

**90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA  
MARCH 24 & 25, 2017**

Presented at 427 Franklin Street, Schenectady • 877-350-7378 • [www.sloctheater.org](http://www.sloctheater.org)



## ***Message from the Committee Chair***

Reflecting on 90 years of history that is as rich as SLOC's in a short note is actually a daunting task. I have spent much of my adult life feeling that SLOC was part of my family. In fact, it has been part of my family. My children have performed on its stage and directed shows, my husband has built sets, I have costumed more than 16 shows and we have thrown over 24 opening night parties. Yet, compared with 90 years of history, we have only been around for less than a quarter of the theater's life.

SLOC is family to all who walk through its doors, whether it be on stage or off stage, creating theater or enjoying a performance in the audience. We are a community of people who welcome all, we embrace diversity and we are a safe place to express ourselves. This theater has survived and continues to thrive for 90 years because this is our unwritten by-law.

I volunteered over a year ago to be the chair of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala because I love this theater company, but more than that, I love the volunteers that make up this community. I reached out to many of these volunteers about joining the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee and the response was overwhelming. They expanded my vision of the event and have brought it to fruition. "Let's do a yearbook!" "What about an In Memoriam\* page?" "Let's have the reception in our own facility!" They even wrote, directed and are performing in the review that you are watching tonight. They are all amazingly talented people and it is an honor to have taken this journey with them.

Lastly, thank you for being a part of this family and for coming to celebrate this extraordinary milestone in the life of Schenectady Light Opera Company!

All the best,  
**Connie Rowe Rauhauser**

\* Visit our website at [www.sloctheater.org](http://www.sloctheater.org) to see a tribute to some of the many people who helped shape the history of our theater and are no longer with us.

## *Message from the Director*

Thank you for coming to celebrate 90 years with us at SLOC. While I have not been around that long, I take pride in knowing that this great company *has* been and I am enthusiastic to see where it goes in the future. While I am sure our future is bright, tonight is about celebrating our past and the history that made our great theater company so wonderful.



SLOC means a lot of different things to many different people, but one thing we all have in common is that SLOC is our home. The people who come to work in this theater do it because they love to be here and, when you do what you love, the end product is always magic! Our show tonight is about that love, about the magic that gets created, not just on stage, but in our lives because we are part of the SLOC family. I hope you enjoy our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show as it brings some of our favorite show tunes to life right here on the streets of Schenectady. We will take you on a journey through our past in the most entertaining way we know how, through song and dance with some of the area's best performers.

Thank you for being part of our history and we hope you will continue to be part of our bright future!

Humbly,  
**Michael Camelo**

*As SLOC continues to grow and we begin a new decade, we are excited and proud to roll out the red carpet for our new LOGO!*



**Schenectady Light Opera Company Presents**

**A GALA CELEBRATION OF**

**90**

**SEASONS OF  
MUSICAL THEATER**

**Written by  
Adrienne Sherman**

**Directed by Michael Camelo**

**Music Direction by Adrienne Sherman**

**Choreography by Trish Scott-Dembling & Christine Meglino**

**90<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Gala Committee**

**Connie Rowe Rauhauser, Chair**

**Entertainment**

Michael Camelo\*

Adrienne Sherman

Elizabeth Sherwood-Mack

Corie Whalen

**Operations**

Jill Ross\*

Robert C. Farquharson

**Fundraising**

Mike Bellotti\*

**Hospitality**

Connie Rowe Rauhauser\*

Kellie Vercoe

Corie Whalen

Dan Secor

Leah Rucinski

David Dixon

**Merchandising**

Brett Putnam\*

**History**

Donna Hatch\*

Sue Rucinski

Alan Angelo

Mary Kozlowski

Eunice Choffi

Paula Ginder

**Marketing**

Mary Darcy

Katherine Stevens

\* indicates chair

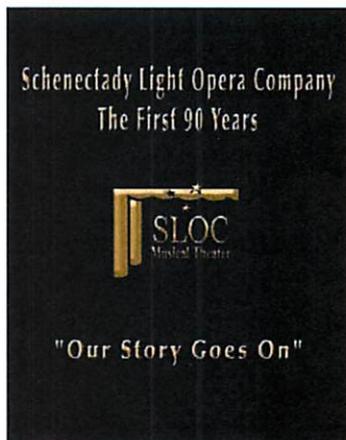
Playbills donated by Anonymous

## *Things you need to know:*

### **90th Anniversary Yearbooks are on sale!**

This hardcover book has 100 pages of memories from every SLOC show. They are only available for a limited time and you can purchase yours tonight at the Gala!

Books are \$50 each



### ***What are we raising money for?***

**"TO RAISE THE ROOF!"**

**YES, BOTH OF OUR BUILDINGS ARE IN NEED OF NEW ROOFS, SO ALL FUNDS RAISED FROM THE GALA ARE TO SUPPORT THE ROOF!**



**90th Anniversary Commemorative Wine Glasses are available for \$5**

# CAST

Girl #1.....	Gabriella Pizzolo
Guy #1.....	Gregory Trechel
Girl #2.....	Kaeli Heffner
Guy #2.....	Joshua DeMarco
Girl #3.....	Brittany Glenn
Guy #3.....	Matthew W. Coviello
Girl #4.....	Mary Darcy
Guy #4.....	Peter Caracappa
Girl #5.....	Joan Horgan
Guy #5.....	John Sutliff

Special Appearance by Gioia Ottaviano

# ENSEMBLE

Alan Angelo  
Michael Camelo  
Marc Christopher  
Adam M. Coons  
Emma Cornish  
Heather-Liz Copps  
Brian J. Cotterell

Dave Dixon  
Norm Eick  
Andrew Elder  
Jennifer Lefsyk  
Connie Rowe Rauhauser  
Natalie Russo  
Tom Della Sala

Kelly (Blitz) Sanford  
Elizabeth Sherwood-Mack  
Kelly Sienkiewicz  
John Sutliff  
Lucy Skrebutenas  
Janice Walz  
Corie Whalen

# MUSICIANS

Conductor/Keyboard.....	Adrienne Sherman
Keyboard.....	Brandon Jones
Percussion.....	Quintin Cain

# PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....	Michael Camelo
Music Director.....	Adrienne Sherman
Choreographers.....	Trish Scott-Dembling & Christine Meglino
Stage Manager.....	Jill Ross
Sound Designer.....	Joel Lord & Sarah Katz
Lighting Designer.....	Matthew Dembling
Costume Designers.....	Corie Whalen & Elizabeth Sherwood Mack
	Special Costumes Designed by Connie Rowe Rauhauser
Projections & Special Effects.....	Bob Healey
Stage Crew.....	Amanda Lupe
Spotlight Operator.....	Christina Benardo

# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT I

Opening ( <i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i> ).....	Company
Broadway Baby ( <i>Follies</i> ).....	Girl #1
Open a New Window ( <i>Mame</i> ).....	Girl #1 & Mother
Thoroughly Modern ( <i>Thoroughly Modern Millie</i> ).....	Girl #1, Girl #2 & Ensemble
Anything Goes ( <i>Anything Goes</i> ).....	Girl #2 & Ensemble
Nothing Like a Dame ( <i>South Pacific</i> ).....	Female Ensemble
You'll Never Walk Alone ( <i>Carousel</i> ).....	Guy #2 & Guy #3
Another Opening, Another Show ( <i>Kiss Me, Kate</i> ).....	Girl #3 & Ensemble
Moments to Remember ( <i>Forever Plaid</i> ).....	Girl #3 & Guy #3
Something's Coming ( <i>West Side Story</i> ).....	Guy #3
Welcome to the 60's ( <i>Hairspray</i> ).....	Ensemble

There will be a 15 minute intermission  
Please visit the concession area at the rear of the theater  
to bid on silent auction items!

## ACT II

Sounds While Selling ( <i>She Loves Me</i> ).....	Ensemble
Putting it Together ( <i>Side by Side by Sondheim</i> ).....	Ensemble
NYC ( <i>Annie</i> ).....	Girl #4 & Ensemble
Great Big Stuff ( <i>Dirty Rotten Scoundrels</i> ).....	Ensemble
Always Look on the Bright Side ( <i>Spamalot</i> ).....	Ensemble
You Walk With Me ( <i>Full Monty</i> ).....	Guys #1-#5
Hear My Song ( <i>Songs for a New World</i> ).....	Girls #1-#5
Duloc ( <i>Shrek</i> ).....	Ensemble
I'm Still Here ( <i>Follies</i> ).....	Girl #5
As We Stumble Along ( <i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i> ).....	Company
Bright Side of Life Reprise ( <i>Spamalot</i> ).....	Company

The 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Committee would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their support of this event:

- ✦ Birch Hill Catering ✦ The Desmond Hotel ✦
- ✦ Mazzone Hospitality ✦
- ✦ Our Generous Silent Auction Donors ✦
- ✦ Robert C. Farquharson ✦ Sharon C. Wemple ✦ Doug Peek ✦
- ✦ Marc Christopher ✦ Kellie Vercoe ✦ Dan Secor ✦ Julie Phillips ✦
- ✦ Jeffrey P. Hocking ✦ Vickie Shatley ✦
- ✦ The Cast and Crew of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* ✦

## STORIES FROM SLOC

Bill Harrison: Cooking a 23 lb. turkey in the kitchen at State Street for the cast party of *The Rothschilds*. The whole theater smelled like Thanksgiving for the final matinee.

Lisa Franklin: During *Jane Eyre* (2003) Dave Dixon and I had to enter up a little ladder at the opening of Act 2 in the dark with lanterns. And we came in late. Laughing hysterically. Trying not to be seen (with lanterns glowing). Sorry, Michael Mensching!

Tom Della Salla: My first contact with SLOC was in the fall of 1972 when Howard Moyer had the lead in *Jacques Brel...* I was teaching with him at Central Park and went to the show to support him. 45 years later, and I'm still here.

Danielle O'Brien: *Assassins* (2009) was my first SLOC show. It's a tough show for some people to watch, especially for those who lived through Kennedy's assassination. Joe Fava decided we should have "talk back" sessions with the audience after the show. It was a great experience and many people expressed the mixed feelings the show gave them. I enjoyed being the nerd of the group—I had done ridiculous amounts of historical research on the characters!

Patti Ginder Efner: I've been going to SLOC shows since I was a young adult seeing my Mom (Paula Ginder) in shows like *Nonsense* and *Into the Woods*. Those shows were back at the old church on State Street. Now I enjoy seeing my daughter (Caitlyn Efner) perform at SLOC. It must skip a generation. :)

Jenny Depew: Dressing choreographer Caren Lessner (Draper) backstage during *Magic of Cabaret* in the 5<sup>32</sup> 4s. Had to stuff her into those skimpy outfits. This job fell upon me as the stage manager!

Connie Rowe Rauhauser: *Follies* (2000) was a May show at State Street and we almost ran out of lights by the end of the run because they popped every performance due to the heat. Greg Rucinski had to change out bulbs every show! For those of you that know lighting, this meant moving chairs, getting the Genie out and putting the chairs back!

Trish Dembling: Meeting Matthew during *Joseph...* in 2009. He was Judah and it was my first choreography gig.

Allison Sharpley: I remember playing Rapunzel in *Into the Woods* (1995) and one night my tree flap wouldn't open, so Peter Lacijan as Cinderella's Prince came out with his sword to cut it down. My Prince (Edwin Graham) couldn't be found!

Valerie Lord: During *Tommy* (2000) Meg Glynn was gyrating her butt during Pinball Wizard and managed to turn off the volume on Jim Iacketta's drum amp. Trying to gesticulate to her how to turn it back up while still playing the tune, drumless, is burned in my memory.

## STORIES FROM SLOC

Amanda Jo Wilsey: Champagne!!!

Brian Avery: Joe Phillips in his boxers pole dancing under the set of *City of Angels*.

Jeffrey P. Hocking: *Drowsy Chaperone* was unlike any show I've ever been a part of. The cast really pulled together and made sure every costume change was done, every prop was handed off, every scene change was done. We worked like a well oiled machine. No one had to ask for help, people just anticipated a need and did it without hesitation. Michael Camelo added: That was my first SLOC show... look at me now? I can't imagine my life without SLOC and I have made some of the best friends from that show!

Dolores Todaro: I was an audience member for *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* at State Street. I loved how they filmed the silent movie portion of the show around the theatre, it was gorgeous!

Jeremy Buechner: Getting into a giant hairspray can in drag and waiting through 2 and a half songs to make an entrance. While in the "can," I took my dress half down, hung my wig on a hook, reapplied my lipstick, and stood over a battery operated fan to cool off. Ten seconds before the can door opened I was adjusting my wig waiting to make my entrance. Also, it was fun to beat Lisa Franklin with my purse every night.

Gary Hoffman: My first audition at SLOC was for *1776* in February 1989. I walked in, heard Alan Foster auditioning, and walked out, knowing I could not compete with the likes of his talent. I rethought my audition piece, took a deep breath, and went with a different song. I got the lead! After the first read through, the young woman doing the show's set decor design stopped me in the vestibule of the old State Street building and said, "Welcome to Light Opera." And I married that woman who welcomed me 28 years ago, Melissa Putterman Hoffmann. SLOC has held a special place in our hearts ever since.

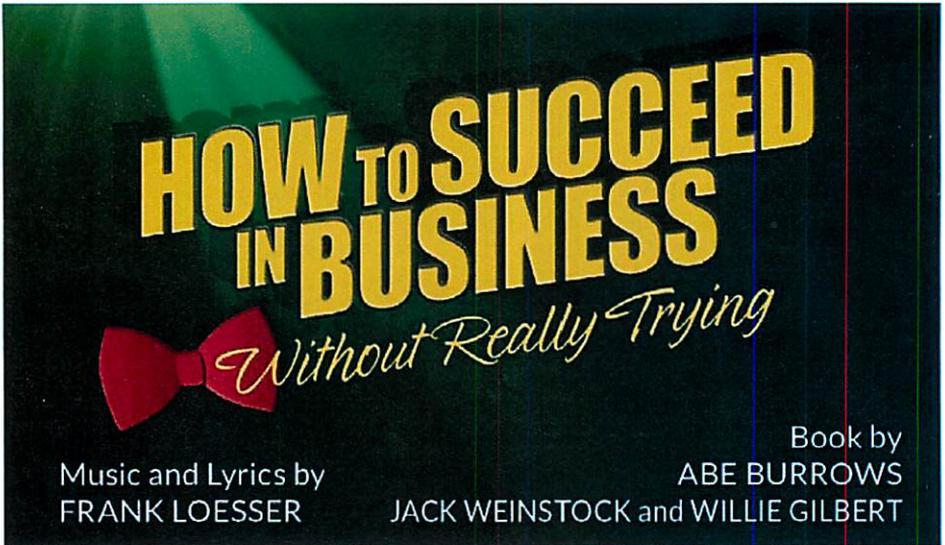
Molly McGrath: Chair!

Jenny Depew: Watching a very sick Colin McCarty perform during *Little Me*. It was amazing to watch the talent that man had.

Bill Harrison: Larry Maranville missing his on-stage entrance. He was in the downstairs bathroom at State Street with a live body mic on. The director tearing through the green curtain downstairs yelling, "Where the #@% is Larry?" Thomas Dalton Bambury remembers this well, as he was left out on stage waiting...

Dave Dixon: *Godspell* (1996) performing with Peter Lacijan & Melissa Mason. Our friendship is still going strong. Peter and Melissa met and began dating during *Godspell* and they are now married. It was a pleasure to sing at their wedding with a small choir/ensemble of SLOC friends.

**Join us for our final show of our 90th Season:**



**HOW TO SUCCEED  
IN BUSINESS**  
*Without Really Trying*

Music and Lyrics by  
**FRANK LOESSER**

Book by  
**ABE BURROWS**  
JACK WEINSTOCK and WILLIE GILBERT

**May 5—7, 2017**

**May 11—14 2017**

**Thursday—Saturday 8 pm & Sunday 2 pm**

**Stop by the box office tonight and get your tickets!**

**Directed by Michael Camelo**

This Pulitzer Prize winning musical for Best Drama invites us all to join "The Brotherhood of Man." Ambitious window washer J. Pierrepont Finch happens upon a book entitled 'How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying' and decides to take its advice – with some colorful results. Finch begins his climb up the corporate ladder by landing a job in the mailroom at the World Wide Wicket Company, and he quickly gains promotions. If he reaches the very top of the organization, will he be able to keep the heart of Rosemary, the sweet young secretary who will be "Happy to Keep His Dinner Warm?"

SLOC is always looking for new members. Don't miss out on what's happening at SLOC!  
Stop by our membership table in the connector to sign up today.

Membership is only \$10 annually

## STORIES FROM SLOC

Connie Rowe Rauhauser: *Little Me* (2001) My daughter, Corie, had to change on stage during the opening number with nothing but a fur wrap between her and the audience. I was hidden behind her, removing her dress and putting on her "Poor Belle" dress. The zipper broke and there was nothing to hold it together. While she sang the song, I backed her up to the wings, holding the dress and pinned it enough to get through the first 3 scenes, when she could finally change into one of the 18 costumes she had for that show.

Tom Della Salla: When I played the Strong Man in *Carnival* (1978), the late Esther Rorich was assigned to do my body make-up. She took one look at my hairy legs and said, "We're done."

Elisa Harrington-Verb: I fondly remember many times rehearsing at State Street when the boiler failed. You could see your breath as you sang. And the boiler room was the preferred place for individual vocal warmups. It didn't smell great but the acoustics were wonderful!

Kara DiCaterino: *Sound of Music* (2013) The stage manager might have made a mistake during a scene change which forced the Captain and Maria to get married in the bedroom instead of the chapel. I might have been that stage manager.

Joanne Mensching: I remember many shows at the State Street theater, running up the stairs from the dressing room, which was really outside the building (fire escape) with only clear plastic between you and the elements (like the blizzard during 1991's *Pirates of Penzance*).

Brian Sheldon: There was this great moment during *Drood* when we doing the opium den scene and someone went up on a line. Those of us who were playing addicts had to turn up stage so the audience couldn't see us laugh, but Andy Shelton couldn't hold back. He was convulsing with laughter which just made us laugh more. I'd give anything to see Andy laugh that hard again. I sometimes take for granted the relationships I make doing theater. We do this to make friends and bond with like-minded people. I miss Andy. He was kind and funny. SLOC made him part of my life and I'm grateful for that.

Dave Dixon: *Hairspray* (2012) I was making my grand entrance as "Mr. Pinky" during the preview performance and I got caught in the colorful streamers that were hung between the flats and pulled the set piece down with a loud bang. I stepped right over the monstrosity and continued singing and performing the scene. The show must go on!

Leslie Eliashuk: I remember when I was in *Gypsy* (2004) at State Street and we got a live lamb for one scene. Louise (Beth Whiteman) had to sing to the lamb and every time she sang "Little Lamb," the little lamb would baa in the rest...EVERY TIME!! So funny!



Schenectady Light Opera Company

## 2017-2018 Season

SLOC is thrilled to announce its lineup for the 2017-2018 season, our 91<sup>st</sup>! Season ticket subscriptions available soon!

	<p><b>September 22 – October 1, 2017</b></p> <p>A classic American musical we know you will love (but we can't formally announce until May 8<sup>th</sup> due to contract restrictions).</p> <p>Directed by <b>Peter Caracappa</b></p>
<p><b>November 10-19, 2017</b></p> <p>Our annual youth production, featuring some of the Capital Region's best high-school age talent.</p> <p>Directed by <b>Suzanne Rayome</b></p>	
<p><b>JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR</b></p>	<p><b>January 19-28, 2018</b></p> <p>Andrew Lloyd Webber's original rock opera.</p> <p>Directed by <b>Trish Scott-Dembling</b></p>
<p><b>March 9-18, 2018</b></p> <p>A musical-whodunit-murder-mystery-comedy!</p> <p>Directed by <b>Adam Coons</b></p>	
	<p><b>May 4-13, 2018</b></p> <p>The regional premiere of this "heavenly" new musical, based on the hit movie.</p> <p>Directed by <b>Michael Camelo</b></p>

Happy 90th Anniversary from SLOC to our friends at:

Proctors Theater And Schenectady Civic