



Save The River

409 Riverside Drive, Clayton, NY 13624

Phone: 315-686-2010

www.savetheriver.org

FACT SHEET

Reviving *The Slick of '76: A Musical Catastrophe*

The Slick of '76: A Musical Catastrophe is a fast-paced musical farce that tells the story of the 1976 oil spill that deeply affected the heart of the St. Lawrence River's Thousand Islands region. First performed in June 23, 1986 – ten years to the day of the 1976 spill – the musical was developed as a tribute to the River and as a gentle way to keep the memory of the 1976 spill alive.

The Creators

The Slick of '76 was created by John Burt, a fifth generation Chippewa Bay summer resident, with roots in Ogdensburg and Hammond, New York. Burt's River Barge Productions commissioned *The Slick of '76* when Burt witnessed that memory of the spill was fading and that another such disaster was all too possible.

After a brief search, Burt found Barry Keating, a Broadway composer, to put his ideas to song. Keating's lyrics capture the essence of the River and tell the dramatic story of the spill through music. Keating then introduced Burt to David Schechter, a New York City director and writer, with whom Keating had collaborated before. Schechter became the musical's Director. The team worked together to create the script and music for *The Slick of '76*.

The Musical

With eight cast members, the one hour musical is a series of vignettes and songs that tell the story of the oil spill. The opening "River Song" is a flowing and meandering theme for the St. Lawrence. The uproarious "Wild Canadian Goose Chase" has well intentioned environmentalists attempting to clean uncooperative Canada Geese with rags, scrub brushes and Mr. Clean. "Hi-tech



Slick-lickin" cleaning teams compete with hard working come-as-you-are mucker crews in a battle of the bands.

The musical is performed by a company of eight actors, all who are local residents of the Thousand Islands region. The cast for the 2006 revival includes Alysia Beebe, Nancy Boynton, Sean Brabant, Erin LaLonde, Taylor LaVere, Kristina Rusho, Elizabeth Phimister Smith.

David Schechter is returning to direct the 2006 revival. And, John Burt, the original producer and creator is very involved in guiding the revival production. Kathryn Ingerson is joining the production as Musical Director and Barry Pratt has joined as the Production Manager.

The 2006 revival production will run for eight nights in July, with a special free open dress rehearsal. Performance dates are:

- July 19 – Free Open Dress Rehearsal
- July 20 & 21 – Preview Performances
- July 22 – Opening Gala and Benefit Performance
- July 25-28 – Performances
- July 29 – River Day Performance

Tickets for the Opening Gala and Benefit are \$100, while all other performances are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors. All performances begin at 8 p.m. at the Clayton Opera House. To purchase tickets, contact Save The River at 315-686-2010.

The Revival

Save The River is mounting the revival of *The Slick of '76* to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the 1976 oil spill and the 20th anniversary of the musical. The 1976 oil spill was the worst inland oil spill in North America and today remains the largest inland vessel spill in the U.S. The revival production helps to keep the memory of the spill alive. Although the River has not experienced another devastating spill, the risk is ever present. The revival is a benefit production for Save The River's advocacy, education and research programs.

Save The River is a non-profit, member-based environmental organization whose mission is to preserve and protect the ecological integrity of the Thousand Islands Region of the St. Lawrence River through advocacy, education and research.