfer

Producers: Joanne Peal and Jane Figueroa

Musical Director: Ming Aldrich-Gan

Choreographer: Gregory Theodore Marsh



hairspray
BRANDY'S BIG FAT MUSICAL COMEDY HIT

HAIRSPRAY delighted audiences by sweeping them away to 1960's Baltimore, where the 1950's are out — and change is in the air! Loveable plus-size heroine, Tracy Turnblad, has passion for dancing, and wins a spot on the local TV dance program, "The Corny Collins Show." Overnight she finds herself transformed from outsider to teen celebrity. Can a larger-than-life adolescent manage to vanquish the program's reigning princess, integrate the television show, and find true love (singing and dancing all the while, of course!) without mussing her hair?

Hairspray is filled with high spirit and the talents of: **Ashley France** as Tracy Turnblad, a pleasantly plump teenager with a big heart who has dreams of being a dancing star ... as soon as she's out of detention for her big hair. **JJ Buechner** as Edna Turnblad, Tracy's kind, plus sized mother who runs a laundry business out of her home, but hasn't been out in a while. **Gary Hoffmann** as Wilbur Turnblad, Tracy's goofy father, who owns the Har De Har Hut joke shop and is still madly in love with his wife, Edna. **Sean Carter** as Corny Collins, the exciting, confident dancing and singing host of his own TV dance show. Corny is in favor of Tracy and racial integration. **Christine Meglino** as Penny Pingleton, Tracy's slightly dorky, but lovable best friend who is often by her side (when not grounded for life by her mother, Prudy). **Emily Franklin** as Amber von Tussle, bratty, selfish resident princess of The Corny Collins Show. Amber is willing to do anything to win the Miss Teenage Hairspray pageant. **Lisa Franklin** as Velma von Tussle, Amber's attractive, but overbearing mother who pushes her daughter to seek stardom. Velma is the scheming producer of The Corny Collins Show who tries to steer it in the "white" direction.

"Tracy" is also joined by **Nik Gatzendorfer** as Link Larkin, Teenage heartthrob and male lead dancer on The Corny Collins Show; **Jahmere Holland** as Seaweed J. Stubbs, Motormouth Maybelle's son and a talented dancer on The Corny Collins Show, but only allowed on "Negro Day." **Kim Marsh** as Motormouth Maybelle, the sassy Corny Collins "Negro Day" DJ; Owner of a record store and mother to Seaweed and Little Inez.

Other Featured Roles include: **Winn Huntley** (Mr. Pinky's Assistant) and **Dave Dixon** (Male Authority Figures: Mr. Spritzer; the HS Principal; the Town Flasher; Prison Guard; and Mr. Pinky).

Don't miss out on experiencing a fantastic performance of **HAIRSPRAY**. For ticket information please call 1-877-350-7378.

Make a "Hair Appointment" today, contact SLOC's Box Office or website to purchase your tickets!! The cast and crew list for this company premier is quite large and so, tickets are selling very quickly for many performances. DON'T "Split hairs" and wait 'til the last minute—CALL NOW!

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

Web Site:
www.sloctheater.org

2011-2012 Season

Ragtime

Oct 14-16, 20-23
Directed by Joe Fava

Aida

Dec 2-4, 8-11
Directed by
Michael Mensching

Baby

Feb 10-12, 16-19
Directed by Sev Moro

Fiddler on the Roof

Mar 16-18, 22-25
Directed by Laura Andruski

Hairspray

May 11-13, 17-20
Directed by
Michael Gatzendorfer

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

President's Notes... by Kate Kaufman Burns

Dear Friends,

As I approach the conclusion of my one-year term as President, I've had the opportunity to reflect on where we have arrived as an organization and where we have yet to grow.

In the next few weeks you will receive a proposed amendment to the Bylaws as drafted by the Board of Directors. The proposal calls for the expansion of our Board which would include growing the Board of Directors from nine (9) to twelve (12) members. The proposal will explain that the three (3) additional Board members will be Board appointed positions from the community at large. It is important to all of us in leadership at SLOC that the vast majority of Board members remain members of the company as has historically been the case. For this reason, the proposed amendment will clearly assert that there will be a maximum of three (3) Board appointed positions from the larger community. With the expansion and growth of our organization over the last few years, we are compelled to build a system of leadership that can successfully address and resolve the wide array of issues that accompanies such growth in areas as financial management, fundraising, marketing, and the overall operational management of the Performing Arts Center. Just one of the potential benefits of these three (3) additional Board appointed positions directly impacts those artistically talented members of the company who choose to lead on the level of the Board of Directors: they will be better supported in pursuing their passion of being both leaders on the Board as well as having the opportunities to be involved as cast members and crew in our productions. After all, staging quality musical theater remains our core mission. The addition of these appointed positions will also give our Board the depth we need to successfully manage our evolving and ever-growing organization for the next 86+ years.

Pursuant to our company Bylaws, the membership will receive the proposed amendment to the Bylaws in writing in advance of our Annual Meeting which is scheduled for June 8, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. **I invite you to join a subset of the current Board of Directors for an informational session on these proposed amendments on Wednesday evening, May 16, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cabaret Room.** Join us for dessert and coffee as we invite anyone with questions to talk further with us about this important proposal for the responsible growth of our management systems.

Speaking of expansion, don't miss the expansive and talented cast in our upcoming performance of, *Hairspray*, directed by Michael Gatzendorfer which opens on Friday, May 11th, 2012. This main stage production marks the finale of our **Season to Remember!** I hope to see you all there.

Welcome to: "Archives Avenue" Created by Alan Angelo

Answers to last month's questions:

In celebration of another SLOC revival this season, we asked the following Trivia questions:

WHO DIRECTED the 1991 PRODUCTION OF *BABY*? Answer: Director was Paul C. Pape; Assistant Director was Joseph Agostine, Jr.

WHO WAS INVOLVED IN BOTH THE 1991 PRODUCTION AND THE FEBRUARY, 2012 PRODUCTION OF "BABY"? Answer: Sev Moro played Danny (1991), and in the 2012 production he was the Director. Edwin (Ed) Graham played Nick (1991) and he played Alan (2012).

SAVE THE DATE ... Sunday June 10, 2012

Tony Awards Party

**Come Celebrate the best of Broadway with your friends
at Schenectady Light Opera Company**

Sumptuous Buffet Dinner ... Cash Bar

Tickets \$50.00

Call 527-9757 for more information or to purchase tickets

Tickets available beginning in May at www.sloctheater.org

All Proceeds Benefit The Capital Campaign

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.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please submit any future article inquiries and questions to: SLOC; 427 Franklin St; Schenectady NY or www.sloctheater.org As of this printing, deadlines and mailing dates for future issues have not been determined.

WITH SYMPATHY - A Tribute to Allan Foster and Dale Atwell

It is with such great sadness that we write about the passing of two longtime members and friends, Allan Foster and E. Dale Atwell, this past March.

Both men were onstage performers(great tenors!), provided Board leadership and leave us an endless list of production and company duties/accomplishments from almost any capacity!

Their history began in the 1950's(rehearsed in local churches or homes; welcomed our former State Street home; and cheered us on as we moved to our current location).

SLOC thanks Bob Farquharson, Alan Angelo, Orlando Pigliavento and Bill Hickman for their willingness to accept the Newsletter Editor's invitation to contribute memories of Allan and Dale. We trust their contributions speak for the entire SLOC family as we remember 2 special members.:

Allan performed in over 35 principal roles with SLOC(1957-2008). His first show was *The Merry Widow*. Allan was Past President (1965-1966) and VP Facilities. He performed in 4 Anniversary Shows; Directed 5 SLOC shows and was the recipient with his first wife, Marion, of the Etta Moore Award and the Gwen Fraser Artistic Award (2010 - 1st recipient).

Allan's favorite directorial piece was *Lies & Legends* in October, 1989. This production won many TANYS(Theatre Association of NYS) awards & was selected to present at the International Theater Festival in Spain. He worked diligently to coordinate this repeat performance - a wonderful experience & memory for the cast & crew and SLOC.

Allan's favorites roles included Lieutenant Cable in *South Pacific*, Billy in *Carousel*, Tony in *West Side Story* and Ben in *Follies*.

His most recent activity was helping to clean, repair and paint our new facilities. Always with a cheerful attitude.

Dale was in over 50 SLOC shows. Alan Angelo, SLOC Historian, recalls Dale's philosophy: "I try out for the chorus and let the Director cast me where they want.." While he was cast in many chorus roles, Dale had some memorable principal parts, too: Hopkins in *1776* (1974); Benny in *Guys and Dolls* (1978), the Wizard in *The Wizard of Oz* (1985). Annie (1984) marked Dale's 50th show.

As he got older, Dale kept saying it was his last show. Well, this went on so long, that his family gave him a special license that was worded, "LAST SHOW". Many of us had the fun opportunity to be in a show with Dale and experience how much fun he added to rehearsals. He has spend most of his time in Venice, Florida the past several years. However, he eagerly attended SLOC's public announcement for our new theater. SLOC was delighted to see him there.

---Contributors: Bob Farquharson and Alan Angelo

Bill Hickman remembers.....

Dale Atwell -- What a wonderful, terrific showman -- and what a spectacular tenor. After coming to Schenectady in the late 50's/early 60's(worked for GE), Dale was immediately drafted into SLOC as head of show promotion for "Oklahoma!". Even then I think Dale was on his way to declaiming this is "My Last Show." As we all know he went on to dozens more "Last Shows," even displaying same on his auto license plate for many years. I ran into his lovely daughter Wendy at Proctors a couple of weeks back who reported that Dale played full-out on life's big stage right up to his Big Last Show finale.

Allan Foster -- For me, Allan and SLOC have been synonymous throughout the 52 years since I came to Schenectady in 1960 and getting almost immediately involved with SLOC. What a leading man! What a friend to everyone! That god-given tenor voice soaring across the years. Allan softening my lesser capabilities in that department by flattering me on my ability to read music as we sat side-by-side learning harmony lines in rehearsals. Mr. Nice Guy!

Over 30 years ago, Allan and I, along with Eileen Bush, were cast in SCP's *Dames at Sea*, directed by none other than Orlando Pigliavento. Neither Allan nor I had tap danced before. But, in true trouper form, we decided that if we could rhythmically do the "clacks," and let the other dancers add in the "clicketies," the audience would think we were doing full-fledged tap dancing along with rest of them. This may have been one of the few cases where I was rhythmically slightly ahead of Allan. But, during one rehearsal break Allan decided to give me a few pointers. You guessed it! At that point director, and tap-dancer extraordinaire, Orlando stepped in with the comment: "Did you ever see such a case of the blind leading the blind?" There was no video taping at the time, so you have to trust me. We ended up fooling them all.

A personal high for Allan was performing the number, "Friendship," with me and Orlando(Pigliavento) at SLOC's 80th Anniversary celebration. That said it all!

SLOC sends sincere sympathy to the families and friends of both Allan and Dale. Their memories will live on for years to come.

YOU GOT MY VOTE!

Board Elections, 2012!

Annual Meeting, June 8, 2012

Join the SLOC Board, SLOC members and community friends at the Annual Meeting/Dessert Social on June 8, 2012 at 6pm, at the Education Building. The Annual Board Elections will be a meeting highlight.

There are Four Board positions up for election and five (5) candidates.

The SLOC Committee (Chairman Robert Harrison, and Committee Members Robert Farquharson, Nancy Stone, Kate Kaufman Burns (ex-officio), Sev Moro (ex-officio), and Jim Burns (pro bono legal counsel) are pleased to announce and present the 2012 Slate of Board Candidates:

- 1) Jane Figueroa
- 2) Michael Gatzendorfer
- 3) Robert Harrison
- 4) Ann Parillo
- 5) Kathy Schechtman

Board Candidate Bios are available on pages five and six of this newsletter to assist you in making your election choices.

Important election requirements and rules for Voting Members include:

- 1) No Nominations shall be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting
- 2) You must be a current paid member (by 2/1/12) to be eligible to run for election. The list of paid members qualified to vote follows on this page.
- 3) Voting members can vote for a maximum of FOUR candidates for the 2012 slate.
- 4) ABSENTEE BALLOTS and Ballot information can be obtained from Bob Harrison, 111 Woodhaven Drive, Scotia NY 12302. Phone: 399-8890 or 894-7788

Additional Annual Meeting Highlights: President's State of the Company; Committee/Financial Reports; Capital Campaign Updates; and the presentation of Special Recognition Awards.

RSVP is required for the Annual Meeting/Dessert Social. Please RSVP to Dave Dixon, luvsbabs@yahoo.com , 436-8295. Desserts will be graciously provided by Board Members and Committee Members.

There's an exciting evening planned, and SLOC looks forward to seeing YOU on June 8, 2012 at 6PM.

Schenectady Light Opera Company Paid Membership (effective February 1, 2012)

The following list of members (to the right) are qualified to vote at the June, 2012 Annual Membership meeting. If you are not listed in this newsletter and believe you paid your dues by 2/1/12, please contact Nancy Stone at NZStone@aol.com or 374-5478. Nancy will gladly review membership records and try to resolve any discrepancies prior to the Annual Meeting.



- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Angelo, Alan | Foster, Allan | Kozlowski, Mary | Raab, Walter |
| Bambury, Jean | Foster, Lois | Krumal, Frank | Rauhauser, Jeff |
| Bambury, Thomas D | Fragomeni, Dolores | Leifer, Steven K | Rayome, John |
| Belenchia, Peter | Fragomeni, Ron | Lenehan, Marcia | Rayome, Suzanne |
| Brady, Pat | Franklin, Lisa | Lenehan, Richard | Reilly, Kimberly |
| Bromley, Heidi | Franklin, Paul | Levey, Shirley | Rehuser, John |
| Burgasser Mark | Gallagher, Anne | Lotano, Michael | Rindenello, Nina |
| Burns, Jim | Garrison, Gail | Mahlmann, Barbara | Rowe, ConnieRauhauser |
| Burns, Kate | Gatta, Richard | Marshall, Amanda Jo | Rowe, Corie |
| Burns, Ray | Gatta, Tom | May, Debbie | Rucinski, Greg |
| Bush, Eileen | Gatzendorfer, Mike | McCarthy, Sandra J | Rucinski, Sue |
| Cakouros, Arji P | Gilman, Della | McColl, William | Rucinski, Ted |
| Caracappa, Peter | Harrington-Verb, Elisa | McNamara, Mary Ann | Ryan, John W (Jack) |
| Casey, Patricia | Harrison, Bob | Mensching, Joanne | Salon, Corine |
| Chouffi, Eunice | Harrison, Chris | Mensching, Michael | Sausa-Gatta, Michelle |
| Clark, Lori | Hatch, Donna | Merriam, Judi | Schechtman, Kathy |
| Clarke, Jean | Hatch, Doug | Merrill, Andrea | Smith, Marcia |
| Clarke, Varro | Healey, Robert | Mion, Patricia | Snyder, Ross |
| Concra, Joe | Hebert, Jodi | Moro, Kathleen | Stewart, Jane |
| Concra, Mary Ann | Hebert, John | Moro, Severin M | Sticher, Joan |
| Croteau, Paul | Hepburn, Charlie | Moyer, Debra | Stone, Nancy |
| Croteau, Rita | Hepburn, Grace | Moyer, Howard | Victor, Cara |
| Culver, Sue | Hermance, Alicia | Nelson, Wayne | Wemple, Sharon C |
| Della Sala, Thomas | Hermance, Myron | Ottaviano, Gioia | Westervelt, Joanne |
| Depew, Bill | Hermance, Phillip | Parillo, Ann M | Wilkinson, David |
| Depew, Jenny | Hickman, Bill | Peal, Joanne Dame | Wozny, Nancy |
| Dixon, Dave | Hooker, Paul | Peek, Doug | Zarnoch, Melinda |
| Edmans, Don | Humphrey, Mcayla Lillian | Phillips, Joe | Zeh, Thelma |
| Farina, Lisa | Huntley, Winn | Phillips, Margot | Zeltmann, Susan C |
| Farquharson, Bob | Julian, John | Pigliavento, Debra | Zola, Lil |
| Farquharson, Paula | Kerin, Courtney | Pigliavento, Eleanor | |
| Farrell, Sally | Kornrumpf, Bill | Pigliavento, Orlando | |
| Fava, Joseph | Kornrumpf, Gina | Putnam, Brett | |
| Figueroa, Jane | | | |

Board Candidate Biographies

(in Alphabetical Order):

Jane Figueroa

Jane Figueroa has been an active member of SLOC since her daughter performed in Annie 5 years ago. She fell in love with the company then and became more involved herself, first on the performance side (*Assassins*, *Nunsense*), then production (*13: the Musical*, *Les Miserables: School Edition*), then as the Board Secretary and finally as a Board member. Most recently, she Assistant Directed and performed in *Baby*. She was the Board Liaison for *Ragtime* and *Aida* and is currently Co-Producing *Hairspray*. In addition, Jane Chaired the Show Recommendation Committee and is the Chair of the SLOC Youth Committee. Her commitment to youth is apparent both within the organization and in her “real-life” job. Outside of SLOC, Jane is the Chairperson for Preschool Special Education for the Albany City School District. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in English Education and a Master’s in Educational Psychology. She is certified to teach English 7-12 and Special Education N-21. Jane has been privileged to serve on the SLOC Board of Directors, and is so proud of the new facility and all of the numerous volunteers who have made this dream a realization. If elected, she will continue to work to empower our youth, encourage the growth of our membership and consistently strive to bring the highest quality to our productions.

Michael Gatzendorfer

For the last 8 years Mike has been an educator. Currently, Mike teaches adults with disabilities through Schenectady ARC. Mike has been involved with theatre pretty much his whole life. Mike’s recent acting credits are *Assassins* (Leon Czolgosz), *A Christmas Carol* (Jacob Marley), *You Can’t Take it With You* (Mr. DePinna), *South Pacific* (Luther Billis), *Once Upon a Mattress* (King Sextimus), *The Wizard of Oz* (Lion), *Once on this Island* (TonTon), and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Willy Wonka). Mike’s most recent directing credits are *Hairspray*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Les Miserables*, and *Bye Bye Birdie*. It wasn’t until 2009 when Mike was welcome by Schenectady Light Opera as he took the stage in the role of Leon Czolgosz in Stephen Sondheim’s *Assassins*. Since that time Mike has produced, lighting designed, stage managed, and even house-managed numerous shows. Last season Mike directed the student version of *Les Miserables*; this spring Mike will be directing the hit musical comedy *Hairspray* (May 11-20, 2012). Mike currently is the technical operations director for the company and serves on the youth committee. Mike’s mission as technical director is to finish our lighting and sound systems so that they are fully operational and can benefit our productions to perfection. Mike has served on many committees in SLOC where he has helped create policies and procedures that have benefited the individuals who are involved in the productions and the volunteers who work around the clock. These have served the company tremendously in establishing, quality and professionalism as a whole. Mike is pleased to have the opportunity and hopes to continue working on these policies and procedures for he states, “we’ve only just begun.” Mike invisions great things for SLOC. SLOC has truly been a second family. Mike is working his way to a Ph.D in arts education. Mike Gatzendorfer is the proud founder of BARC’s Youth Theatre Company (www.barctheatre.org) located in Ballston Spa. Mike wishes to thank everyone including the members and volunteers. “SLOC runs and operates because of your love with the performing arts! My last two years has been a blessing and I wish to continue serving you and this wonderful organization!”

Robert Harrison

My “debut” in performance was 75 years ago in Richmond, Missouri at age 5. I sang “Jesus Loves Me” for my mother’s Sunday School Class. The applause hooked me for life! Years of student productions culminated in an appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show in New York with the Ohio State University Men’s Glee Club in 1987. After graduating from Ohio State and working with the United Way of Columbus, Ohio I moved my growing family to Schenectady in 1972 and worked with the United Way of Schenectady. My first show with Light Opera was *George M* in 1976, followed by *Guys and Dolls* with my three sons in 1978, *Shenandoah* in 1980, *Annie* in 1984, and SLOC’s 80th Anniversary Show in 2007. In the interim I served on the SLOC Board of Directors in the 1980’s. In 1984 I joined the staff of St. Clare’s Hospital to administer the hospital’s fund raising arm, the Foundation of St. Clare’s, which raised funds for hospital development. At St. Clare’s I helped produce eight of the semi-annual “St. Clare’s Follies” at Proctor’s Theater. I was also an Adjunct Professor of Fund Raising and Community Service Development at Union College, Schenectady County Community College and Skidmore College in Saratoga. In 1997 I retired as the Vice President of Fund Raising and Community Service Development at St. Clare’s. I returned to SLOC’s Board of Directors in 2009 to assist in the planning and development of our company’s 5-year Capital Campaign. To date we have raised in excess of \$1 Million toward our goal of \$3.2 Million. I served as president of the SLOC board in 2011. Two of my sons learned much of their theater craft at SLOC where we did theater as a family project. Collectively these two young men have worked in professional theater for just over 40 years. I am proud to be a part of SLOC’s 85-year commitment to quality community musical theater in Schenectady. I look forward to helping continue our remarkable growth as a vital community asset in Schenectady and the Greater Capital District.

continued on next page

Board Candidate Biographies continued

Ann Parillo

I am a Schenectady native and have lived here for all but 13 years while I lived in Junction City, Kansas. Junction City is where I was introduced to the Junction City Little Theater and where I participated on stage and behind the scenes. This is where I developed my personal love for the theater. Although I have been a practicing pharmacist all my life, after retirement I entered the "entertainment" media arena by producing and hosting "Schenectady Today In & Around the Capital Region" since 1998. I have been promoting Community and Professional Theater throughout the Capital Region on the show as well as promoting other community and professional programs. I was named Schenectady BPW 2012 Woman of the Year for my contributions to the community. I also currently serve on the Electric City Arts & Entertainment Board. I have been an usher at SLOC for a number of years and enjoy participating in your activities and fundraisers. I have always been ready to "chip in" whenever asked at any of the productions. SLOC has been a regular on my show as well as being highlighted in my weekly e-newsletter. To see more of my background and more on the show, go to my website at www.AnnParillo.com

Kathy Schechtman

I am honored to be running for SLOC's Board of Directors. The theater's goals of not only providing quality entertainment, but also of being a leader in providing educational experiences for youngsters who want to be part of the theatrical world are goals I believe in and I think I can help to further. I was an English teacher for over 25 years and loved working with students. I would work hard to share all that SLOC has to offer with the younger generation. As part of the Youth Committee, I am already working with the other members to build SLOC's internships, workshops and youth productions. As part of the community at large, we should strive to provide quality experiences for all generations. If elected I would do my best to serve with respect and regard for all of the principals for which SLOC represents. My Professional background includes being an English Teacher at Saratoga Springs High School for 31 years, and a teacher's assistant at Shaker Junior High and Washington Irving School. As a Theatrical Stage Manager, my credits include SLOC Productions of *Baby*, *Ragtime*, and *Les Miserables*. I also have been Stage Manager at Curtain Call Theatre (*The Sweepers*, *Death of a Salesman*, *King O' The Moon*, and *The Vows of Penelope Corelli*). I also serve on SLOC's Youth Committee, and a long time SLOC Usher. I have worked on set construction, lighting and sound crew, and been a house manager for Curtain Call Theater. I was also on the running crew for Schenectady Theater for Children and Secretary to the Board of the Colonie Acting Troupe. I have also appeared on stage at ACT, the Colonie Acting Troupe, and the Octavo Singers. I have really enjoyed my experiences with SLOC and thank you for the consideration!

Congratulations to our March production of *Fiddler on the Roof* for receiving 7 TANY(STheatre Association of NYS) Awards!

MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT (3)

- *Ensemble Work to Cast, Crew and Production Team
- *Acting Achievement to Meighan Esmond for her portrayal of Hodel
- *Acting Achievement to Paul Dederick for his portrayal of Perchick

EXCELLENCE IN DIRECTING

- *Laura Andruski

EXCELLENCE in ACTING

- *Amanda Cotrupi for her portrayal of Tzeitel
- *David Dipaola for his portrayal of Motel

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT in ACTING

- *Joe Philips for his portrayal of Tevye

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO EVERYONE!!**

****Best Wishes to Longtime SLOC Friend, Laura Andruski****

March 25, 2012 (the close of our TANY(S Award Winning, *Fiddler on the Roof*) marked Laura Andruski's final directorial duty.

After 13 years in the Capital Region, Laura and husband Steve relocated to Rockville, MD.

Laura recently stated, "*Fiddler*.. was, in essence, her parting gift. "I felt particularly connected to this show, the characters find themselves leaving their homes, uncertain of what the future holds, but knowing that there is a strong and binding tradition holding them together. Likewise, I'll be moving from the home I love, the Capital District, to a new and unfamiliar place." (Albany Times Union, March 22, 2012).

Laura's been a theatre professional for over 25 years. She also directed, worked & acted for so many other community & professional theatre companies such as Cap Rep, Not So Common Players, Spotlight Players, and both Albany & Schenectady Civic Theatres.

Laura was also SLOC's Playbill AD coordinator for many seasons.

Through Laura's affiliation with TANY(S(Theatre Association of NYS; as a roving production adjudicator) SLOC and many local community theatres received awards of acting & production recognition. We thank Laura for her wonderful support and belief in SLOC's professionalism and achievements.

Under Laura's fine direction SLOC received numerous TANY(S awards for *Fiddler*, *Victor/Victoria* and *Once on this Island*.

"I feel very privileged to have been asked to direct *Fiddler* at SLOC. It has been an experience I will not soon forget."

SLOC wishes Laura all the best.

This family is out to face the music:
Next to Normal Auditions at SLOC
(May 21 and May 22, 2012)

SLOC Musical Theater is delighted to present the new dramatic rock musical *Next to Normal* as the season opener for the SLOC 2012-13 season, directed by Michael Mensching. Auditions will be held May 21 and May 22 at the SLOC Performing Arts Center, 427 Franklin Street in Schenectady. Sign in will be at 6:30pm, with a start for auditions at 7 pm. Rehearsals will begin in Mid-August, M-W-F and Sunday at 7 pm. SLOC Musical Theater will present "Next to Normal" October 12-14 and 18-21, 2012.

Next to Normal, a rock musical with book and lyrics by Brian Yorkey and music by Tom Kitt, is a powerful musical with a story that concerns a mother who struggles with worsening bipolar disorder and the effect that her illness has on her family. The production was nominated for eleven 2009 Tony Awards and won three (Lead actress, Alice Ripley, Best Original Score and Best Orchestration.) The play was the eighth musical to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama (2010). The Pulitzer Board called the show "a powerful rock musical that grapples with mental illness in a suburban family and expands the scope of subject matter for musicals." The play has resonated greatly with audiences of all ages, but has rapidly become a favorite cult favorite of the younger members of the theater community.

Michael Mensching's past SLOC Directorial credits include: Elton John's *Aida*, *The Full Monty*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Songs for a New World* and *Jane Eyre: The Musical*. He is joined by the following production team that includes Musical Director Jason Dashew, Choreographer Greg Marsh, Set Designer Doug Peek, Lighting Designer Michael Gatzendorfer, Costume Designer Debbie Lummis and Producers Joanne Peal and Michael McDermott.

All roles are available for casting and there will be no double casting. There is no tuition fee for younger actors who audition and are cast in this production. We are seeking four Men and two Women (aged 16 and older).

- Diana - Thirties or forties. Sexy. Sharp. Delusional bipolar depressive.
- Dan, her husband - Thirties or forties. Handsome. Genuine. Constant. Tired.
- Natalie, her daughter- Sixteen and trying to be perfect. It's not going well.
- Henry - Seventeen. Musician, romantic, stoner, slacker, philosopher king.
- Doctor Madden - On the young side of ageless. Assured. A rock star. Also plays the role of Doctor Fine.
- Gabe- Nineteen. Energetic and enthusiastic, must move well, not afraid of heights.

Please come prepared with 32 bars from 2 contrasting songs (up tempo and ballad) from a Broadway Rock Musical. Singing songs from the show is preferable. No a cappella singing please. An accompanist will be provided. Please bring sheet music; no pre-recorded music. Musical auditions will be held first, not all actors will read. Actors auditioning for the roles of Diana and Gabe should come prepared for a dance audition. The actor playing Gabe must be able to move actively through all levels of the set.

"This show presents a great opportunity for local actors to perform something new and different," says Mensching. "it was one of the most emotional and moving shows I have seen on Broadway in the past several years. The audience is in for quite a roller coaster that has a pay-off at the end that will leave them talking about the play for some time."

Call the Director, Michael Mensching, at 477-2256 for more information.

**Congratulations to the
cast & crew
of both "AIDA" and "BABY"!!**

As we begin to celebrate the entire 2011-2012 season, the newsletter would like to recognize the "good word" about AIDA(December) and BABY(February).

Here's what some local media had to say this season:

"...SLOC's AIDA was the perfect opportunity to see what the local theater troupe had to offer in terms of talent, imagination and vision...." - Dec. 2, 2011(105.7 CRUSH FM).

"...the Set(for AIDA) reflected the strength of the Director. The action moved along at a good clip which gave the performers a platform on which they could shine." - Dec. 5, 2011 - ALBANY TIMES UNION.

continued...

"..the 21 member chorus(of AIDA) was a clever addition in that they added depth and power to many of the songs throughout the show..." Dec. 5, 2011--ALBANY TIMES UNION.

"..I wasn't surprised that talented forces at SLOC made AIDA a pleasant experience..." - Dec. 6, 2011--Paul Lamarr, SCHENECTADY GAZETTE

The Schenectady Gazette stated about "BABY":

"(the Cast) perfectly balanced humor required.."

"..a marvelously detailed and nuanced partnership..."

"Actors delved deep into painful acknowledgements of loss.."

"Fine work balancing the joy, fun and fear in this show..."

'BABY' was a gem and well worth the night out."



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Did you make your
HAIR APPOINTMENT yet?"**

**Good seats still available for the
TONY Award Winning, Company
Premier of *HAIRSPRAY!***

**Added performance: *Saturday,*
*May 19th, 2pm Matinee!***

**Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Albany, NY
Permit #767**

Many Thanks from your SPOTLIGHT Newsletter Editor

After 5 seasons as SLOC's SPOTLIGHT Newsletter Editor I will be stepping down following this final issue of the 2011-2012 season. As part of this transition, Greg Rucinski, Layout Editor, will also be stepping down. ...BUT, we both had a wonderful time!!

I accepted this Editorial position in 2007(I was CO-VP of Publicity) and since then have sincerely appreciated the opportunity to inform readers of the endless successes of all our productions, successes of both our actors & production staff, and the success of our members and community friends. SLOC had an amazing list of history-making events to promote over the last 5 years too!!

Since I took over in 2007, SLOC sadly lost many beloved and longtime members too soon. I found it necessary to present a special section for the Memories of our "dearly departed." Thank you so much to members who helped me write "memorial" articles. We were able to remember them with great respect & honor.

Special THANK YOU'S to our Newsletter Volunteers:

*Greg Rucinski - for his never-ending patience and valuable expertise as our Layout Editor and team player.

*Donna Baxter - for her professional support as Co-VP/Publicity(2007-2009).

*Mary Kozlowski - laying out each Newsletter Issue on our website in a timely manner.

*Peter Codella - Coordinator and printer of our Newsletter Mailing Label Data(2007-2010). - a great asset & support.

*Jean Bambury - Labeling and mailing numerous issues.

*Thomas Bambury - for his appreciated and incredible leadership as our VP/Publicity(2009-2012) and Newsletter Liason.

* Our SLOC Presidents (Bob Farquharson, Ross Snyder, Bob Harrison and Kate Kaufman Burns), our SLOC Board Members (since 2007) and numerous members and production staff for meeting deadlines and contributing valuable membership news, required production events and SLOC Trivia.

Thank you for this opportunity to be SLOC's Newsletter Editor. It was my pleasure.

Sincerely,
Dave Dixon