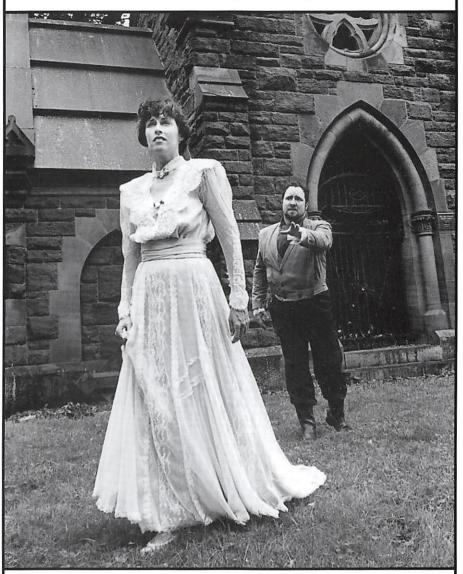
# Jane Eyre



### Schenectady Light Opera Company

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### From the President



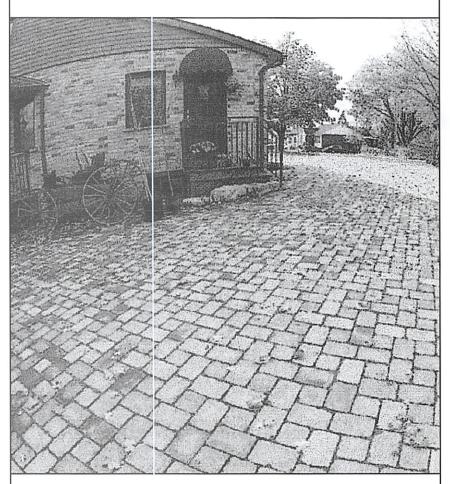


Welcome to our first production of the 77th season. I think SLOC has selected a terrific season of entertainment for our patrons this year starting with the area premiere of *Jane Eyre* tonight. The dark and brooding Victorian story of love beyond bounds has been transformed into a moving musical drama.

The support of our patrons through attendance and generous gifts to SLOC has enabled the company to continue to provide innovative and entertaining productions throughout the long history of the company. In store for you later this season are: *Babes in Arms*, the old Rodgers and Hart chestnut filled with music that is still being recorded by contemporary artists today; *Drood!*, the adaptation of Dickens unfinished novel, **The Mystery of Edwin Drood** where the audience gets to vote on how each performance will end; and *Victor/Victoria*, the musical that brought Julie Andrews back to Broadway. I'm sure you will not want to miss any of these productions. To get the best seats in the house, consider becoming a season subscriber. Subscritions are \$54, a saving of \$18 over the purchase of individual shows for the season. That allows you to see all four of our productions this year.

And better yet... your single ticket purchase tonight will be credited to a full subscrition by mailing tonight's ticket stub along with your order. Brochures with order forms are available in the lobby or ask any usher for assistance. And why not consider a contribution at the same time? All gifts are tax deductible and for GE employees and retirees, your gift will be matched, doubling your contribution. Your continued support will allow us to bring you quality musical theater entertainment at a reasonable cost. I hope you enjoy the performance and see you again in December for our production of *Babes in Arms* and the other terrific shows we have in store for you this season.

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#### SLOC's 77th Season



Schenectady Light Opera Company opens its 77th Musical Theater Season in October with a musical adaptation of *Jane Eyre*, the classical Victoria novel by Charlotte Bronte–full of mystery, romance, and haunting music. A young women overcomes her past only to be thrust into the nightmare of the man she loves.

In December, we continue our tradition of family fare with an "old chestnut"-Rodgers' and Harts' *Babes in Arms*. Babes is

the quintessential "let's put on a show in the barn" story made famous on film by the young team of Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney. Songs such as "My Funny Valentine" and "The Lady is a Tramp," put back into their original setting within a charming plot, will carry you back to those carefree days of youth.

Our third production of the season will take you to the bawdy Victorian musical hall for **The Mystery of Edwin Drood**. Based on the unfinished Charles Dickens' novel by the same title, each night the audience decides who the murderer will be! Written by Rupert Holmes (remember the "Pina Colada" song from the '80s?), **Drood** promises to keep the audience members riveted to their seats until the murderer is revealed.

Our closing production will be *Victor/Victoria*, an ambitious choice, based on the Blake Edwards/Julie Andrew movie. A down-and-out female opera singer pairs with an enterprising manager and becomes a cabaret success—by performing as a man dressed as a woman. The premise keeps the plot twisting as love, jealousy, fame, mistaken identity and fortune hang on for the ride. **Join us**!

## For your safety and enjoyment...



There is **NO SMOKING** in the building at any time. **NO CAMERAS** or other recording devices may be used during any performances.

Coatracks, restrooms and concessions are downstairs.

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.



### From the Director

I have to admit, I never read the novel Jane Eyre, so it never occurred to me that I would one day be directing a musical version of the story. It was quite by chance that I came across this wonderful music.

I had ordered a replacement CD of Jane Eyre, for my wife Joanne, after her CD was accidentally broken. The CD came in the mail addressed to me, so I opened the package when it arrived and popped it in the CD player. I just was curious to see what had so captivated her.

After only the fourth song, Helen's "Forgiveness", I was in love with this musical. It's dark and soulful melodies are so passionate and hypnotic. It's themes of love, forgiveness, and redemption are as timely today as when Charlotte Bronte first wrote of them in the early part of the 19th Century. I told my wife, "I have to direct this someday!" I have so longed to direct a dramatic musical that I jumped at the chance when Jane Eyre became available for the first time only months ago.

I sincerely hope that you, "Gentle Audience", will find Jane Eyre's music and haunting songs as beautiful as I have.

Michael C. Mensching

# Jane Eyre Pactoids

- \* Paul Gordon (music and lyrics) devised the idea for a Jane Eyre musical while browsing through a book kiosk in the Los Angeles airport on New Year's Day in 1991
- \* Paul Gordon is an LA based songwriter whose works have been performed by Bette Midler, Amy Grant, and Quincy Jones, among many others.
- \* The musical premiered in Toronto in December 1996 and opened on Broadway in December 2000.

#### Thank You, Benefactors



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### Schenectady Light Opera Company

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#### Jane Evre

October 17-19 and 23-26

#### Bahes in Arms

December 5-7 and 11-14

#### The Mystery of Edwin Drood

March 5-7 and 11-14

#### Victor, Victoria

April 30, May 1-2 and May 6-9

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#### Babes in Arms

Director: Jennifer Depew (456-5504)

Producer: Jodi Gilman (869-4074) Tickets: Della Gilman (280-8076)

#### The Mystery of Edwin Drood

Director: Joe Phillips (464-2698)

Producer: Pete Codella (346-5461)

Tickets: Jean Clarke (399-9359)

Auditions: Dec. 8&9

#### Victor, Victoria

Director: Laura Andruski (383-8277)

Producer: Melinda Zarnoch (382-8497)

Tickets: Paige Gauvreau (377-5101)

Auditions: Feb. 3.5

#### **Newletter Committee:**

Jill Coloney et al. jac12661@aol.com 92 Cooks Court. Waterford NY 12188



By John Caird & Paul Gordon

Music & Lyrics by Paul Gordon
Book & Additional Lyrics by John Caird
Vocal & Incidental Music Arrangements by Steven Tyler
Orchestrations by Larry Hochman
From the Novel by Charlotte Bronte
Presented by Schenectady Light Opera Company

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Music Theatre International

421 West 54th Street\* New York, NY 10019

Musical Director: Joanne Mensching

Musicians:

Joanne Mensching - Piano Cookie Sears - Keyboard Ellen Rizzo - Reeds

### Musical



**Setting Time and Place:** Jane Eyre takes place in England in the 1820s at Gateshead Hall, Lowood School, Thornfield Hall and the surrounding moors of North Yorkshire.

#### ACT 1

Prologue: Gateshead Hall
JaneRochester
The AtticJane, Brocklehurst
Scene 1: Lowood School
Children of GodSchoolgirls, Scatcherd, Brocklehurst, Mrs. Reed, Ensemble
Forgiveness Helen
Willing To Be Brave
Scene 2: Outside at Lowood School
The Death of Helen Burns
Scene 3: A Graveyard
The Graveside
Sweet Liberty
Scene 4: Thornfield Hall
Secrets of the House
Perfectly NiceMrs. Fairfax, Jane, Adele
Scene 5: Out on the Moors
The Icy Lane
An Incident Has Come and Gone
Scene 6: Thornfield Hall
The Master Returns
The Captive Bird
Scene 7: In the Drawing Room
As Good As You
Scene 8: In the Bedrooms
Your Word to God/ The FireJane, Bertha, Ensemble
After the Fire
Secret Soul
Scene 9: Jane's Bedroom, Downstairs
Society's Best
Galloping up to the Drive
The Finer ThingsBlanche
Scene 10: Main Salon of Thornfield Hall
Oh, How You Look in the LightBlanche, Rochester, Ensemble
The PledgeJane, Rochester
Sirens

### Numbers



**Intermission** (15 Minutes): Refreshments are available downstairs at the concessions bar in the Green Room. Restrooms are downstairs near the stairwells.

#### ACT 2

Scene 1: Thornfield Hall
Sympathies Exist Ensemble
The ScreamRochester, Mason, Bertha, Ensemble
Scene 2: Corridors of Thornfield Hall
Painting Her PortraitJane
Scene 3: Garden of Thornfield Hall
In the Light of the Virgin MorningBlanche, Jane
Scene 4: The Gypsy
The Gypsy
Scene 5: Into the Garden
My Hope of Heaven
Scene 6: Morning Light
The Chestnut TreeGrace Poole, Ensemble
Slip of a Girl
Scene 7: The Wedding
The Wedding Ensemble
Scene 8: In the Attic
The Secret of the House/Wild Boy
Sail AwayJane, Rochester
Farewell Good Angel
Scene 9: The Fall, the Fire, then Jane Wandering
The Fall/ Rain
Scene 10: Gateshead Hall
Gateshead Revisited Ensemble
The Death of Mrs. ReedJane, Ensemble
Scene 11: Out Onto the Moors
The Voice Across the Moors
Scene 12: The Ruins of Thornfield Hall
Return to ThornfieldMrs. Fairfax, Jane
Scene 13: In the Garden
Brave Enough For Love

After the Show, you are invited to come downstairs to the Green Room to meet the cast and staff of this production.



# Production Staff

Mana Eura
Jane Cyre
O A Musical J

Co-Producers	Ferne Dutkin and Michael McDermott
Director	Michael C. Mensching
	Joanne Mensching
	Ferne Dutkin
Set Designer	Dale Conklin
Set Construction CrewMary	Kozlowski, Richard Lenehan, Joyce Van Amburg,
Michael Mc De	rmott, Barbara Mahlman, Michael Mensching
Costume Designer	Connie Rowe Rauhauser
Lighting Designer	Greg Rucinski
Lighting Crew:Bill Deper	v, Jeff Rauhauser, Richard Gatta, Sue Rucinski
	Peggy Moore
	Whitney Maunu
	Ric Bello
Assisted by: Scott and Janet Bell	
	Kathleen and Bob Stern
	Marcia Lenehan
Assisted By: Sheila Bouchard	
	John Fowler
Assisted by: Katherine Zaleski	
	Marlene Countermine
	Eunice Chouffi
	lersen, Paige and Art Gavreau, Rita and
Paul Croteau	
	Joanne Mensching and Kate Kaufman Burns
	Paige Gauvreau
	Sue Culver
Assisted by: Chris Pederson, Ni	
	Richard Lenehan, Tom HeckertNY Press & Graphics
	Michael McDermott, Richard Lenehan,
Show I ublicity	Ferne Dutkin, Denise Maksail
Print Advertising	Peter J. Codella
	McDermott, Ferne Dutkin & Richard Lenehan
	Tim Raab & Northern Photo
	Ginnie Mills
	Tom Heckert
	Melinda Zarnoch
Cast PartyDonna Gould Ca	arsten, Michael McDermott and Ferne Dutkin
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## The Cast

# Jane Eyre

#### (In order of Appearance)

Jane Eyre	JOAN HORGAN
Young Jane	
John Reed	
Mrs. Reed	LISA PASSONNO FRANKLIN
Mr. Brocklehurst	NEILSON JONES
Miss Scatcherd	
Marigold	DEB WEISKOPF
Helen Burns	
School Girls	JULIA FRANKLIN
	COURTNEY HALSDORF
	MICHELLE OPPEDISANO
	AMY RAGULE
Mrs. Fairfax	CAROL CHARNIGA
Robert	DAVE DIXON
Adele	COURTNEY HALSDORF
Grace Poole	
Edward Fairfax Rochester	JOHN ANTHONY LOPEZ
Blanche Ingram	KATE KAUFMAN BURNS
Lady Ingram	LISA PASSONNO FRANKLIN
Lord Ingram	MICHAEL WESSELS
Mary Ingram	
Mr. Eshton	NEILSON JONES
Louisa Eshton	MICHELLE OPPEDISANO
Amy Eshton	AMY RAGULE
Colonel Dent	MARTY O'CONNOR
Mrs. Dent	DONNA GOULD CARSTEN
Mason	ROSS M. SNYDER
Bertha	DEB WEISKOPF
Vicar	MARTY O'CONNOR
St. John Rivers	
Sarah	
Lydia	MARLENE COUNTERMINE

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# The Cast and Staff

#### October 17-1



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# Jane Eyre

#### Production Staff Biographies

**Ferne L. Dutkin (Co-Producer, Assistant Director)** is pleased to be involved with her first SLOC production, having spent over a dozen years working in community theater with Spotlight Players. She has performed onstage and produced numerous musicals. Ferne would like to thank her husband, Ric, for his support. Thanks Mike and Mike and the great cast and crew. Hail to Tahoma!

Michael Aloysius McDermott (Co-Producer) is pleased to be back at SLOC where he produced *Forum* last season. Michael is the past president of Albany Civic Theater, where he also was featured in *The Rainmaker* and Peter Tyger's *American Dream*. He was most recently seen in *The Fantastiks* at Schenectady Civic Players. Michael is the Vice President of Business Development for Prentice Hall Publishers. Thanks thanks to Senor M for his ongoing support and friendship and to Trevor for his wisdom.

**Joanne Mensching (Musical Director)** has performed with many local theater groups on stage and in the "Pit". She was last seen at SLOC as one of the Angel City 4 in *City of Angels*. She is very happy to get a chance to work with her husband once again. Love to Drew and Brady.

**Michael C. Mensching (Director)** is pleased to be directing his second show at SLOC, having directed *Forum* last season. Mike has also appeared on SLOC's stage as Toby in *Sweeney Todd*, Lucky in *Little Me*, and *The Melody Lingers On*. His high school productions won the SLOC award for best area high school musical in 1999 and 2000. This spring he will be directing the original *Nunsense* for Columbia Civic Players. Love to the Penguins.

# Jane Eyre Pactoids

- \* While *Jane Eyre* was nominated for several awards, it won almost nothing because it has the misfortune of opening the same season as *The Producers*.
- \*The crew of the Broadway production was made up of many Les Miserables veterans, including John Caird (book, lyrics, and direction), John Napier (sets), and Andreane Neofitou (costumes).
- \* Though the musical only ran for 6 months, it retains a large cult following.

#### Cast Biographies



**Kate Kaufman Burns** (Blanche Ingram) is pleased to be back on stage having recently musically directed, *City of Angels* at SLOC. Kate has most recently performed the roles of Lily in *Secret Garden*, Sr. Mary Hubert in *Nuncrackers*, Sarah in *Guys 'N' Dolls*, Rose in *Meet Me In St. Louis*, and was featured in *Starting Here*, *Starting Now*. Love to Olivia and thanks to her family.

**Donna Gould Carsten** (Scatcherd, Mrs. Dent, Ensemble) is making her third appearance at SLOC. She has performed in various little theatre productions but her favorite role was that of Princess Winifred in *Once Upon a Mattress*. Donna lives in East Berne. Thanks to husband, John.

Carol Charniga (Mrs. Fairfax) has appeared locally at most area theaters, and at SLOC has performed in *Man of LaMancha*, *Me and My Girl*, The 75th Birthday Bash and co-directed/choreographed *On the 20th Century*. As the title character in a biographical play about Henrietta Szold, Carol has performed in 6 states and New York City. Thanks to Shawn, Lindsay, and Bryn.

Marlene Countermine (Rehearsal Secretary, Ensemble) has been in SLOC productions since 1972, starting with *Hello, Dolly*. Other credits on stage include *Funny Girl, Fiddler on the Roof, Gypsy, George M, Promises, Promises, Carnival, On a Clear Day, Half a Sixpence, No, No, Nanette* and *Peter Pan*. She has been the rehearsal secretary for all but one show for the last two seasons for SLOC.

Dave Dixon (Robert) Favorite roles include: *The Rocky Horror Show* (Brad); *Company*; (Peter); *Once on this Island*; (Armand); *Mack & Mabel* (Frank). Dave received a TANYS award for SLOC's *Follies* (Young Ben). Thanks to Val for encouraging me to see *Jane Eyre* in NYC. This is for Thomas.

Courtney Halsdorf (School Girl, Adele) is happy to make her second appearance at SLOC in *Jane Eyre*. In 2002 she played Louise Lerman in *Ruthless!* at SLOC. A senior at Burnt Hills, she has performed in *The Crucible* (Abigail) and *Into the Woods* (Step Mother). Thanks to her parents and Mrs. Laurie Larson.

**Lisa Passonno Franklin** (Mrs. Reed, Lady Ingram) is back again in her second SLOC performance, having appeared as Guenevere in *Camelot* in 2001. Lisa has also performed recently with C-R Productions in *Into the Woods*, at The Mac-Haydn Theatre and with Family Players of NENY. Lisa gives private voice lessons at her studio and teaches general music at St. Pius X School in Loudonville. Thanks to her husband, Paul.

#### Cast Biographies



**Julia Franklin** (Ensemble, School Girl) last appeared at SLOC in *Camelot*. Other roles include Princess Ying Yaowlak in *The King and I* and *Some Enchanted Evening* with the Family Players of NENY, *The Secret Garden* in 2002 with the Spotlight Players, *Ransom of Red Chief* at Mac-Haydn. Thanks to her family.

**Joan Horgan** (Jane Eyre) has had the wonderful opportunity to play interesting and powerful women here on the SLOC stage and the part of Jane Eyre is no exception. She played the parts of Eva Peron in *Evita*, The Witch in *Into the Woods*, Trina in *Falsettos*, and most recently Bobbi/Gabby in *City of Angels*. These parts and many others have added joy and richness to life. Joan is very grateful for all of these opportunities and to the friends and family who make it all worthwhile.

**Neilson Jones** (St. John, Brocklehurst, Ensemble) is thrilled to be making his SLOC debut with *Jane Eyre*. Neil is an Actors' Equity Association membership candidate and his regional theater credits include Charlie in Wayside Theater's production of *Tintypes*. Thanks to his family, friends, and coworkers.

**John Anthony Lopez** (**Rochester**) is a lyric tenor and a graduate of the Crane School of Music. He has performed with New York Concert Artists, Overlook Lyric Theatre, Park Playhouse, the SLOC, The Theater Company at Hubbard Hall, Opera Excelsior, and the Glimmerglass Opera, and soloist with the Glens Falls Symphony, the Schenectady Symphony and numerous choral ensembles. His performance résumé ranges from *The Magic Flute* to *My Fair Lady*, and from Bach to Bernstein. John currently teaches art and directs the drama program in the Voorheesville Central School District.

Christina Nicotina (Grace Poole, Mary, Ensemble) marks her debut performance with SLOC. She is the recipient of the Joel Dolven Vocal Award for Advanced Female (2003) and has soloed throughout the Capital District. Christina currently teaches voice, piano, and musical theater for children at SCCC as well as Kindermusik in Albany.

**Eileen O'Connor (Young Jane)** is happy to be making her SLOC debut! Some of her favorite roles have been Kate, Molly, and Duffy in The National Tour of *Annie*, Brigitta in *The Sound of Music* and Mary in *The Secret Garden* at Mac-Haydn Theatre, Rebecca in *Our Town* at Schenectady Civic. Thanks to Mrs. Bush and her family.

#### Cast Biographies



Marty O'Connor (Vicar, Mr. Dent, Ensemble) has been in several SLOC productions including *Guys and Dolls*, *Me and My Girl* and *On the 20th Century*. He has also done a few shows at Schenectady Civic and with the Family Players. Thanks to his wife Patrice, son Rory, and daughter Eileen.

Michelle Oppedisano (School Girl, Louisa, Ensemble) is a junior at Shaker High School and is back again at SLOC, having appeared in *Camelot* and *Big River*. High school roles include *How to Succeed* (Smitty) and *Zombie Prom* (Ginger). Her summer was spent at the La Jolla Playhouse Acting Conservatory, a 5 week acting program in San Diego. Thanks to her parents.

**Amy Ragule** (School Girl, Amy, Ensemble,) has appeared with Family Players in *Annie* and *The King and I*, and at Holy Names in *Cinderella*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Oliver!*. She recently was little Cosette in the Voorheesville High School production of *Les Mis*. Thanks to her parents.

Rachel Rhodes-Devey (Helen Burns) is a junior at the Academy of the Holy Names and is thrilled to be in her first SLOC production. She has appeared in over 20 productions in companies such as NYS Theatre Institute, Mac-Hadyn Theatre and others. Thanks to her parents.

Ross M. Snyder (Mr. Mason, Ensemble) is performing in his fifth show for SLOC. Past performances include: *The Melody Lingers On, Recess, On the 20th Century, The Mikado*, and *She Loves Me*. He has also been seen in a variety of productions with other theater groups in the Capital District. Thanks to his wife.

**Tracy Solarek** (Sarah, Ensemble) is a new comer to SLOC and excited to be a part of *Jane Eyre*. Over the past two years, Tracy was a part of the Albany Ensemble, an opera and musical theater group. Thanks to family, friends and PITA.

**Deb Weiskopf** (**Bertha, Ensemble**) marks her sixth show here on SLOC's stage. Deb, a current board member and Vice President of Company Operations, has been an active member for seven years and would like to thank all of the people who volunteer their time to work behind the scenes. Thanks to her family.

Michael Wessells (Young John Reed, Lord Ingram, Ensemble) is a student at Shenendehowa, and excited to be in his first show at SLOC. At Shenendehowa, he has been seen as Harold Hill in the *Music Man*, the Chef in *Cinderella*, and in *Guys and Dolls*.

# Jane Eyre

#### **Production Biographies**

**Eric Bello (Sound Designer)** is very happy to be a part of such a talented cast and production team. He worked on eight musicals with Spotlight Players. This is his first production with SLOC. Thanks to his wife, Ferne, and the cast and crew.

**Dale Conklin** (Scenic Design) marks his 7th run at the SLOC boards and is truly thrilled to be involved with this production. This season Dale will also design and construct *Cloud 9, Two Rooms, Book of Days* and the *Laramie Project* throughout various Capital District venues. As always, Dale is extremely dedicated to all his incredible construction help, that have been brave enough to love the work, the blood, sweat and tears.

Marcia Lenehan (Makeup Design) Makeup credits include SLOC productions: Meet Me in St. Louis, Follies, Robber Bridegroom, Tommy, Little Me, Big River, Camelot, Ruthless! Damn Yankees, Company, Forum, and Zombie Prom. Other credits include Family Players (Annie and Oliver), Village Stage (Fantastiks), Hilltowns Players, and The Not So Common Players (South Pacific) of Clifton Park. Thanks to Dave Harrison.

Whitney Maunu (Assistant Stage Manager) is a 10th grader at Chatham High School and involved in all aspects of theatrical production. Most recent shows include, *Forum* (SLOC), *Titanic*, *Les Miserables*, and *Hamlet*. She also plays girls varsity tennis, dance and she works in the aquarium at the Berkshire Museum.

**Peggy Moore** (**Stage Manager**) marks her second SLOC gig after working on *Forum*. As a director, producer or stage manager of over 20 productions, Peggy's objective is to promote a love for the spoken word and the necessary cooperation and mutual respect needed between actors, crew, and production staff

**Connie Rowe Rauhauser** (**Costume Design**) returns to SLOC after having designed costumes for last season's *Forum*. Previous SLOC costume credits include *Follies* and *Little Me*, among others.

**Greg Rueinski** (Lighting Designer) has worked on may aspects of production at SLOC since 1979, including the lighting designs for twenty shows. He is also Co-Chair for SLOC's High School Music Awards Program with his wife, Sue, whom he met during SLOC's 1981 production of *Candide*.

#### **Production Biographies**



**Deb Sklar** (**Technical Director**) is making her prduction debut at SLOC. She was involved in the technical aspects of theatre at Siena College many years ago. And currently she serves as Technical Director for the Drama Club at Rensselaer High School.

**Bob and Kathleen Stern (Properties)** hail their first show at SLOC, but they have been patrons of the theater for years. They have helped build sets and worked as volunteers on many shows. Thank their sons, Adam and Jordan.

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2003-2004

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V.P. of COMPANY OPERATIONS Deb Weiskopf Audition Arrangements Eunice Chouffi Membership Della Gilman Show T-shirts Virginia Mills Historian/Production Mugs Sally Farrell Sunshine Committee Chris Pedersen Opening Night Party Deb Weiskopf and Bonnie Williams Strike Party/Soda Machine Melinda Zarnoch
V.P. of FACILITIES

continued on next page



#### Company Operations 2003-2004

V.P. of PUBLIC RELATIONS	Richard Lenehan
Print Ads	Peter J. Codella
Newsletter	Jill Coloney
	•
V.P. of TECHNICAL	Brett Putnam and Ken Zarnoch
Costumes	Connie Rauhauser
Lighting	Greg Rucinski
Props	
Makeup	
Sound	Dave Wilkinson

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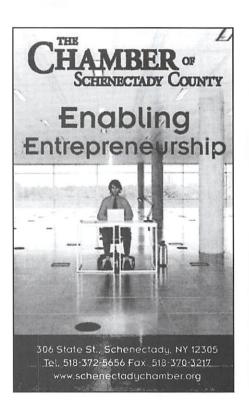


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