

SCHENECTADY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY
presents a Special

The Magic of Cabaret



A cross-cultural journey
through Paris, Berlin and New York cabarets!
Each venue features a Master of Ceremonies
and its own unique style of performance —
complete with cabaret-style seating and refreshments!

January 19 - 21, 1996

Opera House • 826 State Street • Schenectady, NY



THE MAGIC OF CABARET

Written by

LAWRENCE & CAREN LESSNER

and JEAN VAN SYCKLE

MICHAEL W. JEGABBI, Producer

LAWRENCE & CAREN LESSNER, Co-Directors

JEAN VAN SYCKLE, Musical Director

CAREN LESSNER and

DONNA-CERNIGLIA PANZL, Co-Choreographers

Synopsis of Scenes and Musical Numbers

ACT ONE

Scene 1: Heaven

God speaks Ted Peck

The Spirit of Cabaret Howard Moyer

Cabaret

(Music by John Kander; words by Fred Ebb)

Scene 2: The Berlin Cabaret

The MC Kenneth Carnes, with Dancing Chorus

Two Hearts in 3/4 Time

(Music by Robert Stolz; words by Joe Young)

Chantal Quency René

Kiss of Fire

(Music/words by Lester Allen and Robert Hill)

Don't Tell Mama

(Music by John Kander; words by Fred Ebb)

Scene 3: The French Cabaret -- "Le Cafe Parisien"

The MC, Henri ... Ira R. Gilman, with Dancing Chorus

Isn't It Romantic

(Music/words by Lorenz Hart and Richard Rogers)

Featured Singer Elisa Verb

C'est Si Bon

(Music by Henri Betti; words by Jerry Seelen)

C'est Magnifique

(Music/words by Cole Porter)

Synopsis of Scenes and Musical Numbers

(continued)

Classical Magic Act Lawrence and Caren Lessner
(Music by selected artists)

The MC, Henri ... Ira R. Gilman, with Dancing Chorus
Mimi
(Music by Richard Rogers; words by Lorenz Hart)

"Le Cafe Parisien" Ensemble Carol Charniga,
Thom Gonyeau, Maria A. Lally, Kim E. Knightes,
Bryant Empie, Colin McKnight
I Wish You Love
(Music by Charles Trenet; words by Albert A. Beach)
In a Sentimental Mood
(Music by Duke Ellington, Irving Mills, Manny Kurtz)

Mademoiselle Fifi Jeff Lucchese
Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend
(Music by Julie Styne; words by Leo Robin)
Mdms. Fifi, joined by Topsy Patron John Field Wood
Cocktails for Two
(Music/words by Arthur Johnson and Sam Coslow)
Paris Cabaret Finale Dancing Chorus
Can Can (Music by Jacques Offenbach)

• Intermission •

ACT TWO

Scene 1: The New York Cabaret -- "Rainbow Room"

Mistress of Ceremonies Laura Roth
Ring Them Bells
(Music by John Kander; words by Fred Ebb)
Lost and Found
(Music by Cy Coleman; words by David Zippel)
Featured Dancers Caren Lessner, Thom Gonyeau
The Continental
(Music by Con Conrad)

(continued)

ACT TWO

(continued)

Scene 1: The New York Cabaret

Featured Singers Bonnie Williams, Gwen Fraser

Medley: *Come in from the Rain*

(Music by Melissa Manchester and Carol Bayer Sager).

Mistress of Ceremonies Laura Roth

Every Breath I Take

(Music by Cy Coleman; words by David Zippel)

Featured Singers Bonnie Williams, Gwen Fraser

Hit Me with a Hot Note

(Music by Duke Ellington; words by Dan George)

Bass -- Tony Riccobono

Cabaret Magic Act Lawrence and Caren Lessner

(Music by selected artists)

Habiba, Middle Eastern Dancer Donna Marie Floyd

(Music by selected artists)

Featured Singer Carla Page

Be My Baby

(Music/words by Phil Spector,
Ellie Greenwich and Jeff Barry)

Medley (arranged by Jeff Funk) Cabaret Ensemble

Bitten by the Beat

Old Time Rock-and-Roll

We Will Rock You

Rockin' Pneumonia and the Boogie Woogie Flu

Featured Singer Carla Page

When the Saints Go Marching In -- a spiritual

FINALE

The MCs ... Howard Moyer, Laura Roth, and Ensemble

There's No Business Like Show Business

(Music/words by Irving Berlin)



Production Staff



Producer Michael W. Jegabbi
 Co-Directors Lawrence and Caren Lessner
 Musical Director Jean Van Syckle
 Co-Choreographers Caren Lessner, Donna Panzl
 Production Assistant..... Jennifer Depew
 Stage Manager Ted Peck
 Set Construction Ken Zarnoch, Larry Mele
 Set Painting/Decor Drew and Ginnie Mills
 Makeup Marge Martin
 Lighting Karen Empie
 Sound Alan Angelo
 Cabaret Chairman Debbi Belli
 Audition Arrangements Eunice Chouffi
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 Photography John Epting
 Ushers Chris Pedersen, Thelma Zeh, Eunice Chouffi

SLOC wishes to thank all those who helped in any way with this special production.

We also thank B&N Floor Covering and State Street Presbyterian Church for use of their parking lots.

There is NO SMOKING in the building at any time.
Absolutely NO CAMERAS or other recording devices may be used during the performance.
 Emergency exits are in the rear of the hall, and through the doorway to the right of the stage, as you look at it. Please see one of our ushers if you have any questions or special needs. Coatracks/restrooms are downstairs.
Tell others about SLOC's quality musical theater!

If you would like to be on our 70th season mailing list to receive a Season Brochure in August of 1996, please sign the Guest Book out in the foyer.



Who's Who in Production



Michael W. Jegabbi, Producer

Michael has been involved with Schenectady Light Opera Company (SLOC) for 10 years, his first show being *Hello, Dolly!* (props). He was co-producer of *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Barnum* and producer of *Cabaret*.

Lawrence Lessner, Co-Director

Lawrence, a classical magician, studied magic at the Chavez College of Magic in Hollywood, CA, and has performed in Los Angeles, Houston, Miami, and New York City clubs. A member of the Academy of Magical Arts, he has performed manipulative and cabaret stage acts at Hollywood's Magic Castle. He performs in Catskill resorts as well as locally. Lawrence has produced the "Magical Cabaret" at *First Night Albany* 1995 and 1996.

Caren Lessner, Co-Director and Co-Choreographer

Caren is a professional dancer who has toured the U.S., Canada and South America. She was lead dancer for Circus World in Orlando and Mark Wilson's Magic of the Globe in Busch Gardens, Williamsburg. She performs in the Catskills with her husband/magician Lawrence and has choreographed many musicals for SLOC and also for other area theater groups.

Jean Van Syckle, Musical Director

Jean's numerous musical directions include *Fiorello* and *Galaxy of Shining Stars* Concert for SLOC. Recently she appeared in Hilltowns Players' *Fiddler on the Roof* as Fruma-Sarah. She is minister of music for West End Presbyterian Church, Albany, and is founder-director of Suburban Sounds Community Chorus (established 1975).

Donna Cerniglia-Panzl, Co-Choreographer

Donna was most recently seen as Connie in SLOC's *A Chorus Line*. She has been with our company for over 25 years as a performer and has choreographed numerous productions. Donna will be the choreographer for SLOC's spring production of *The Secret Garden*.



Who's Who in the Cast



Iris Bartkowski — Has been in numerous SLOC shows over the past 20 years, past SLOC president. Employed as a library media specialist by Bethlehem School District.

Kenneth Carnes — Is making his SLOC debut; just finished *Fiddler on the Roof* with Hilltowns Players and *Raisin' a Ruckus* with Village Players. Sings with Suburban Sounds Community Chorus; chorus roles at Crosswell Opera House.

Carol Charniga — In SLOC's *Man of LaMancha*; roles at ACT and Park Playhouse; choreography at schools and for community theater groups.

Bryant Empie — In Family Players' *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*; SLOC's Galaxy of Shining Stars Concert. Sings with Suburban Sounds Community Chorus, other theaters.

Donna Marie Floyd — Has studied Middle Eastern dance with Mamond Reda of Egypt and two other experts. Performed in Boston, Syracuse, Albany; & community events.

Gwen Ellen Fraser — Has been in 40 shows during last 20 years in Capital District; most recently played Witch in Opera Excelsior's *Hansel and Gretel*; school music teacher.

Ira R. Gilman — This is his 39th SLOC show, dating back from 1972. Highlight role: Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Thom Gonyeau — Returning to SLOC after 15-year hiatus (was in *Carousel*, *Boyfriend*, *Oklahoma*, *Music Man*). Producer of Mountain View Productions (film/TV company).

Jay Gorham — SLOC debut. Marking 50th year as a performer of magic; professor/chairman of HVCC Math Dept.

Kim E. Knightes — Last seen in SLOC's *Pirates of Penzance*. Busy with her children; a senior financial consultant.

Maria A. Lally — Produced *Music Man* (Family Players); in SLOC ensembles (*Jerry's Girls*, *How to Succeed...*, Galaxy of Shining Stars Concert. Attorney (adoption law).

Jeff Lucchese — Directing *Cemetery Club* for Spotlight Players (Feb. 2-3); Nathan in their *Guys & Dolls*. Performs for area theaters; director, *Crossing Delaney* for ACT.

Colin McKnight — Theater debut; church choir member.

Lou Michaels — Dancing waiter in SLOC's *Cabaret*; returning to stage after a long hiatus while attending college. Works as head waiter at a local eating establishment.

(continued)



Who's Who in the Cast



Debra Moyer — SLOC member for 16 years, performing in *Carousel*, *Little Mary Sunshine*, *Little Shop of Horrors*; former SLOC Board member and vice presidents; teacher.

Howard Moyer — Directed several SLOC shows; he last appeared as Caiaphas in *JC Superstar*. Science teacher.

Carla Page — In theater since 1976; SLOC debut. Host of The Carla Page TV Show which deals with local/national issues (Mon., 7 pm, Ch. 11). Radio DJ, "Sweet Soul Music" (airs Mon., 3-5:30 p.m., WRPI 91.5fm). Mayor F. Duci proclaimed May 23/93 Carla Page Day; received Woman of Vision Award for her media work in helping others. Member of Black Filmmakers Foundation.

Quency René — Has played Audrey in SLOC's *Little Shop of Horrors* and Mona in *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, Vera in *Mame*, Ernestine Money in *Hello, Dolly!*; producer intern for *Baby*.

Laura Roth — Featured vocalist for Omni & Hyatt Regency Hotels; performed in Miami, Paris, London and Manhattan in critically-acclaimed one-woman shows. *The New York Post* has referred to her as a "show stopper." Leading roles in musicals/theater; experience in radio/TV.

Lori Torgersen — A dancer by training; theater credits include the Long Island productions of *Sweet Charity* and *Joseph....Dreamcoat*. Pursuing Ph.D. in criminal justice.

Elisa Verb — Recently seen in SLOC's *Into the Woods* and as Sr. Robert Anne in *Nunsense*. She and her husband are expecting their "first production" in June!

Bonnie Williams — Played Mother Superior in SLOC's *Nunsense*; company member since 1980; also appeared in SCP's *Lend Me A Tenor*; in Family Players' productions.

John Field Wood — Last appeared as Mysterious Man in SLOC's *Into the Woods*; Gatch in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. ABC-TV in NYC for 29 years, during which time he acted off-Broadway; while there, his favorite pastime was NYC cabaret.

Thelma Zeh — First appearance on SLOC stage (though many behind-the-scenes, including SLOC president several times). Last on the stage with the Cobleskill High School Drama Club.

SCHENECTADY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY
Remaining Productions of the 1995-96 Season



March 1-3

and

March 7-10

TICKETS:

Call Della at 355-1699

Th-Fri-Sat. at 8 p.m.

Adults, \$15

Sun. at 2 p.m.

Children under 13, \$7.50

April 26 - 28

and

May 2 - 5



TICKETS:

Call Sue at 355-2946

Adults, \$15

Children under 13, \$7.50

Th-Fri-Sat. at 8 p.m.

Sun. at 2 p.m.

Thank you for your patronage!



Program design, typesetting and layout by
THE QUALITY QUILL Desktop Publishing Services
Niskayuna, NY (518) 346-6099