Sweeney Todd

March 6—8 and 12—15

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To Our Audience

Dear Audience:

With **SWEENEY TODD—The Demon Barber of Fleet Street**, you're in for it tonight/today! The show referred to as "a musical thriller," with music by Stephen Sondheim and book by Hugh Wheeler, won eight Tony Awards in 1979, including Best Musical.

The cast was led by Len Cariou as Sweeney and Angela Lansbury as Mrs. Lovett (not a bit like today's Jessica Fletcher), who both won Tony Awards for their performances. We hope you enjoy our production—we are sure you will!

This being the third presentation of our 1997-98 season leaves us with one more show for your viewing. On May first we will bring you **ON THE TWENTIETH CENTURY** (music by Cy Coleman, book and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green). This elegant and romantic ride aboard the 1930s once-crack Chicago-to-New York Twentieth Century train is full of laughs, good music and wonderful characters.

But for now . . . enjoy **SWEENEY TODD**!

— THELMA ZEH, SLOC's 1997-98 President

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There is NO SMOKING in the building at any time.
NO CAMERAS or other recording devices may be used during the performance. Emergency exits are in the rear of the hall, and in front, through the doorway to the right of the stage, as you face it.

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STARS:

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Mr. and Mrs. Ronald N. Fragomeni (33)
Della R. and Ira R. Gilman (24)
Bill and Fulvia Brun Hickman
Mrs. Leon K. Kirchmayer (41)
Jim and Flora Lovell (18)
Gioia Ottaviano (37)

ANGELS:

Nancy Bell and Eli Taub (32 years)
Suzi and Curt Breneman
Ken and Flower Buhrmaster (41)
Jim and Gayle Caufield (32)
Richard and Gloriana Clark
Joseph and Mary Ann Concra (10)
Ann and Mario Farina
Arthur and Paige Gauvreau (26)
Marty and Bruce Holden
Amy and Frank Jettner (10)
Gina and Bill Kornrumpf
Melissa Mason and Peter Lacijan
David T. Lyon, M.D.
Mrs. E. Milano
Virginia and Drew Mills (30)
Wayne Nelson Statistical Consulting
Robert M. Nottke
Wayne T. and Susan D. Senecal
Meg Tedesco and Tom Bartnicki
Ethel M. Whitbeck (35)

Benefactors (continued on pages 6, 8)

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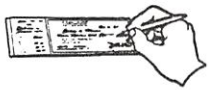

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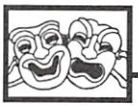

From the Director

In 1979 my high school drama club arranged a trip to New York City to see a Broadway show. Our choices were *Dreamgirls*, *On the Twentieth Century*, and a show in previews about a man who slits people's throats. That show, you may have guessed, was *Sweeney Todd*. Although I was intrigued by the last choice, I was outvoted. My disappointment soon gave way to the excitement of seeing my first Broadway show.

The following year I saw *Sweeney Todd* in Philadelphia. I was mesmerized by the performance and have been an avid Sondheim fan ever since. The complexity of the score and lyrics still enables me to find puns and nuances even after almost 20 years.

Sondheim pays tribute to other musical forms throughout *Sweeney Todd*. The barber scenes are reminiscent of a Rossini opera, and a Latin Dies Irae is used as a choral theme for the title character. To me, the show revolves around a central theme: Love. Mrs. Lovett is driven by her love for Sweeney and Sweeney's revenge by his love for his wife. The other characters all are striving to love and be loved as well.

The innovation and imagination that Sondheim has brought to American musical theater has earned him the name of "The Master" in some circles, and I hope that this show will inspire you to seek out other Sondheim shows, be it on stage, video or via recordings.

Lastly, a note to the cast and crew: You have made me proud to be a part of this production. I hope you realize that the quote printed on our show shirts is true. Have fun and enjoy the show!

— TOM HECKERT

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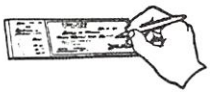

[*continued from page 6*]

Howard C. Fiedler
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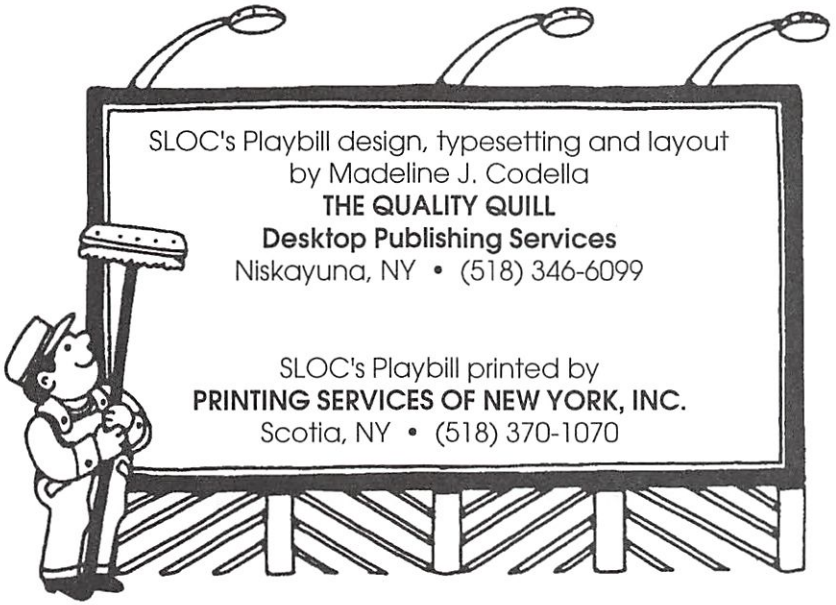

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CAST

In Order of Appearance

SWEENEY TODD ..... Robert Lyon
ANTHONY HOPE ..... Christopher G. England
BEGGAR WOMAN ..... Gail Garrison
MRS. LOVETT ..... Gwen Ellen Fraser
JUDGE TURPIN ..... Joe Phillips
BEADLE BAMFORD ..... Butch Marshall
JOHANNA ..... Megan McCarville
BIRDSELLER ..... Danielle Senecal
TOBIAS RAGG ..... Michael Menshing
PIRELLI ..... John Anthony Lopez
JONAS FOGG ..... Mike Short

ENSEMBLE / THE COMPANY:
Dave Dixon, Rose J. Hunsberger, Valerie A. Lord,
Meredith Lyon, William McColl, Chris Parker,
Danielle Senecal, Mike Short, Suzane Talarico

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Mar. 20-22, & 25-29

TINTYPES
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The action takes place in London's Fleet Street and its environs, in 19th-Century England.

Act One

The Ballad of Sweeney Todd ..... The Company
No Place Like London ..... Anthony, Todd, Beggar Woman
The Worst Pies in London ..... Mrs. Lovett
Poor Thing ..... Mrs. Lovett and Company
My Friends ..... Todd, Mrs. Lovett
Green Finch and Linnet Bird ..... Johanna
Ah, Miss ..... Anthony, Johanna, Beggar Woman
Johanna ..... Anthony
Pirelli's Miracle Elixir ..... Tobias, Todd, Mrs. Lovett, ... and The Company
The Contest ..... Pirelli
Johanna ..... Judge Turpin
Wait ..... Mrs. Lovett, Beggar Woman
Kiss Me ..... Anthony, Johanna
Ladies in Their Sensitivities ..... Judge Turpin, The Beadle
Pretty Women ..... Todd, Judge Turpin
Epiphany ..... Todd, Mrs. Lovett
A Little Priest ..... Mrs. Lovett, Todd

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Act Two

God, That's Good! ..... Tobias, Mrs. Lovett, Todd, ... Beggar Woman, The Company
Johanna ..... Anthony, Todd, Johanna, Beggar Woman
By the Sea ..... Mrs. Lovett, Todd
Wigmaker Sequence ..... Todd, Anthony, Quintet
The Letter ..... Quintet
Not While I'm Around ..... Tobias, Mrs. Lovett
Parlor Songs ..... Beadle, Mrs. Lovett, Tobias
City on Fire! ..... The Company
The Judge's Return ..... Todd, Judge
Final Scene ..... The Company

"Hey, don't I know you, Mister?"
— BEGGAR WOMAN

"We all deserve to die. Even you, Mrs. Lovett, even I."
— SWEENEY TODD

"It's man devouring man, my dear, and who are we to deny it in here?"
— SWEENEY TODD

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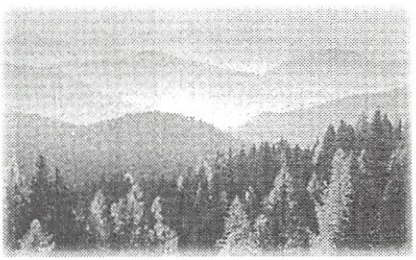

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About the Cast

❑ As SWEENEY TODD:

Robert Lyon, delighted to return to SLOC, has previously been seen here as Sipos in *She Loves Me* and Migaldi in *Evita*. He has performed locally as a Guest Artist with New York Concert Artists, Inc. Rob is grateful for the support and encouragement of the cast and crew, especially to Gary Aldrich, and wife Meredith Lyon.

❑ As MRS. LOVETT:

Gwen Ellen Fraser is an eighth grade General Music teacher and high school theater arts teacher in Troy, where she is now directing *My Fair Lady*. She has appeared in over 40 local productions, including *Madame Butterfly* at Glimmerglass Opera Company and *A Murder Is Announced* at Schenectady Civic.

❑ As TOBIAS:

Michael C. Menshing has appeared as Perchek in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Cinderella's Prince/Wolf in *Into the Woods* and as Leon Czolgosz in *Assassins*. Mike recently directed a production of *Once Upon A Mattress* and is currently directing Chatham High School's *Bye Bye Birdie*.

"Nothin's gonna harm you, not while I'm around."
TOBIAS

About the Cast

❑ As JUDGE TURPIN:

Joe Phillips' SLOC credits include *Annie* (Daddy Warbucks) and *The Sound of Music* (Max). He has professional and dinner theater credits in four states, most recently Albany's Park Playhouse. He has worked on dozens of local community/college stages as actor and director.

❑ As BEADLE BAMFORD:

Butch Marshall was last on SLOC's stage in *Anne of Green Gables*. He's been music director and musician for many SLOC shows. A music teacher for Guilderland Schools, he thanks the high school cast/staff of *Once Upon A Mattress* (March 19-22, 1998) for their patience in sharing him with this show at SLOC.

❑ As BEGGAR WOMAN:

Gail Garrison has worked with SLOC for 20+ years in such shows as *Baby*, *Lies & Legends*, *1776*, *The Sound of Music*, *A Little Night Music* and *Oliver*. She sings with Albany Pro Musica and is a soloist at Westminster Presbyterian Church/Albany. Gail has been employed by NYS Office of Mental Health for the last 20 years.

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About the Cast

❑ As JOHANNA:

Megan McCarville is making her SLOC debut and is a junior at Guilderland High School. She has sung for occasions like *Welcoming Home Our Troops*: USO (1990) and the Tulip Festival (1992). Megan wishes to thank her teachers, friends, family, and Mommy and Daddy.

❑ As ANTHONY:

Christopher G. England, appearing for the first time at SLOC, has been active with theaters in the Johnstown/Amsterdam areas. He is proud of his work with the Kings' Players of Liberty University, and *The Living Christmas Tree*, 1994 (televised nationally). He thanks God for his talent and the opportunity to perform.

❑ As PIRELLI:

John Anthony Lopez is a graduate of the Crane School of Music, where he studied Voice with Ms. Patricia Misslin. A lyric tenor, he has performed with ACT 1, Glimmerglass Opera, Opera Excelsior, Overlook Lyric, and New York Concert Artists. He is an art/drama teacher in the Voorheesville Central School District.

"It's me you'll marry on Monday, that's what you'll do."
— ANTHONY

About the Cast

❑ ENSEMBLE:

Dave Dixon has been in SLOC's *She Loves Me* (Arpad), *Evita*, *They're Playing Our Song* and *Godspell*. Other local credits include Bert in *42nd Street* and Linus in *Charlie Brown*. An Albany resident, Dave is employed by the Desmond Hotel.

❑ ENSEMBLE:

Rose J. Hunsberger is happy to be working with SLOC for the first time. Professionally, she is a teacher in the Capital District and enjoys singing.

❑ ENSEMBLE:

Valerie A. Lord has appeared locally as actor, pianist and musical director. Recent roles include *Les Liaison Dangereus* (ensemble) and First Bridesmaid in FMA's *Trial by Jury* starring David Hyde Pierce. Val is the choral and string director at Ballston Spa High School.

❑ ENSEMBLE:

Meredith Lyon debuts at SLOC and is a SUNY-Albany graduate. She thanks her voice teacher, Gary Aldrich, for his inspiration and guidance, and her husband, Rob (Sweeney Todd), for his encouragement and love. Her performance is dedicated to her father, and those Saturday night jam sessions.

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About the Cast

❑ ENSEMBLE:

William McColl is a veteran of 70 musical productions. This is Bill's tenth SLOC show; he last appeared in *Me and My Girl* and *Evita*. Recently, Bill performed in *The Italian Girl from Algiers* and *Iphigenia in Tauris* for Glimmerglass Opera Co. By day, he is an engineer at NYS DOT.

❑ ENSEMBLE:

Chris Parker has been with SLOC for 10 years and is currently serving on our Board of Directors. He was last seen as Nicely-Nicely in Park Playhouse's *Guys and Dolls*. Chris extends many thanks to his family and friends for their support.

❑ ENSEMBLE/BIRDSELLER:

Danielle Senecal caught the theater bug and fell in love with SLOC in *She Loves Me*. She has recorded a demo CD and hopes to continue performing locally. She wishes to thank her family, and Corine Salon and Chris for their support.

"Lift your razor high, Sweeney."
— THE COMPANY

About the Cast

❑ ENSEMBLE / FOGG:

Mike Short is happy to live through the Prologue in his second SLOC show after playing "major" roles in *The Secret Garden* (as Major Holmes and Major Shelley —who both succumbed to cholera before the end of the first song)!

❑ ENSEMBLE:

Suzane Talarico is celebrating her 21st year and 18th show with SLOC. Her favorite roles include Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*, Smitty in *How to Succeed....*, and Rachel Lynde in *Anne of Green Gables*. Sue enjoys traveling with husband Greg (lighting designer for this show), and posing for post cards.

Annual High School Musical Theater Awards

SLOC presented trophies and checks to the two winning schools in June '97 (10 schools participated): Guilderland High School for *Pippin*, and The Academy of Holy Names for *Anything Goes*.

SLOC looks forward to the annual competition and encourages area schools to participate. For further information, contact Mrs. Depew via SLOC by calling 393-5732.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS and HEARTFELT THANKS to . . .

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
for parking lot use

House Manager(s) and Ushers, those who helped with concessions during intermission, and those who helped with this production after the playbill went to press.

AUNT KATIE'S ATTIC

WHITEHOUSE FLEA MARKET

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THE ORLO SCHOOL OF HAIR DESIGN & COSMETOLOGY
ALICE CAPUTO, Director

MIKE SHORT

THE THEATRE BARN

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Production Staff

March 6-8 and 12-15, 1998
Schenectady Light Opera Company

Co-Producers ..... *Colin McCarty, Jacqueline Mosher*
Director ..... *Tom Heckert*
Musical Director ..... *Theresa Fitzmaurice*
Choreographer ..... *Donna Panzl*
Production Stage Manager ..... *Jill A. Coloney*
Stage Crew: Brett Putnam
Set Design and Construction ..... *Doug Peek*
Forrest Birch, Dale Conklin, Joel Katz, David Weinstock, Mary Kozlowski
Scenic Artist ..... *Mary Kozlowski*
Artist, Prologue Drop ..... *John Anthony Lopez*
Costume Design ..... *Susan Altoft*
Connie Rowe, Babs Preston
Lighting Design and Execution ..... *Greg Rucinski*
Jessica Orlowski, Suzane Talarico, Jenny Novosel, Karen Empie
Sound ..... *Joel Katz*
Properties ..... *Joe Pickett*
Assistant: Sue Katz
Makeup ..... *Ted Rucinski*
Assistant: Dave Harrison
Hair Design and Wigs ..... *John Fowler*
Audition Arrangements ..... *Eunice Chouffi*
Della, Ira and Jody Gilman, Arthur and Paige Gauvreau
Audition Accompanist ..... *Bruce Holden*
Box Office/Tickets/Print Advertising ..... *Paige Gauvreau*
Ushers ..... *Jennifer Depew*
Assistants: Eunice Chouffi, Nina Rindenello
Playbill/Program Editor ..... *Madeline J. Codella*
Photography ..... *Timothy Raab*, Northern Photo
Show Publicity ..... *Joseph* and *Mary Ann Concra*
Show Posters and Fliers ..... *Madeline J. Codella*
Show T-Shirts ..... *Ginnie Mills*
Opening Night Party ..... *Patricia Hoffman*

❑ DIRECTOR

Tom Heckert has directed SLOC's *The Secret Garden* and Shining Stars Concert, and Spotlight Players' *The King and I*. He was seen as Jack in Columbia Civic's production of *Into the Woods* and performs with Suburban Sounds Community Chorus. Tom is employed by NYS DOH as a Clinical Laboratory Consultant.

❑ MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Theresa Fitzmaurice's past SLOC credits include musical direction for *Falsettos, Anne of Green Gables* and *Li'l Abner*. She was seen in *Once Upon a Mattress* (Queen Aggravain). After leaving a 15-year career as a vocal music teacher, she is lead vocalist with the T. S. Ensemble. Her husband John (and children Maggie, John and Kaleb) wonder why she is called a "stay-at-home Mom."

❑ CO-PRODUCER

Colin McCarty last co-produced SLOC's *The Secret Garden*. He is more familiar to audiences for his on stage work, including the lead role in this season's *Me and My Girl*. Colin is a former SLOC Board member, is a director-at-large for Schenectady Civic Players, and is a Quality Manager for Northeast Health.

❑ CO-PRODUCER

Jacqueline Mosher is pleased to serve as co-producer for the second time this season, her first being *Me and My Girl*. She co-produced our 70th Anniversary Concert in '96. She produced the annual Proctor's Theatre Christmas Show for 10 years and currently produces the Allen Mills Theatre Organ Shows on the East Coast.

❑ CHOREOGRAPHER

Donna Panzl is a 29-year SLOC veteran, being seen most recently in our Company's *Me and My Girl*. Donna has choreographed many shows, including *The Secret Garden, The Sound of Music, Annie, Mame, Little Shop of Horrors*. Donna also enjoys performing in local dinner theater productions.

About the Staff

❑ STAGE MANAGER:

Jill A. Coloney is thrilled to return to us after stage managing our successful production of *Me and My Girl*. Previous stage managing credits include productions for Schenectady Civic Players, Home Made Theater, Opera Excelsior, Proctor's Christmas Show, and SLOC.

❑ SET DESIGNER / SET CONSTRUCTION:

Doug Peek's involvement with SLOC productions includes construction, stage crew, assistant stage managing, and some onstage and chorus work. He started with us as set designer for *Godspell*. Doug is Vice President of Technical Operations for the SLOC Board. He is currently designing *Love! Valor! Compassion!* for Albany Civic Theater. He credits his father for his talents and Grayce Burian for inspiration.

❑ SET PAINTING / CONSTRUCTION:

Mary Kozlowski is enjoying her fifth season with SLOC, working as crew member and/or scenic designer for shows like *Guys and Dolls*, *The Secret Garden* and *Nunsense*. She is currently serving as SLOC's Treasurer. Mary is grateful to her family for their support of the many hours she devotes to the theater.

❑ COSTUME DESIGN:

Reverend Susan Groom Altoft has co-directed at Southern Vermont College, costumed for Circle Theatre, and done publicity for Pentimento Playback Theatre. She has performed with the Bicentennial Singers of Wyoming County (NY), and in productions of *Company* and *Nunsense*. Having recently moved back to our area, Susan is a health care worker and a "wise and patient Mother."

"There was a barber and his wife . . .
and she was beautiful."
— SWEENEY TODD

❑ PROPERTIES:

Joe Pickett was last seen on our stage in our first production of *They're Playing Our Song*. Joe has local acting credits for *Fanny* for Albany Civic Theater and in *The Nightingale* for Empire State Institute for the Performing Arts. Technical credits include running sound for Albany Civic Theater's *House of Blue Leaves*.

❑ SOUND:

Joel Katz returns to SLOC after last season's *They're Playing Our Song* (lighting design and execution). He is very active with Schenectady Civic Playhouse in the technical aspect as well, having worked on lighting or sound for eight productions.

❑ MAKEUP DESIGN:

Ted Rucinski has been a SLOC member since 1979. He has acted in and directed many shows and served as makeup designer for over 12 productions.

❑ LIGHTING DESIGN AND EXECUTION:

Greg Rucinski is completing his 48th SLOC show with this production! Since 1979 he has designed the lighting for over a dozen shows and designed and built sets, stage managed, and appeared (briefly) on the stage in *Anything Goes*. Greg met his wife, Sue Talarico (who is in this show's Ensemble), during *Candide*. He has designed sets and lighting for over 20 Schenectady Civic Players' productions as well.

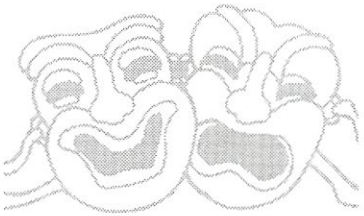
❑ SHOW'S PUBLICITY:

Joe and Mary Ann Concra have worked on publicity for several of our shows, including *The Secret Garden* and *Into the Woods*. They have also produced several shows, most recently last season's *Evita* at SLOC.

"Attend the tale of Sweeney Todd
His skin was pale and his eye was odd."
— THE COMPANY

PASS THE WORD . . .

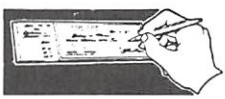
If you liked our production, please tell your friends! If you did not, please tell US!



If you are not on our Season Brochure mailing list, but would like to be, please call Paige at 377-5101.

A UNIQUE GIFT

Treat your family or friends to a live theater production at SLOC. Call Paige at 377-5101 to ask about our **GIFT CERTIFICATES**.



Become a Benefactor!

Won't you consider supporting your community theater? Our low ticket prices do not bring in enough income to pay all our bills. SLOC continually needs contributors—those who will donate a little, or a lot—to help us produce the very best in musical theater for you.

BENEFITS: First preference on seating; subscription to SLOC newsletter; listing in SLOC playbills; and open invitation to all opening night parties.

I enclose a tax-deductible contribution for the 1997-98 season:

❑ PATRON (individual)	$15
❑ PATRON (couple)	$25
❑ SPONSOR	$50-$99
❑ ANGEL	$100-$249
❑ STAR	$250 or more

❑ **Indicate if you are "eligible for GE Match."**

List my/our name(s) in the SLOC playbill as (please print):

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Send check and this form to: SLOC, P.O. Box 1006, Schenectady NY 12301.

SLOC's COMPANY OPERATIONS • 1997-98

President ..... Thelma Zeh
Secretary ..... Jacqueline Bee
Treasurer ..... Mary Kozlowski
Business Manager ..... Joseph Concra
VICE PRESIDENT of ARTISTIC OPERATIONS ..... *Joseph Agostine*
Accompanists/Show Selection ..... Joseph Agostine
High School Musical Theater Awards ..... Jennifer Depew
Dr. & Mrs. Edwin Brown Foundation ..... Diana Roth
V. P. of AUDIENCE SERVICES ..... *Paige Gauvreau*
Patrons/Subscribers/Season Brochure/Group Sales ..... P. Gauvreau
Mailing Lists ..... Peter Codella
Tickets for *She Loves Me* and *Sweeney Todd* ..... Paige Gauvreau
Tickets for *Me and My Girl* ..... Della Gilman
Tickets for *On the Twentieth Century* ..... Jean Clarke
Usher Chairpersons ..... Jennifer Depew, Chris Pedersen, Melinda Zarnoch, Thelma Zeh
Assistants ..... Eunice Chouffi, Nina Rindenello
V. P. of COMPANY OPERATIONS ..... *Alan Angelo*
Audition Arrangements ..... Eunice Chouffi
Membership ..... Della Gilman
Playbill Editor ..... Madeline J. Codella
Show T-Shirts ..... Virginia Mills
Historian/Production Mugs ..... Paula Farquharson
Sunshine Committee ..... Chris Pedersen
Opening Night Parties ..... Patricia Hoffman
Soda Machine ..... Melinda Zarnoch
V. P. of FACILITIES ..... *Larry Pedersen*
Set Construction Facility/Taurus Road ..... Ted Vickery
Opera House Sign ..... Ted Peck
Electrical/Mechanical Assistant ..... Angelo Cerniglia
Heating and Plumbing Assistant ..... Steve Fredericks
V. P. of PUBLIC RELATIONS ..... *Melissa Mason*
Newsletter Editor ..... Madeline J. Codella
Print Advertising ..... Paige Gauvreau
V. P. of TECHNICAL OPERATIONS ..... *Ted Vickery* and *Doug Peek*
Costumes ..... Peggy Gerardi
Makeup ..... Joseph Agostine
Properties ..... Melinda Zarnoch
Lighting ..... Greg Rucinski
Sound ..... David Wilkinson

❖ BOARD OF DIRECTORS ❖

Joseph A. Agostine, Jr.	Della Gilman	Chris Parker
Vincent Bonafede	Mary Kozlowski	Larry Pedersen
Jennifer Depew	Melissa Mason	Ted Vickery

Schenectady Light Opera Company's

COMING ATTRACTIONS

PERFORMANCES AT 826 STATE STREET • SCHENECTADY, NY

March 6, 7, 8
and 12, 13, 14, 15

Sweeney Todd

TICKETS: Call Paige at 377-5101

A musical thriller, from an old folktale, about the demon barber of Fleet Street in 19th century London. A comedy with lots of irony and moral depth.

Directed by TOM HECKERT

Music & Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM
Book by HUGH WHEELER

May 1, 2, 3
and 7, 8, 9, 10

TICKETS: Call Jean at 399-9359

ON THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

All aboard for a glorious ride on the 1930s' *Twentieth Century*, that once-crack Chicago-to-New York train. Meet some endearingly screwy passengers, including a hammy director and a movie star engaged in an ego battle. Funny, elegant and romantic!

Directed by ROBERT WHITEMAN
CAROL CHARNIGA, Co-Director

Music by CY COLEMAN
Books & Lyrics by
BETTY COMDEN and ADOLPH GREEN

Support SLOC's 1997-98 Musical Theater Season!

ADULT, $16 • CHILD UNDER 13, $8 • TH-FRI-SAT, 8 pm • SUN, 2 pm