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SLOC Publicity Coordinator Jonathan Pate, 518-953-7055 , jonathanrpate@gmail.com

**Schenectady Light Opera Company presents**

***Sweet Charity***

**Music by Cy Coleman**

**Lyrics by Dorothy Fields**

**Book by Neil Simon**

**Directed by Richard Roe**

**(SCHENECTADY, NY)  *Sweet Charity*, is the final production of Schenectady Light Opera Company’s (SLOC) 2012-2013 season and will run from May 10-12 and 16-19, 2013. 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 Richard Roe, the *Sweet Charity* press opening is Friday, May 10th at 8pm.**

Charity Hope Valentin, the girl who wants to be loved so much that she has lost sight of who she is. Charity sings, dances, laughs and cries her way through romances with the "animal magnetism" hero, the "ultra-chic continental" hero, and the "impossible-to believe-but-he's-better than nothing" type hero. Her world is the all too real world of Times Square, and the people who pass through her world are as deceptively charming a group as ever swept across any stage. From her cynical, hard-core trio of girlfriends at the dance hall, to the phony evangelist, the Coney Island "fun people", the Central Park "strollers" and the YMHA "self-improvers," every character is interesting. This is a bright and sophisticated show in every sense. Cy Coleman captures the rhythms and sounds, and Dorothy Fields the vernacular and fun of New York. It's a comedy in every sense of the word. Neil Simon has a particular talent for looking at the truly amusing side of life. ***Sweet Charity*** includes famous musical numbers including *Hey Big Spender, If My Friends Could See Me Now, Too Many Tomorrows, There's Gotta Be Something Better Than This, I'm a Brass Band* and *Baby,* and *Dream Your Dream*.

*Sweet Charity*played for 608 performances on Broadway at the Palace Theatre starring Gwen Verdon, John McMartin, Helen Gallagher and Thelma Oliver. It played for 476 performances in London at the Prince of Wales Theatre. It was revived on Broadway in 1986 and played for 369 performances at the Minskoff Theatre starring Debbie Allen, Michael Rupert, Bebe Neuwirth and Allison Williams. In 2005, the show was revived again at the Al Hirshfeld Theatre starring Christina Applegate, Denis O'Hare, Ernie Sabella and Paul Schoeffler.

Schenectady Light Opera Company’s ***Sweet Charity*** cast will feature **Amanda Jo Marshall** as Charity Hope Valentine; **Gregory Theodore Marsh** as Oscar Lindquist; **Edmund Metzold** as
Charlie and Vittorio Vidal; **Christine Marcella** as Nickie; **Heather D'Arcy** as Helene; **Joe Malone** as Herman; **Kellie Vercoe** as Ursula; **Corrie Rowe** as Carmen; **Erin Hunziker** as Rosie; Erin Harwood, Kathleen Battuello, Christine Meglino, and Leila Viera are the Women’s Ensemble; Nathan Hoffman, Andrew Lasher, Mark Stephens, Ted Savoy and Noel Savoy as the Men’s Ensemble; and **Gayle Cole** as The Good Fairy.

The Schenectady Light Opera production will also feature a production team that includes Musical Director Cyndi Merrill, Choreographer Elizabeth Alexander and Edmund Metzold, Lighting Designer Jeffrey Scott, Costume Designer Pat Casey and Producer Mike Gatzendorfer.

Richard made his debut at SLOC as "Man in Chair" in "The Drowsy Chaperone". As a director, he has staged "Les LiaisonsDangereuses", "The Laramie Project", "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde", and "The Tempest" at Schenectady Civic Players. He has performed in "Waiting for Godot", "La Bete", and over 30 different productions all over the Capital Region. He currently works at The Howe Early Childhood Center in Schenectady.

***Sweet Charity* 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).