

# Theatre group slates new play

The Gilroy Community Theatre (GCT) has completed casting for its forthcoming production of Neil Simon's hit comedy, "The Odd Couple."

Gary Sacco, production director, has announced that two newcomers to the local stage scene will portray the lead roles.

James Allen, a drama teacher from Hollister High School, has been given the role of fastidiously particular Felix Unger, and the role of slobbish Oscar Madison has been accepted by Jim Maya, Las Almas School teacher.

The rest of the cast is composed of some well known local talents. Fred Wood, Gilroy's city administrator, has the role of Speed, and Robert Infelise, school superintendent, will be Roy. Greg Guerin will portray Murray, and Al Bloom returns to GCT as Vinnie.

The only two females in the production are to be played by Barbara Martinez, Gavilan student, as Gwendolyn

Pigeon; and Liz Walters as her sister Cicily, in what Sacco terms a "hilarious combination of personalities."

Ron Williams has been selected as stage manager, with Ed Perkins as technical director.

GCT's production of "The Odd Couple" is scheduled for opening Good Friday, April 20 with performances continuing on April 21, 27, and 28.

## Theatre group plans play

Sharon Sacco was elected president last month when members of the Gilroy Community Theatre met to elect officers for the coming year.

Serving with her will be: John Altenberg, vice-president; Jane Goldsmith, treasurer; Mary Ann Mattos, recording secretary; Barbara

Bottini, corresponding secretary; Sally Connell, Mary Ann Brugemen, Rolf Bruckner, Joe Brown, Frank Ginelli, Herb Hopkins, Gary Hudson, Frank Pattie and Ed Perkins, all directors.

Started in 1969, the theatre group schedules three productions a year, one of which is a musical. The most

recent play was "Butterflies Are Free," and auditions will soon be underway for the spring production of "The Odd Couple."

The group recently launched a drive for patrons; and anyone interested in backing the Gilroy Community Theatre may contact Ron Mingus.



## 'The Odd Couple'

**TICKET PURCHASE** - Larry Connell Rotary Club director, purchases \$100 in tickets from Barbara Bottini of the Gilroy Community Theatre, center, for the upcoming production of "The Odd Couple." The Rotary Club made the ticket presentation to Ellenor Belaus, left, of the Community Senior Citizens, for distribution to its membership. The GCT's performance of "The Odd Couple" will be staged at the Gavilan College Theatre on April 20, 21, 27 and 28 with curtain time scheduled at 8 p.m. Jim Maya and James Allen have the leading roles in the play being directed by Gary Sacco.

## Theatre drive gets into gear

This week marks the opening of the annual membership drive by Gilroy Community theatre in which more than 500 residents will be contacted to renew their membership in the group or to become new backers.

Spokesmen for the theatre said they anticipate doubling or tripling of patrons and sponsors in light of last year's enthusiastic reception of their program. "Fiddler On the Roof" broke all attendance records and "Butterflies are Free" and "Anniversary Waltz" demonstrated the variety of good theatre available locally, they said.

First production of the coming year, slated to open April 20, will be "The Odd Couple." The 1973 schedule will also include "My Fair Lady," "Plaza Suite," and technical and dramatic workshops.

Anyone interested in joining the theatre group, which started in 1969, may contact Sharon Sacco, president, or any of the members. Local residents are encouraged to participate in the productions and workshops, and Patron Memberships which include a season pass for two, are available. Other ways of supporting local thespians are Sponsor memberships, with one season pass, or regular membership which permits participation in workshops, tryouts and plays.



**PATRONS** - Mr. and Mrs. Larry Connell, right, patrons of the Gilroy Community Theatre, present their check to Sharon Sacco as the theatre group launches its 1973 membership drive.

## Odd Couple' offers evening of laughter

By JERRY FUCHS

"Odd Couple" is a delightful evening of fun and frolic at Gavilan College Theatre. The cast obviously enjoys itself throughout, bringing a contagious laughter to the audience. Gary Sacco's direction is even and strong. The set is real and believable.

Jim Allen wins raves as a most convincing Felix. His use of timing and his character portrayal are right on the beam. Allen gets a host of laughs by underplaying his character most convincingly. Complimented by Jim Maya as Oscar, the two stars of

"Odd Couple" play well together. Jim saves his character with some excellent acting, though his lines got opening night jitters. A fine rendition of comedy turned in by Maya, ad-libbing his way out of some tough spots.

The four poker playing cronies are played hilariously by Fred Wood, Greg Guerin, Robert Infelise and Marc Bloom. Wood especially turns in a terrific performance as Speed. He practically imitates W.C. Fields with inflections and sarcasm reminiscent of the oldtime comedian.

Those of us who know Wood, see a person we never knew

existed. He articulates his words, shouts frequently and shows some unusual emotion. It's almost as if he belonged on the stage, getting laugh line after line.

The dumb cop is played well by Greg Guerin. He has the voice and the body for the part. Bob Infelise as Roy, is calm and reassuring throughout. The Infelise humor comes through in some well timed deliveries. Marc Bloom fills in for his father admirably.

Barbara Bottini is a pleasant surprise as Gwendolyn Pigeon, bolstered by her sister, played by Lis Walters.

Bottini's English accent stays with her throughout the play and her comedy is excellent. She's delightful as ever.

We enjoyed "Odd Couple" immensely, roaring our approval time and again with hearty laughter. You won't be disappointed if you catch one of the last two performances Friday and Saturday evening. In fact, you will find it an enjoyable evening of fun and frolic.