

SLOC MUSICAL THEATER

2024-2025 SEASON



Music & Lyrics by
William Finn

Book by
William Finn & James Lapine

JANUARY 17-26, 2025



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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and we're grateful to have you here in our theater as we usher in an exciting new year at SLOC. We're delighted to have local community theater veteran, Melissa Mason Lacijan, in the director's chair for the third production of our 98th Season, *Falsettos*. Melissa is a long-time member of our SLOC family, having showcased her immense talent on stage and behind the scenes of some of our most memorable shows over the years. She is joined by an experienced production team and a small, yet powerful, cast of seven in sharing this intimate story of love, family, and relationships that is sure to make you laugh and touch your heart.



Reflecting on 2024, I would like to thank all our volunteers, donors, sponsors, members, and patrons for keeping our theater thriving. From a sold out run of our high school production to a successful Day of Dance Education Workshop, we ended the year on a high note, and I am grateful to all of those who made that possible. As we welcome this new year, we certainly have a lot to look forward to. Not only will we present our two remaining main stage productions, *Peter and the Starcatcher* (March 14-23) and *Pippin* (May 9-18), but additional workshops and special events, as well.

We are pleased to welcome local playwright Aaron Moore to SLOC for two performances of a staged reading of his new play, *On This Chosen Ground*, about black soldiers reflecting on life during World War II. While Aaron is new to our theater, he is a seasoned professional who runs a performance art education company (Acting with Aaron) and has appeared in and directed a multitude of shows around the Capital Region. Please join us for one of these readings on February 22nd or 23rd. Tickets are available online and at the box office.

Stay tuned for the much-anticipated announcement of our 99th Season! We promise it will be worth the wait! For the latest updates on our theater, follow us on social media, subscribe to our newsletter, or visit sloctheater.org.

Enjoy the show!

John Meglino
President, 2024-2025 Season

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

In 1992, composer/lyricist William Finn and writer/director James Lapine collaborated to combine two of their one-act, song cycle-style musicals into one full-length story entitled *Falsettos*. *Falsettos* focuses on Marvin, a Jewish man in 1979 who has recently left his wife, Trina, and young son, Jason, to be with his male lover, Whizzer. Act one explores Marvin's determination to create and maintain a "tight-knit family," regardless of the damage he has done, and continues to do, in the lives of those he cares about. Despite the efforts of Mendel, the well-meaning psychiatrist, the family struggles to coexist in their "new normal." Act two brings the story to 1981 and follows the blended family as they continue to learn and grow closer as relationships are created and renewed, a bar mitzvah is planned, and an unknown illness brings heartbreak and loss.



My first exposure to *Falsettos* was SLOC's 1995 production, directed by my dear friend, the late Thomas Dalton Bambury. I remember finding both the music and the storyline heartachingly beautiful, but also complicated and confusing: Is this happening in real time? In actuality? In someone's head? Both at the same time?! The answer is yes. As author Scott Miller wrote, "The music is fast and frenetic. It rarely slows down and almost never stops. This is a show that demands an enormous effort from an audience, tremendous concentration, complete focus, and a quick mind. It never condescends. It never underestimates its audience's intelligence."

But all of that effort is worth the ride. Though the story takes place 40 years ago, many of the show's themes are still relevant today: restructured families, gender roles, growing pains, and the importance of a loving, supportive network of people. In 1981, AIDS had not yet been identified – it was referred to as "gay cancer," though not an illness exclusive to homosexuals. Today, antiretroviral treatment has reduced the number of AIDS-related deaths, but access to these treatments is not universal, and there is still no vaccine or cure.

Falsettos' themes of love and family, my deep love and appreciation of the music, and a desire to remind people that the fight against AIDS is still being fought today are what motivated me to direct the show, and it means so much to me that I am directing it for the company at which I first saw it. On behalf of the entire *Falsettos* cast and creative team, I thank you for coming – enjoy the show!

Melissa Mason Lacijan
Director, *Falsettos*

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SLOC MUSICAL THEATER

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WILLIAM FINN

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WILLIAM FINN & JAMES LAPINE

Falsettoland was produced Off-Broadway by
Maurice Rosenfield and Lois Rosenfield, Inc. with Steven Suskin

National Tour originally produced by The Old Globe Theatre
Artistic Director - Jack O'Brien Managing Director - Tom Hall

Falsettos was originally produced on Broadway by
Barry and Fran Weissler

DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER: MELISSA MASON LACIJAN

MUSIC DIRECTOR: LESLIE ELIASHUK

PRODUCERS: JOHN MEGLINO & DEBBIE PANICCIA

STAGE MANAGER: ABBI ROY

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CAST

Marvin	Shawn Olander-Hahn
Whizzer	Julian Hugo-Perez
Jason	Charlie Palmer
Mendel	Michael Camelo
Trina	Brittany Glenn
Dr. Charlotte	Helen Annely ♦
Cordelia	Erica Buda-Doran
Patient	Abbi Roy
Voice of Umpire	Patrick Pipino

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director/Choreographer	Melissa Mason Lacijan
Music Director	Leslie Eliashuk ♦
Producers	John Meglino & Debbie Paniccia
Stage Manager	Abbi Roy
Set Designer	Jennie Sinnott ♦
Master Carpenter	Doug Peek
Set Construction	Peter Annely, David Caso, Cheryl Hussey, Henry Lacijan, Melissa Mason Lacijan, Ella Mboma-Dorvil, Jamie Mboma-Dorvil, Debbie Paniccia, Steve Paniccia, Amanda Serafini, Aaron Sinnott, Mary Sinnott & Tim Slater
Set Painting	Erica Buda-Doran, Julian Hugo-Perez, Melissa Mason Lacijan, Peter Lacijan, Annaleigh Lester, Elira Mavraj, Jamie Mboma-Dorvil, John Meglino, Shawn Olander-Hahn, Charlie Palmer, Natalya Palmer, Yonna Palmer, Debbie Paniccia & Steve Paniccia
Lighting Designer	David Caso
Light Board Operator	Steve Kay
Lighting Assistant/Spotlight Operator	Cheryl Hussey
Sound Designer	Tom Moeller
Sound Assistant	Anne-Marie Baker
Costume Designer	Elisa Verb
Hair & Make-up Designer	Jennifer Canale
Property Designer	Maura Pickett ♦
Rehearsal Accompanist	Sean Koehler Obach
Stage Crew	Sammy Wilson
Board Liaison	Gary M. Hoffmann
I.D.E.A. Liaison	Matthew Dembling
♦ SLOC Stage Debut ♦ SLOC Production/Designer Debut	

MUSICIANS

Conductor	Leslie Eliashuk
Keyboard	Sean Koehler Obach
Reeds	Joey Van Ullen
Synthesizer	Cameron Clarke Stevens
Percussion	Robert Ackerman

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act 1

Four Jews in a Room Bitching	Marvin, Whizzer, Jason & Mendel
A Tight-Knit Family	Marvin
Love is Blind	Trina, Mendel, Marvin, Whizzer & Jason
Thrill of First Love	Marvin & Whizzer
Marvin at the Psychiatrist (<i>A Three Part Mini-Opera</i>)	Marvin, Mendel & Jason
My Father's a Homo	Jason
Everyone Tells Jason to See a Psychiatrist	Jason, Marvin, Trina & Whizzer
This Had Better Come to a Stop	Marvin, Whizzer, Jason, Trina & Mendel
I'm Breaking Down	Trina
Please Come to Our House	Jason, Mendel & Trina
Jason's Therapy	Mendel, Trina, Whizzer, Marvin & Jason
A Marriage Proposal	Mendel & Trina
A Tight-Knit Family (<i>reprise</i>)	Marvin & Mendel
Trina's Song	Trina
March of the Falsettos	Marvin, Whizzer, Jason & Mendel
Trina's Reprise	Trina
The Chess Game.....	Marvin & Whizzer
Making a Home.....	Mendel, Trina, Jason & Whizzer
The Games I Play	Whizzer
Marvin Goes Crazy	Marvin, Whizzer, Jason, Mendel & Trina
I Never Wanted to Love You	Trina, Mendel, Jason, Whizzer & Marvin
Father to Son	Jason & Marvin

15-Minute Intermission

Concessions at the rear of the theater provided by Ambition Café and Bistro

Act 2

Welcome to Falsettoland	Company
The Year of the Child	Jason, Trina, Marvin, Mendel, Dr. Charlotte & Cordelia
Miracle of Judaism	Jason
The Baseball Game	Company
A Day in Falsettoland	Company
Everyone Hates His Parents	Mendel, Jason, Marvin & Trina
What More Can I Say?	Marvin
Something Bad is Happening	Dr. Charlotte, Cordelia, Marvin & Whizzer
Holding to the Ground	Trina
Days Like This	Company
Canceling the Bar Mitzvah	Jason, Mendel & Trina
Unlikely Lovers	Marvin, Whizzer, Dr. Charlotte, Cordelia
Another Miracle of Judaism	Jason
You Gotta Die Sometime	Whizzer
Jason's Bar Mitzvah	Company
What Would I Do?	Marvin & Whizzer

CAST & CREW



Standing: David Caso, Elisa Verb, Tom Moeller

Sitting: John Meglino, Debbie Paniccia, Leslie Eliashuk, Melissa Mason Lacijan

Floor: Jennifer Canale, Abbi Roy



Standing: Sean Koehler Obach, Jennie Sinnott, Maura Pickett

Sitting: Shawn Olander-Hahn, Brittany Glenn, Michael Camelo, Erica Buda-Doran

Floor: Charlie Palmer, Helen Annely, Julian Hugo-Perez

Photo by **Best Frame Forward**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

DECEMBER 2024: REGENERON PHARMACEUTICALS



Regeneron Pharmaceuticals holds an annual volunteer event called Day For Doing Good. Each October, Regeneron employees dedicate their time and skills to support their local communities. Since 2022, SLOC has been fortunate to be a benefactor of Regeneron's generous volunteer efforts. A handful of volunteers spend a full day at SLOC, cleaning up our campus and removing any unwanted clutter. They have tackled projects ranging from deep-cleaning our balconies to clearing debris from our grounds. Virtually anything our theater needs cleaned, they happily take care of. Regeneron

provides all of the tools and supplies necessary for the clean up day so there is never any cost to SLOC. We thank SLOC board member Michaela Torres for taking the lead to organize this event each year. We're grateful to the Regeneron team for supporting SLOC and keeping our campus a clean and welcome place.

JANUARY 2025: JENNIE SINNOTT

Though **JENNIE SINNOTT** is new to our SLOC family, she has made a tremendous impact in a short amount of time. Throughout the production process of *Mean Girls High School Version*, Jennie volunteered her time assisting with set builds, painting, and costume projects. As the Set Designer for *Falsettos*, she has created a unique and multi-functional set that plays no small role in telling the story. What sets Jennie apart from other set designers is her unwavering commitment and collaboration with all technical designers and the production team. She has thrown her passion into her work, spending countless hours building and implementing new concepts to improve this production (and our theater). Despite her recent contributions to SLOC, Jennie is no stranger to our theater community, having designed recent sets for Albany Civic Theater, Home Made Theater, Sand Lake Center for the Arts, and Schenectady Civic Players to name a few. We are incredibly grateful for the time and talent Jennie has graciously shared with us this season and we hope she will return to SLOC again soon. We can't wait to see what her creative mind comes up with next!



The cast & crew of *Falsettos* sincerely thank the following individuals and organizations for their invaluable contributions to this production:

- ❖ Schenectady Civic Players ❖ Sand Lake Center for the Arts ❖
- ❖ Mountain View Group ❖ Home Made Theater ❖
- ❖ Footloose Theater Program ❖
- ❖ Jake Foster ❖ Henry Lacijan ❖ Peter Lacijan ❖ Mindy Lam ❖
- ❖ Allison McArdle Avery ❖ Steve Paniccia ❖

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

HELEN ANNELY (*Dr. Charlotte*) [she/her] is the cast newb at SLOC. Previous roles include Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, Saraghina in *Nine*, Alison Bechdel in *Fun Home*, and Becca in *Rabbit Hole*. Helen would like to thank her husband and daughter for being so supportive, her family and friends for all of their confidence boosts, and the cast, crew, and production team of *Falsettos* for being such an amazing and positive group to work with.

ERICA BUDA-DORAN (*Cordelia*) [she/her] is thrilled to be returning to the SLOC stage after her last appearance as Rosie in *The Wedding Singer*! Favorite past SLOC credits include *9 to 5* (Doralee Rhodes), *42nd Street* (Phyllis Dale), and *Into the Woods* (Baker's Wife). Other cherished roles include *Guys and Dolls* (Sarah Brown), *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Hermia), and *Marvelous Wonderettes* (Betty Jean). Erica studied Music Education and Theatre at SUNY Fredonia and earned her Masters' degree in Music Education from The College of Saint Rose. She is a former NFL Cheerleader and is now a K-4 music teacher. Thank you to Melissa and Leslie for this opportunity and to this production's "tight knit family" for making it so amazing. An enormous thank you and lots of love goes to Stephen, Cameron, and Stella! "ILY!"

MICHAEL CAMELO (*Mendel*) [he/him] is a man of many talents, currently juggling the roles of Sr. Director of Business and Strategic Analytics at Excelsior University and Drama Club Director at Scotia-Glenville High School. When he's not crunching numbers or directing the next big show, he's probably belting out a tune. Past roles: Roger De Bris in *The Producers*, Matt in *The Fantasticks*, Austin Bennett in *I Love You Because*, Herbie in *Gypsy*, Reverend Shaw in *Footloose*, Jason in *Ordinary Days*, and Rod in *Avenue Q*. Michael is also the artistic director and has directed *Sister Act* and *How to Succeed...* at SLOC. He extends his gratitude to his family, friends, and friends who are like family, especially Nick and Estelle.

JENNIFER CANALE (*Hair & Make-up Designer*) [she/her] is thrilled to be with SLOC for her collaboration on *Falsettos*. Jennie is currently a hairstylist in Rotterdam but still loves to help with local theater. Past hair and make-up credits include *Beauty and the Beast* (Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons), *A Funny Thing...Forum* (NSCP), *Ragtime* (SLCA), *The 25th Annual...Spelling Bee* (Steamer No.10 Theatre), and *Matilda* (SLOC). "Thank you to all of my friends, family, and my salon family. This has been a wonderful experience."

DAVID CASO (*Lighting Designer*) [he/him] comes into this production after recent shows such as *Maggie May*, *In the Blood*, and *A Moon for the Misbegotten*. *Falsettos* is his second collaboration with Melissa and his third musical at SLOC, including *Merrily We Roll Along* and *It Shoulda Been You*. He has also provided lighting for the musical fundraisers. A shout out to the SLOC tech team for all the support as well as Cheryl's unwavering support.

BRITTANY GLENN (*Trina*) [she/her] returns to the stage as yet another quirky mom, after having played Mrs. Wormwood in SLOC's production of *Matilda* last September. Other SLOC credits include Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* and Jolene in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Other favorite past credits include Susan in *Wait Until Dark* (CCT), Fiona in *Shrek the Musical* (HMT), Violet in *Violet* (NSCP), and Gwendolyn in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (CCT). Brittany would like to thank the creative team and her cast mates for making this an unforgettable experience.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

JULIAN HUGO-PEREZ (*Whizzer*) [he/him] This is Julian's third show at SLOC, where you may have seen him as Ernst in *Spring Awakening*. You may also have seen him at Colonial Little Theatre where he recently played Pythio in CLT's production of *Head Over Heels*. Julian is excited to be a part of such a wonderful and talented cast. He thanks the cast, production team, and his friends and family for always supporting him and guiding him along the way.

MELISSA MASON LACIJAN (Director/Choreographer) has been involved in the Capital District theater scene for over 40 years, and has served in the capacity of actress, director, and choreographer for many local entities, including SLOC, SCP, HMT, and ACT. Her last directorial turn was *Becky's New Car* at SCP. She is thrilled to be directing again on the SLOC stage, having last helmed the 1999 production of *Forever Plaid*. Melissa's involvement at SLOC began when she painted sets for the 1982 production of *Grease*. She served on SLOC's Board for several years as VP Publicity (back in the pre-social media days) and served one term as President. She is grateful to her production team for sharing their immense talents, and to Peter, Sophie, and Henry for their love and support.

LESLIE ELIASHUK (*Music Director*) [she/her] is excited to be making her music directorial debut with SLOC, though she is no stranger to the SLOC stage. Past SLOC credits include Pennywise in *Urinetown*, Shirley in *The Producers*, and Carrie in *Carousel*. Other favorite roles include Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical*, Rosie in *Mamma Mia*, and Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible*. Leslie is a music educator, private voice teacher, and has been a guest conductor throughout New York State.

JOHN MEGLINO (*Co-Producer*) [he/him] Since his SLOC debut in 2017, John has spent the past eight years volunteering his time and talent to our theater in numerous capacities. While he has not performed in a main stage production

since 2022's *Merrily We Roll Along*, John has kept busy behind the scenes; producing shows, designing marketing material, and serving on SLOC's board of directors as president. John is proud to be a part of this incredibly talented *Falsettos* team! A special shout out to his adorable daughter, Hailey!

TOM MOELLER (*Sound Designer*) [he/him] While Tom was running sound for his SLOC debut show, *Spring Awakening*, last January, Melissa asked if he'd come back for *Falsettos* - and here we are again! Over the past 8 years, he has done sound design in a variety of spaces for Home Made Theater, Fort Salem Theater, Schuylerville Community Theater, and many local school groups. Thanks to Katie and Anne-Marie for their help and support (and mic tape)!

SEAN KOEHLER OBACH (*Accompanist*) attended the College of St. Rose and received his BA in Music with minors in Chemistry and Computer Science, and a MS in Computer Information Technology. He studied classical piano under Dr. Young Kim and was the recipient of the Outstanding Musician award at the 2012 National Music Festival. Theater credits include: *A Chorus Line*, *Ragtime*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (JSSFA); *Altar Boyz* (Albany Civic Theater); *A Funny Thing...Forum* and *Nice Work if You Can Get It* (Not So Common Players); and *The Glorious Ones*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *The Wedding Singer*, *It Shoulda Been You*, *Tarzan*, and *Fun Home* (SLOC). Thank you to all that make these musicals possible and keep the arts alive and thriving.

SHAWN OLANDER-HAHN (*Marvin*) [he/him] is originally from Michigan's Upper Peninsula (Yah, eh?) and has lived in the Capital District since 2002. He's very grateful to return for his 12th SLOC production. Previous SLOC productions include Fredrik in *A Little Night Music*, Cinderella's Prince/Wolf in *Into the Woods*, Billy in *Carousel*, and Stone in *City of Angels*. Other notable roles include Anatoly in *Chess* (NSCP) and Gordon in *A New Brain* (Class Act). He's very thankful

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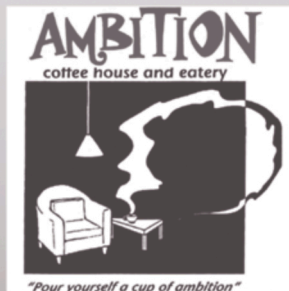
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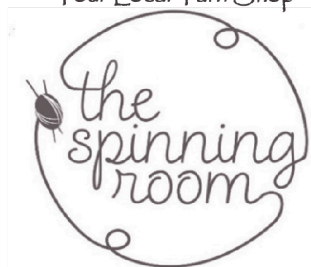
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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

to have this show at this moment in history and thinks it's been a dream working with this cast and crew (including, of course, his TCF). Much thanks to Joey, ILY!

CHARLIE PALMER (*Jason*) [he/him] is honored to be back on the SLOC stage in *Falsettos*! Previously, he played Mason in *School of Rock* and Nigel in *Matilda* with SLOC. Charlie has been performing since age 6 and has appeared in 18 shows. Some of his favorite roles include John in *Peter Pan* (HMT), Charlie Brown in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (MCPA), and Flounder in *The Little Mermaid* (CDAI). He hopes *Falsettos* inspires everyone to be themselves and embrace unconditional love. Charlie is grateful to the cast, crew, and his family for their support.

DEBBIE PANICCIA (*Co-Producer*) is so excited and grateful to be working with this amazing cast and production team for *Falsettos*! She was seen most recently behind the scenes as a Co-Stage Manager for *Joseph... Dreamcoat* (SLOC) as well as a Co-Producer for *Fun Home* (SLOC). In 2023, she played one of her favorite roles as Aunt Sheila at SLOC in *It Shoulda Been You*. She has also served as an Assistant Director for *A Funny Thing...Forum* (at SLOC and NSCP), and *Merrily We Roll Along* (SLOC). Deb also enjoys singing in the Clifton Park Community Chorus! She would like to thank her family for supporting her never-ending love of theater!

MAURA PICKETT (*Property Designer*) is excited to be making her SLOC debut doing props. She was honored to be asked, and she thanks Melissa for giving her this opportunity. She has worked props for over 30 years. Her latest was *Secret Garden* for Home Made Theater. Her favorite (with possibly the most props ever) was *Night Mother* at HMT, but all are fun in their own way. She has also worked lights, set, and stage management for SCT, Family Players of NENY, Ghent Playhouse, Sand Lake Arts Center, and Santa's Magical Express.

Maura is particularly excited to be working with Erica Buda-Doran, her favorite director, but as an actor. Maura did costumes and props for many years with her at Lisha Kill Middle School. Thank you to the SLOC family for letting her join their production team.

ABBI ROY (*Stage Manager*) [she/her] is beyond excited to be stage managing her first production with SLOC! Favorite acting credits include *August: Osage County* (Johnna Monevata), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *Barefoot in the Park* (Cori), *The Crucible* (Abigail Williams), *Comedy of Tenors* (Mimi), and *Grand Concourse* (Emma). She wants to thank her wonderful cast and crew for making this production such a memorable experience.

JENNIE SINNOTT (*Set Designer*) [she/her] is pleased to welcome you to Falsettoland for her first SLOC production! Recent set design credits include Harbinger's *Maggie May* with Albany Civic Theater, Schenectady Civic Players' *August: Osage County*, Harbinger's *Dig* at Sand Lake Center for the Arts and Home Made Theater's *Nine*. Jennie would like to thank Doug and the construction team for their hard work, as well as her family for their patience and high tolerance for neglect during build season.

ELISA VERB (*Costume Designer*) [she/her] did her very first show at SLOC, *Nunsense*, almost 30 years ago. It was on the schedule right before *Falsettos* and Melissa Mason was her castmate. She is thrilled to come full circle with her and so many new and old friends. Elisa has worked with SLOC, Park Playhouse, Steamer No.10, Circle Theater Players, HMT, NSCP, and many others. She is a cantorial vocalist and early childhood education specialist at Congregation Gates of Heaven in Schenectady.

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