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**Schenectady Light Opera Company presents**

***Dirty Rotten Scoundrels***

**Music and Lyrics by David Yazbec**

**Book by Jeffery Lane**

**Directed by Michael Gatzendorfer**

**(SCHENECTADY, NY)  *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, is the third production of Schenectady Light Opera Company’s (SLOC) 2012-2013 season and will run from February 8-10 and 14-17, 2012. The Capital Region community theatre in downtown Schenectady is celebrating its 86th season under the leadership of John Samatulski, Executive Director, and Robert Harrison, President.  Directed by Michael Gatzendorfer (SLOC’s *Les Miserables* & *Hairspray*), the *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* press opening is Friday, February 8th at 8pm.**

Based on the popular 1988 film, ***Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*** centers on two con men living on the French Riviera. Lawrence Jameson makes his lavish living by talking rich ladies out of their money. Freddy Benson more humbly swindles women by waking their compassion with fabricated stories about his grandmother's failing health. After meeting on a train, they attempt to work together only to find that this small French town isn't big enough for the two of them. They agree on a settlement: the first one to extract $50,000 from a young female target, heiress Christine Colgate, wins and the other must leave town.

***Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*** premiered in San Diego, California on September 22, 2004, before moving to Broadway in January 2005 and officially opening in March at the Imperial Theatre. The show closed on Broadway on September 3, 2006 with a total of 626 performances. The original Broadway run was helmed by Director Jack O'Brien, with Choreographer Jerry Mitchell, Scenic designer David Rockwell, Costume designer Gregg Carves, and Lighting designer Kenneth Posner. The Broadway cast featured John Lithgow, Norbert Leo Butz, and Sherie Rene Scott, with Joanna Gleason and Gregory Jbara.

Schenectady Light Opera Company’s ***Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*** cast will feature **Steven Leifer** as Lawrence Jameson, **Joel Bramer** as Freddy Benson, **Heather-Liz Copps** as Christine Colgate, **Norman Eick** as Andre Thibault, **Mary Darcy** as Muriel Eubanks, **Brittany Glenn** as Jolene Oakes, **Bethany Karpowitz** as Lenore, **Leah Sharron** as Sophia, **Aline Gianfagna** as Renee, **Robert Farquharson** as the Conductor/Hotel Manager/Nikos, **Jason Tillery** as Waiter/Bellboy, **Patrick Reilly** as Gerard/Sailor #2, **Ted Savoy** as Bartender/Policeman/Statue, **Noel Savoy** as Sailor #1/Newspaper Seller/Mime, **Diane Skibinski** as Woman #4, **Jane Figueroa** as the Usherette, **Willow Lautenburg** as the Flower Seller, **Jocelyn Barkenhagen** as the Desk Clerk, and **William Sanderson** as Croupier/Porter. The ensemble with comprise of Patrick Reilly, Robert Farquharson, Jason Tillery, Noel Savoy, Ted Savoy, William Sanderson, Aline Gianfagna, Bethany Karpowitz, Jocelyn Barkenhagen, Jordan Fyvie, Diane Skibinski, Leah Sharron, Willow Lautenburg.

The Schenectady Light Opera production will also feature a production team that includes Musical Director Adrienne Sherman, Choreographer Edmund Metzold, Set Designer Robert Farquharson, Lighting Designer Bob Healey, Costume Designers Karen Larsen and Natalie Pizzolo and Producers Jane Figueroa and Mary Darcy.

Mike Gatzendorfer has worked as an educator, for the past 8 years, teaching adults with disabilities through Schenectady ARC. In 2009 Mike Gatzendorfer joined Schenectady Light Opera as he took the stage in the role of Leon Czolgosz in Stephen Sondheim’s **Assassins**. Since that time Mike has produced, lighting designed, stage managed, and even house-managed numerous shows. Mike Gatzendorfer’s Schenectady Light Opera Company directing debut was the student version of *Les Miserables* followed by last season’s hit musical comedy *Hairspray*. Mike Gatzendorfer is currently the technical operations director for the company and is a member of the youth committee. Mike is working his way to a Ph.D. in arts education and is the proud founder of BARC’s Youth Theatre Company located in Ballston Spa, New York.

Steven Leifer has performed with Community Theatre and Choral Groups in the Capital District for the past forty years.  Some of Steven’s theatrical credits include “Ragtime”, “Peter Pan”, “Company”, Damn Yankees, “Cabaret”, “Anything Goes”, and “Grease”.   This will be Joel Bramer's second show with SLOC, having portrayed Huck Finn in 2001's production of *Big River*. Joel Bramer is a lifelong Schoharie County resident, he has been actively involved with Timothy Murphy Playhouse on-stage, directing, behind the scenes, and serving as President. He also debuted on the Not So Common Players stage in 2012 where he received a TANYS award for excellence in acting as The Governor in Man of La Mancha.

***Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* will be presented at Schenectady Light Opera House, 427 Franklin Street, Schenectady.  Performance dates and times: Thursday-Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 2pm. Tickets: $18-$28. Tickets may be purchased at the Box Office at Schenectady Light Opera House, on the phone at 877-350-7378, or online at** [**www.sloctheater.org**](http://www.sloctheater.org)**.**

***About Schenectady Light Opera Company***

Schenectady Light Opera Company (SLOC) is a nonprofit community theater organization in Schenectady, New York, established in 1926. The current location of the theater is at the new performing art center at 427 Franklin Street, in downtown Schenectady. The 2012-2013 season includes *Next to Normal, Little Shop of Horrors, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Sound of Music, and Sweet Charity*. The company has presented over 500 shows at various locations for over 85 years. [www.sloctheatre.org](http://www.sloctheatre.org).