

By Community Theatre

Audition scheduled for new production

Auditions have been set for the Northern California premiere staging of "Butterflies are Free" by the Gilroy Community Theatre.

George Costa, director, will conduct readings in the Gavilan College Theatre on Friday, Oct. 20, at 7:00 p.m. for the four character roles in the Leonard Gershe comedy.

The lead male is Don Baker, a young blind, aspiring songwriter who develops a friendship with a pretty young actress. Both characters are in their early twenties.

The only other male in "Butterflies is the role of the nudie film director. Mrs. Baker, Don's meddling socialite mother, is the second female role.

Labeled "humorous, winning, and quietly moving" by the New York Times, "Butterflies are Free" has just recently been released for little theatre production. Gilroy Community Theatre's staging will be its first appearance in this area. The Gershe play appeared on Broadway and is currently showing in a movie version starring Edward Albert, Goldie Hawn and Eileen Heckert.

Community Theatre's production dates for the contemporary comedy are scheduled for Dec. 8, 9, 15 and 18 in the Gavilan College Theater. ng actress. Both characters are in their early twenties.

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Many technical positions are required in backstage, lighting, and various other theatre areas. Anyone interested in the technical aspects of the show need not be present at the audition, but should contact Sharon Sacco at 842-6048.

The Gilroy Community Theatre had originally scheduled "Cactus Flower" for the first production of their "72-73 Season. The Theatre's board of directors voted at a recent meeting to chane to "Butterflies are free" when unforeseen production problems appeared for their original choice.

Marie Perkins and Dennis Chantler are pictured here rehearsing their roles of mother and son in the Gilroy Community Theatre's production of "Butterflies Are Free".

This production is a serious comedy which played Broadway in 1969. This will be the premiere stage performance in northern California and will be presented at the Gavilan College Theatre on two consecutive week-ends, December 8 and 9 and December 15 and 16.

The Theatre Angles Art League is planning a coffee following the opening night performance. Details of this will be announced next week.

Rehearsals Underway

For "Butterflies Are Free"



'Butterflies Are Free'

Cast named for new production

Casting has been completed for the Gilroy Community Theatre's December production of "Butterflies Are Free," George Costa, director, announced this week.

Dennis Chantler will portray Don Baker, young blind song writer; and Elaine Allen will play Jill, the leading female role.

Chantler, who has choreographed musicals for the Community Theatre, Gilroy High School and Gavilan College, appeared in four previous productions of the local theatre group, the most recent being, "Fiddler On The Roof."

A newcomer to the group, Mrs. Allen trained in the New York Dramatic Workshop and has appeared in off-Broadway productions. Her husband is drama teacher at San Benito High School.

Also appearing in the play will be Marie Perkins, who will portray Don's mother; and Greg Guerin as film director, Ralph Austin.

Mrs. Perkins, who has appeared in three productions, played Gladys in "Pajama Game;" and did a song and dance routine with Dennis Chantler in "Steam Heat."

Guerin, a Gilroy High School teacher, appeared in "Anniversary Waltz" and was stage manager for "Fiddler On The Roof." He will be the assistant director of the December production.

"Butterflies Are Free" was first presented on Broadway in 1969, and the movie version is now being shown in the area. The Gilroy Community Theatre's production, slated Dec. 8, 9, 15 and 16, will be the first stage performance of Leonard Gershe's play in Northern California.



REHEARSING - Dennis Chantler, who portrays Don Baker, left; Elaine Allen as Jill, and Greg Guerin as Ralph Austin rehearse for "Butterflies Are Free," new production of the Gilroy Community Theatre scheduled for four performances in December.

'Butterflies Are Free' opening next month

By DONNA AVINA

The assistant director for Gilroy Community Theatre's (GCT's) "Butterflies Are Free" is a man with a big ego who declares that acting and teaching are very similar.

Greg Guerin, Gilroy High School journalism and English teacher, says he loves applause. "I guess I just have a big ego. But more than that I enjoy the idea of a group of people getting together making the printed work come alive. To me, this is the same creativity involved in both acting and teaching."

Guerin actually has two roles in *Butterflies*. The first as assistant to production director George Costa, and the other as the character of Ralph Austin.

This is Guerin's third production working with Costa, and Guerin says that "working with George never comes easy." Costa, a professional director, is a perfectionist who will never accept second best from his

actors or his production. "It's not that George is a terrible person," Guerin states, "because he's really quite a likable man, but it's his directing style, reputation, and experience that makes everyone tense and afraid around him."

Guerin believes that Costa has done an "excellent job in directing "Butterflies," but says that he has a "very professional group of actors working for him in this production. This is a very difficult play, and all of the cast have shown themselves to be hardworking actors, with no fooling around. Rehearsals are all business."

The most in-depth problem involves Dennis Chantler's role of Don Baker, the male lead, who is blind. Guerin says that defocusing is a real dilemma. "The natural tendency is to watch people move and speak, but an actor has to nullify all of these natural reflexes in order to make this blindness believable."

"Butterflies is a play which is more than meets the eye, according to Guerin. "There's a lot of superficial giddiness, especially in the character of Jill. But there are scenes which scratch the surface and just for a brief moment release the reality of the play."

Even though this is only the fifth production Guerin has ever appeared in, he heartily declares that he's hooked on theatre. "I guess acting just gets in the blood."

Guerin, the man with the "big ego," and the rest of the cast of GCT's current production open Dec. 8, in the Gavilan College Theatre for four performances; Dec. 9, 15, and 16.

Tickets may be purchased from cast members, Gilroy Stationers, Dick Bruhn's, Gilroy Printers, or the Theatre Angels who are handling all sales for the opening night performance.