

Original musical Gilroy's newest hit

By ELLEN FUCHS

Walden Sampson's "The Garden" played to a capacity opening night audience and got a standing ovation at its finale. The caliope sounding music set the mood for a simple and touching plot.

George Costa's direction was up to his usual professional standards. The children in "The Garden" were a

Christopher Scott playing the minstrel set the mood of the play with a strong voice narrating the story line. He was effective and did a fine job.

Charles Spoerri excelled as Lord of the Manor, with a powerful singing voice and outstanding acting ability.

Amusing, lively and always in character, Sandy Rapazzini was one of the big hits of the show. She sang, acted, danced and was superb as Mrs. Wattrus.

Turning in supporting performances were David Greene and Rosalind Farotte with beautiful voices, making a charming convincing couple on stage.

Steve Schneickert sounded like Johnathan Winters in a portrayal of Quasimoto. Funny and sweet he turned the audience on with his antics.

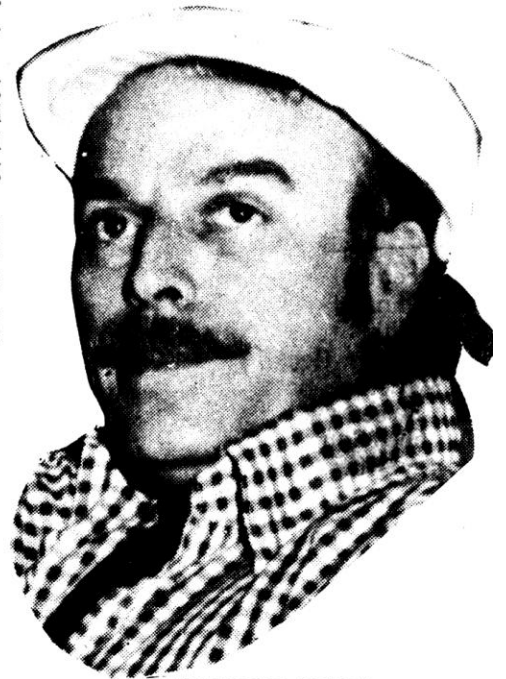
Anyone who has heard Lee

Krahenbuhl knows the beauty of his voice. In this play he sang a lovely, tearful song to the Lord of the Manor expressing the simple philosophy of "The Garden"

The chorus was composed mainly of children who were relaxed and inviting with their dancing and performances. The Hendrickson girls were adorable in their professional



WALDEN SAMPSON
...author



GEORGE COSTA
...director



CHARLES SPOERRI
...lead

delight of enthusiastic acting and won the attention of the audience from beginning to end.

Costa's sets were unique and inventive, prodding our imagination along with the action of the play. The music was poignant and had viewers humming along at the end of each scene.

"A touch of cologne in the air" was a quote from the play which described the beautiful freshly smelling artistry of everyone involved, like a fairy tale book that dropped from a child's shelf into the Gavilan Theatre.

performance. The dance numbers were ethereal and dreamy.

"The Garden" will be performed on Friday and Saturday of this week and next. Anyone who has missed it has missed one of Gilroy's most enchanting plays and its originality makes it all the more captivating. Walden Sampson is a man of many talents. This play is a fine illustration of imagination, lyric and musical splendor. George Costa's hand makes it as professional as anything this side of Broadway. Let's hope this will be the start of a yearly Gilroy tradition.