SCHENECTADY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY

PRESENTS 2008-2009 SEASON



OCTOBER 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 AND 12, 2008



DECEMBER 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 AND 14, 2008



JANUARY 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 AND 18, 2009 (CABARET STYLE)



MARCH 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 AND 15, 2009



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SCHENECTADY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY PRESENTS



Production conception, English Lyrics, additional material by Eric Blau and Mort Shuman, Based on Jacques Brel's lyrics and commentary, Music by Jacques Brel

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

MUSICIANS: Andrea Merrill - Conductor Michael Atchley Joseph Hetko Tony Riccobono

THE VIDEOTAPING OR OTHER VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to an evening, or afternoon, of Jacques Brel's timeless music and lyrics. This is such a great collection of his works, we thought it would add to the nice variety of our 82nd season's productions. Plus, it is a great way to spice up January when you live in the Northeast! Brel calls for a very small cast, so they have to do a lot of work to carry this one off. My thanks to the cast, crew and production team for taking on this artistic piece of theater.



Robert C. Farquharson SLOC President

I also want to thank our patrons, season subscribers, donors and advertisers. We truly appreciate your continued support. If you are a first-time ticket holder, we hope you will join us again. Please note our advertisers and support them, too.

As Allan Foster, our Jacques Brel director, indicated: "This show was one of the first productions in this opera house." Our Show Selection committee thought it fitting to schedule this in one of our final seasons here. We know we are close to having a new SLOC home, but have not signed any contracts at this writing. "Stay tuned" is all I can say/write!

I also hope you will purchase tickets for our remaining shows of this season, which include Assassins, a heavy content done with light and dramatic musical fare, and The Scarlet Pimpernel, which is one of my favorite shows due to its wonderful music and story circling around the French Revolution.

Enjoy the show and thank you,

Robert C. Farquharson SLOC President

SPECIAL THANK YOU's

Lisha's Kill Reformed Church Greta Wagle, Flemish Coach Doug Hatch, Rehearsal Assistance All others who have assisted in this production including our Cabaret Staff



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris occupies a very special spot in SLOC history. Based on the songs of one of France's foremost writer/singers of the 1960-70's, it was the show that opened up this theater's current location in 1972. And with the possibility that SLOC will be moving, I thought it would be fitting to do Jacques Brel again some 37 years later.

However, I really didn't submit Jacques Brel only because of its SLOC connection. Rather, it was the opportunity for more people to hear his work. His songs are no less topical today than they were in the 70's. There is also the strange coincidence of an unpopular war going on at that time, much as there is today (he strongly opposed the Vietnam War, but did not write songs about it).



Allan D. Foster

Born in Belgium in 1929, Jacques Brel was groomed to take over the family cardboard box business. He was interested in music, however, and spurned the idea of life in the family factory. Performing and writing were his keys to freedom.

In his early twenties, Brel went to France and sang his songs in the taverns, cafes and inns of the villages of the French countryside. Bit by bit he built up a large and devoted audience, and became the leading "troubadour pop" singer and songwriter of France. He went on to Paris as a true star and made the city his home.

By 1959 he was famous in his native land, and his intriguing poetry and music had been discovered by U.S. producer Eric Blau and rock composer Mort Shuman (20 million discs, many of them for the likes of Elvis Presley and Ray Charles). They translated and adapted about 20 of Brel's songs into a musical cabaret format – the form of which you will see tonight. Brel gave his approval, and in 1967 the show opened at The Village Gate in New York where it ran to packed houses for five years. It then went on for appearances at Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and other cities around the world.

Jacques Brel died in 1978, but his music lives on. I have asked a number of Francophiles if they know of Jacques Brel – their response has been universally "mais oui" in a tone bordering on reverence. His songs cover a wide range of emotions – some humorous, some bitter, some of love. Life hurts, youth dies, understanding heals, love warms, and life has its hypocrisies. All portray people who are unwilling, in spite of all they experience, to abandon either the joy of life or the hope that makes life worth living. He speaks to us in the universal language of the heart. This is the soul of Jacques Brel, and we are privileged to share it with you.

Allan D. Foster



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THE CAST

Robert Rice
Deborah Rocco
Richard Satterlee, Jr.
Nancy Carlson Stone

Strobe lighting will be used during this production.

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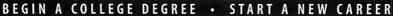
MUSICAL PROGRAM

ACT I

OVERTURE Orch	estra
MARATHON Com	pany
ALONE Richard Satt	erlee
MADELEINE Com	pany
I LOVED	itone
MATHILDE Richard Satt	erlee
BACHELOR'S DANCE	Rice
TIMID FRIEDA Deborah Rocco w/ Robert Rice, Richard Satt	erlee
MY DEATH	tone
JACKIE Robert	Rice
STATUE Richard Satt	erlee
THE DESPERATE ONES	pany
SONS OF Deborah R	оссо
AMSTERDAM Richard Satt	erlee
AMSTERDAM Richard Satt	erlee
	erlee
~ 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION ~	
~ 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION ~ ACT II	Rice
- 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION - ACT II THE BULLS	Rice pany
THE BULLS	Rice pany
THE BULLS	Rice pany stone pany
THE BULLS Robert OLD FOLKS Deborah Rocco, Company Marieke Nancy Carlson S BRUSSELS Company C	Rice pany itone pany erlee
THE BULLS Robert OLD FOLKS Deborah Rocco, Comp MARIEKE Nancy Carlson S BRUSSELS Comp	Rice pany stone pany erlee Rice
THE BULLS	Rice pany stone pany erlee Rice erlee
THE BULLS Robert OLD FOLKS Deborah Rocco, Company Marieke Nancy Carlson S BRUSSELS Company Richard Satt FUNERAL TANGO Robert Rice, Richard Satt	Rice pany itone pany erlee Rice erlee
ACT II THE BULLS	Rice pany itone pany erlee Rice erlee occo
ACT II THE BULLS	Rice pany ctone pany erlee Rice erlee occo

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer
Director
Music Director
Choreographer
Production Assistant
Stage Manager
Lighting Design / Execution
Sound Design Eric Bello
Set Design
Set Construction
Set Painting
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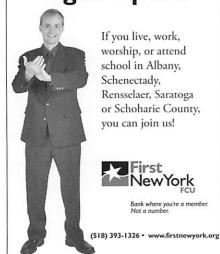
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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Regina Baker (Stage Manager/Props)

This is Regina's second show this season. She is glad it was such a short trip from "Whoville" to "Paris". Regina is very happy to be working with this talented cast and crew. Now she would like to invite you to sit back raise your glass and enjoy the show. "Viva La SLOC"

Thomas Dalton Bambury (Publicity Coordinator)

Thomas assisted with publicity on *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Seussical* this season, and also designed costumes and hair for *Seussical*. He is often found in the Director's chair or chairing various committees at SLOC, and is a former VP and Board member. In his third decade at SLOC, Thomas is thrilled to be part of this special *Brel* team. Special thanks to Donna and John, Allan, and All Good Gifts to Dave.

Eric Bello (Sound Design)

Ric has enjoyed working at SLOC as a sound designer and Co-VP of Tech Services for over five years. He also serves on the board of Spotlight Players and has worked with many other area theater groups including Albany Civic Theater and Schenectady Civic Players. Some favorite productions include: Jane Eyre, Songs for a New World, The Laramie Project, Guys and Dolls and Into the Woods. He wishes to thank the cast and crew for all of their hard work and dedication to this production.

Patricia Casey (Costume Design)

Pat is excited to be working on another great show for SLOC, her first cabaret style show. This will be her tenth production in costuming and is glad for the opportunity to make her contribution to community theater. Previous costuming experiences at SLOC were as an assistant on *Mack and Mabel* and *Robber Bridegroom*, and promoted quickly to Costume Director for *Big River, Zombie Prom, Ruthless, Triumph of Love* and *Once on This Island*. SLOC work includes being an assistant costumer on the period piece *Sullivan and Gilbert*. She has designed costumes also for *Puss N' Boots*, a children's opera, and at ACT in 2008 for *Hay Fever*, both with Laura Andruski.

Jennifer S. Depew (Producer)

Jenny has been with SLOC for over 28 years working in various capacities with props, set décor, makeup, lighting, prompter, stage manager, assistant director, producer and director. She has also directed for the Not So Common Players and Albany Civic Theater, as well as produced for the Schenectady Civic Playhouse. She has been seen on stage in various chorus and character parts. Her favorite parts were the General in *Guys and Dolls* at SLOC and as a contestant in *National Icon* at NSCP. In her daily life, Jenny is the Assistant Director of Training for the NYS Dept. of Transportation. Jenny sends love to her husband and "the kids", whom she hasn't seen much of lately, and hopes everyone enjoys the music!

Allan D. Foster (Director)

Allan is a long-time participant with Capital District theater groups, both onstage and offstage. Primarily among these is SLOC, where he is a former President/Board Member. He has done a number of SLOC lead/principal roles, including Shenendoah (TANYS Outstanding Actor Award), Brigadoon, West Side Story, Kiss Me Kate, On A Clear Day, and La Perichole. He has also directed five shows (Forum, 1940's Radio Hour, Jesus Christ Superstar, She Loves Me and Harry Chapin: Lies and Legends). The latter show was selected after TANYS and national competition to represent the United States at the 1991 International Theatre Festival in Spain. He is a consulting metallurgical engineer, retired from GE.



(left to Right) Alan D. Foster, Jennifer S. Depew, Andrea Merrill, Deborah Rocco, Richard Satone, Patricia Casey, Gina Kornrumpf, Richard Lenehan, Donna Hatch, Regina Baker (sitting



Donna Hatch (Choreographer)

Donna has been involved with theater for most of her life either dancing, singing and acting or choreographing. Her career with SLOC began in 1969 with West Side Story featuring Allan Foster in the role of Tony and herself as a shark. Most recently, she choreographed Beguiled Again at SLOC and had the opportunity to work with Allan again. This show brings back many memories of days gone by, specifically in 1988 when she choreographed Brel for the first time with Allan again as a cast member. Too many shows to mention! The list goes on and on. Hopefully, the list will continue for many years to come. This is her second home!!!! She hopes she has touched someone along the way to continue her work with the excellence that she has demanded throughout her career. Thank you Allan for another memory to add to her list.

Gina Kornrumpf (Production Assistant)

The first time Gina was rehearsal secretary for Allan it was as a thank you for singing at her and husband Bill's wedding. It was so much fun watching the creative process unfold, she agreed to do it several times since then. Gina has performed in the chorus of SLOC's *Bells are Ringing* and *The King and I*.

Richard Lenehan (Set Construction)

This is Richard's thirteenth set construction project with SLOC, including set design and construction for *Grease*. He has built sets for Schenectady Civic Players, the Not So Common Players, and Essex County Community Theater. Richard also produced and directed shows for the Electric City Chorus of Schenectady and NSCP. His on stage performances include work with SLOC, NSCP, Family Players, Hilltown Players, Opera Excelsior, Electric City Chorus, Clifton Park Chorus, Singers For Enjoyment, Suburban Sounds and Capitol Hill Choral Society. He had the honor of directing the world premiere of *Queen of Hearts* in Clifton Park. His most fun experiences involve singing a cappella doowop with "The Reminisants."

Andrea Merrill (Music Director)

Andrea is happy to be working on the music of Jacques Brel. She was heard in the pit for October's production of Thoroughly Modern Millie. Other recent shows as musical director at SLOC have included The Music Man (at Proctors GE Theater), and Hello Dolly! (TANYS award). When not playing for shows, Andrea teaches piano at The Academy of Holy Names in Albany, maintains a private piano studio, and accompanies the Concert Choir at RPI in Troy.

Robert Rice (CAST)

Robert was born and raised in Latham, NY. He attended college at the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY and graduated with a degree in Japanese and Marketing. He went to Japan for 2 years as an English teacher upon graduation, and just returned home in August. This is his second community production (first musical!) since returning home and he is thrilled to be a part of it. His other interests include cooking, piano, swing dancing, Kendo (Japanese fencing), taiko (Japanese drumming), and travel. He'd like to thank SLOC for allowing him the opportunity to get back into musical theater, and his family and friends for all of their support.

Deborah Rocco (CAST)

Deborah is an established soprano performer in musical theater, opera and oratorio. Her background includes: leading roles in *La Boheme, La Traviata and The Magic Flute*, as well as concert work with The Albany Symphony, The Glens Falls Symphony, The Lake George Opera, The New Opera, Albany Pro Musica, The Mendelssohn Club of Albany, The Octavo Singers, Capital Hill Choral Society, Gwen Gould Ensembles, Opera Excelsior, Capital Chamber Artists, Berkshire Lytic Theater, Union College, New York Concert Artists and has toured with Lake George Opera's Opera to Go education program. Ms. Rocco is the Director of Education for The Lake George Opera at Saratoga and is soprano soloist for The First Presbyterian Church in Albany, NY.

Richard Satterlee, Jr. (CAST)

Rich is thrilled to be part of his second SLOC show having appeared as Gabriel in last season's production of *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. He was most recently seen as Rapunzel's Prince in *Into the Woods* for Spotlight Players. Rich holds his Bachelor's degree in Music from SUNY Fredonia, and his MSED from The College of Saint Rose, where he is happily employed. Many thanks to Joe, Zeke and Rex for all of their support.

Nancy Carlson Stone (CAST)

This is Nancy's 4th SLOC production. In addition to responsibilities as a Cantorial Soloist at Congregation Gates of Heaven, Nancy performs regularly as one third of "Holy Smoke Producktions". Thank you so much SLOC, and thanks especially to Allan, Jenny and Andrea for giving me this opportunity to sing some of my favorite songs. I have loved the music of *Jacques Brel* for more years that I am willing to admit. Thank you to the rest of the cast for the opportunity to make such beautiful music together.

Ken Zarnoch (Lighting Design)

This is Ken's 20th show as Lighting Designer in the past 7 years at SLOC. You've recently seen him on stage here as Trevor Graydon in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (October 2008), as Mr. Bumble in *Oliver!* (December 2006), and as Horace Vandergelder in *Hello, Dolly!* (May 2007). Ken is a chemist at GE and has over 30 US Patents. Cheers to all. Save some wine for me!

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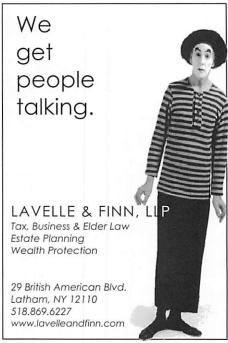


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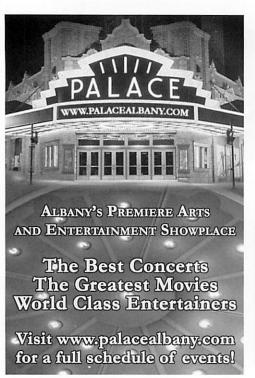


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FACTOIDS

- Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris opened January 22nd, 1968 at the Village Gate Theater in NYC's Greenwich Village. It featured 25 of Brel's songs translated from French to English.
- The show ran continually for 1847 performances Off Broadway, and had simultaneous productions mounted worldwide.
- Publicist Eric Bleu and Mort Shuman (songwriter for Elvis Presley and Ray Charles) translated Brel's music and lyrics for this show. Shuman starred in the original cast.
- "Brel's songs reach your ear, but his life reaches your heart"-Time Magazine
- "Jacques Brel is the greatest singer in the world"-Marlene Dietrich
- "It is one that can send you out feeling really differently than you felt when you came in"-Julius Novic, Village Voice
- "His songs span a range of human experience and are replete with social comment"-Variety
- Brel performed a one man show of his songs for a sold out crowd at Carnegie Hall.
- Dozens of singers have recorded his songs, including Sting, David Bowie, and Marlene Dietrich.
- Brel acted in over 10 French films, and directed two.
- Brel's most well know song is 'Ne Me Quitte Pas (If You Go Away)', recorded by countless artists, and hit number one in 1967 by Damita Jo.
- Brel recorded 13 studio albums and two live albums.
- In 1972, Brel was the first show SLOC staged at 826 State Street, SLOC's current home, and garnered sold out houses. It was revived, in 1988 at SLOC, to audience and critical acclaim when shows like Phantom and Les Miz were the toasts of Broadway.

SLOC COMPANY OPERATIONS 2008-2009

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Thomas Dalton Bambury Alan Angelo, Richard Lenehan

Jennifer S. Depew Melinda Zarnoch Paula Farquharson Marlene Countermine Melinda Zarnoch Christine Pedersen

VICE PRESIDENT of DEVELOPMENT

VICE PRESIDENT of FACILITIES

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Set Construction Facility (Taurus Rd.)

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Ross M. Snyder Larry Pedersen, Ted Vickery, Tom Gatta

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Newsletter Distribution Newsletter Layout Playbill Editor

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Donna Z. Baxter, Thomas Dalton Bambury

Heather D'Arcy Peter J. Codella

Thomas Dalton Bambury

Dave Dixon

Thomas Dalton Bambury, Dave Dixon

Eric Shovah

Donna Z. Baxter, Thomas Dalton Bambury

Mary Kozlowski

VICE PRESIDENTS of TECHNICAL OPERATIONS

Costumes Hair, Wigs Lightings Make-up Props Sets and Tools

Sound

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Pat Casey John Fowler Greg Rucinski Marcia Lenehan Donna Z., Baxter Richard Lenehan Ric Bello

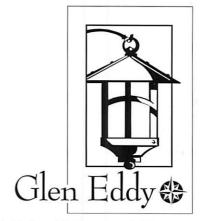
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