

## Monday auditions set

Actors, actresses, singers and dancers will be welcomed Monday evening to auditions of "Sugar," Gilroy Community Theatre's summer musical comedy.

Try-outs will begin at 7 p.m. in the Gilroy High School band room.

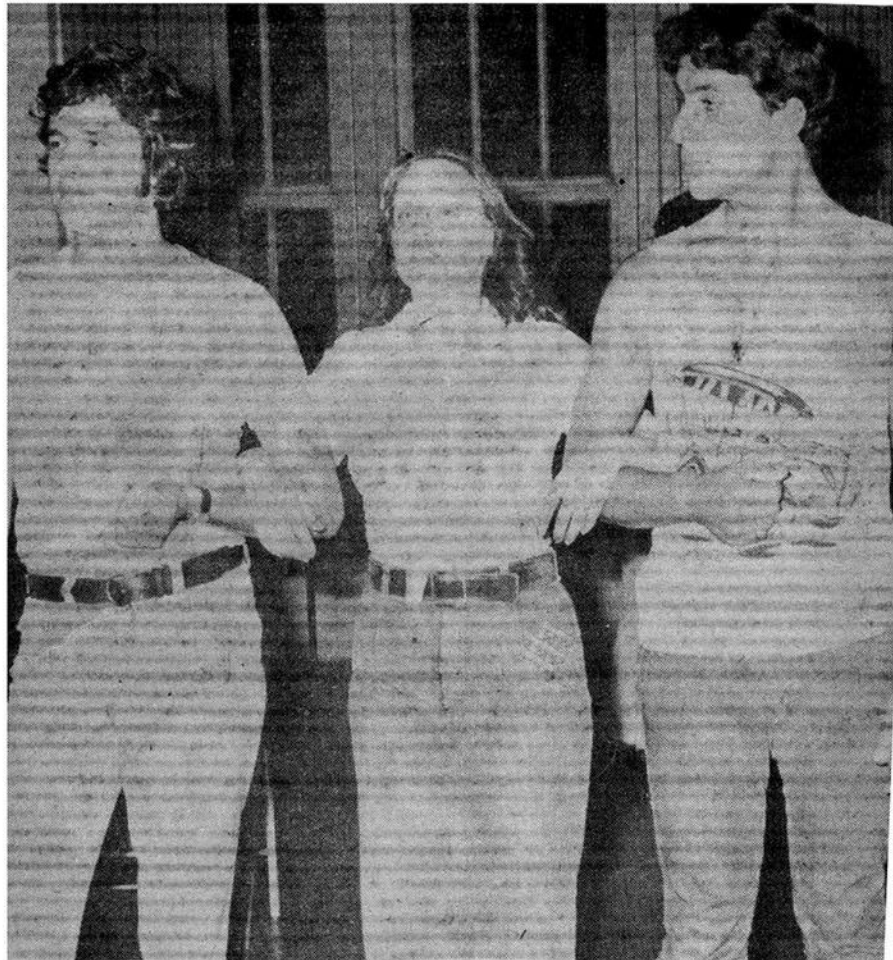
Friday's paper inadvertently listed audition dates as last Saturday and Sunday instead of Sunday and Monday

Beau Bryson has been cast as a dapper, tap dancing gangster; Cal Schlesinger is his right hand man, "Dude;" Frank Patti will play the millionaire, Sir Osgood Fielding; Joe Bereznak, "Bienstock" and Frank Ginelli will portray "Knuckles Norton." Making up Sweet Sue's Society Synopaters will be Betsy McIntosh, Mikie Bryson, Sue Rowlison, Helie Rock, Ann Marie Dabo, Kay Cooper, Dana Fletcher, Sue Blumberg, Cindy Dodge and Kim Spendlove. Walter Von Tagen III, Lee Krahenbuhl, Mark Jordan, Phil Skiver, Curtis Caudill and Eric Bruckner are members of Spat's Malazzo's gang; Tony Tamaro, Rolf Luckener and Ken Zuhr are millionaires; and members of the male chorus are: Shelly Andrews, exa Fletcher; Heidi Schmidt, Karenamura, Ann Zuhr, Debbie Wright, Teri Welch, Toni Berry and Janet Ariat.

Based on the screen play of the 1959 love, "Some Like It Hot," "Sugar" is being directed by Russ Hendrickson, choreographed by Debbie Nelson, and is under the baton of Sam Talluto. Production dates at Gavilan College Theatre are July 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30.

## Cast selected for GCT play

Mary Gorak of San Jose, has been cast in the part of Sugar Kane, title role of Gilroy Community Theatre's summer musical production of "Sugar," written by Peter Stone with music and lyrics by Julie Stein and Bob Merrill. Frank Vanella and Brad Ryder landed the roles of two out of luck musicians who witness a murder and then disguise themselves as females to join an all-girl band run by "Sweet Sue." Linda Talluto.



**SUMMER MUSICAL** — Tickets are available from cast members and local businesses for the Gilroy Community Theatre production of "Sugar," slated July 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30 at the Gavilan College Theatre. Above is Cindy Dodge, one of several beautiful local girls involved in the comedy about an all girl band, shady characters, and two men in flight from the mob. Tickets may be obtained from Dick Bruhn's, Crispinos, Plaza Drug and the Music Tree in Gilroy; and from the Music Tree in Morgan Hill.

**STARS OF THE SHOW** - Brad Ryder as Jerry, Mary Gorak as Sugar, and Frank Vanella as Jose, left to right above, will star in the Gilroy Community Theatre's summer musical, "Sugar" which opens at the Gavilan College Theatre on July 15. Tickets for the opening, as well as performances on July 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30, may be purchased from cast members or at Dick Bruhn's, Crispino's and Plaza Drugs in Gilroy or the Music Tree in Gilroy and Morgan Hill.

April 22, 1977

## Auditions Slated

When Gilroy Community Theatre auditions are held this weekend for "Sugar," a search will begin for a honey of a blonde, her companions in an all-girl band, tap-dancing gangsters and two men disguised as women.

Auditions for the musical comedy, which is based on the movie "Some Like It Hot," start at 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at Gilroy High School band room. Callbacks are scheduled April 29.

Performance dates are July 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30.

The play will be directed by Russell Hendrickson, familiar to GTC audiences as both director and actor. Musical director is Samuel Talluto, who held the same job with "Cabaret." Debbie Nelson will handle choreography, which she also did for "Kiss Me Kate," "Guys and Dolls," and "Fiddler on the Roof."

The plot revolves around Sugar, a honey of a blonde, a tempting chanteuse in an all-girl band and just the one to melt a musician's heart. A really sweet doll, she attacked the job with zest when the manager asked her to show the ropes to Josephine, the new tenor saxophone player.

What Sugar didn't know was that Josephine and Daphne, the new bass player, were really red-blooded males, hiding behind wigs and wiggles to escape Chicago gangsters pursuing them as witnesses to a gangland slaying.

## Roles cast for summer musical

GILROY—Casting has been completed for Gilroy Community Theatre's summer musical production of "Sugar," which will be presented July 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30 at the Gavilan College Theatre.

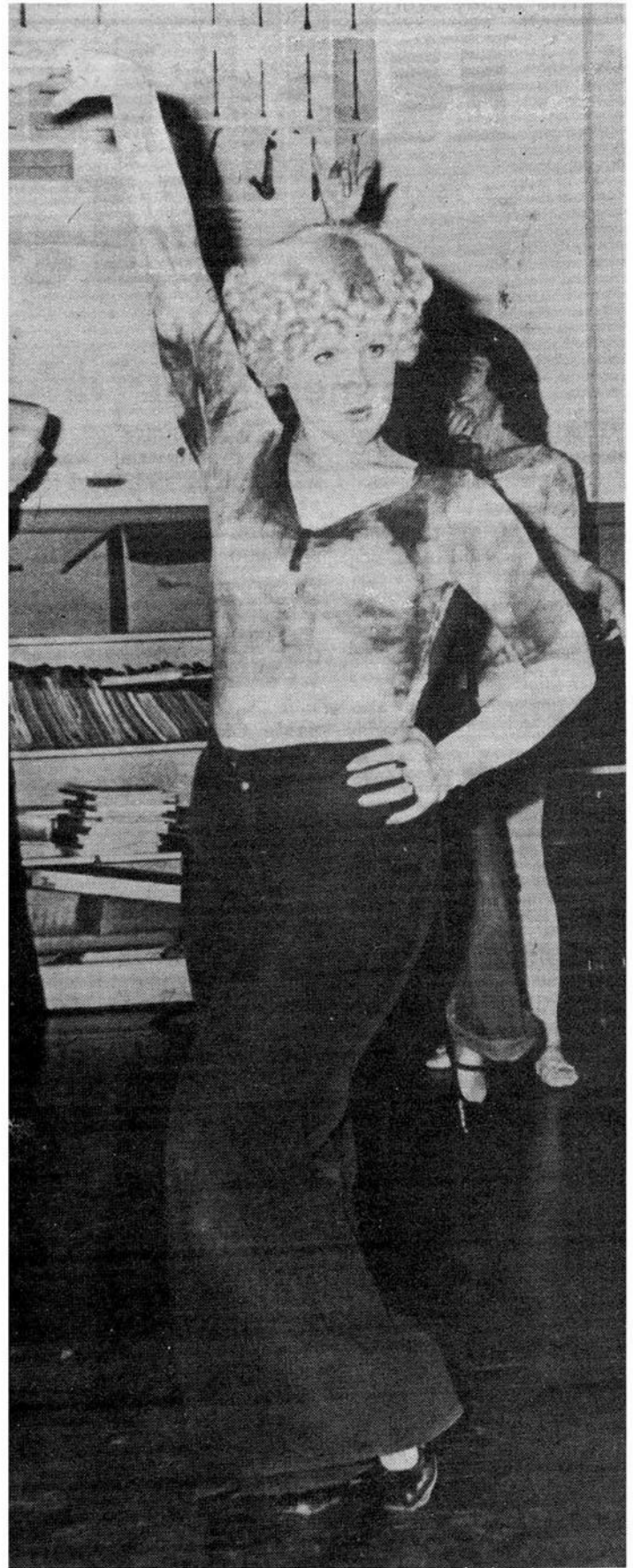
Cast in the title role of "Sugar Kane" is Mary Gorak from San Jose. Frank Vanella and Brad Ryder have landed the roles of "Joe" and "Jerry," two out-of-luck musicians who, after witnessing a murder, disguise themselves as females and join an all girl band run by Linda Talluto in the role of "Sweet Sue."

Beau Bryson is cast as the dapper tap dancing gangster "Spats Pallazzo," with Cal Schlesinger as his right hand man "Dude." Frank Patti is the millionaire "Sir Osgood Fielding," Foe Berzszak as "Bienstock," Sweet Sue's band manager, and Frank Ginelli as

"Knuckles Norton," a rival gang leader.

Rounding out the cast are, Betsy McIntosh, Mikie Bryson, Sue Rowilson, Helie Rock, Ann Marie Dabo, Kay Cooper, Dana Fletcher, Sue Blumberg, Cindy Dodge, and Kim Spendlove as Sweet Sues' Society Syncopaters; Walter von Tagen III, Lee Krahenbuhl, Phil Skiver, Mark Jordon, Curtis Caudill, and Eric Bruckner as members of Spats Palazzo's gang, Tony Tomaro, Rolf Bruckner and Ken Zuhr as millionaires, and Shelly Andrews, Alexa Fletcher, Heidi Schmidt, Karen Uemura, Ann Zuhr, Debbie Wright, Doeri Welch, Toni Berry and Janet Periat at the female chorus.

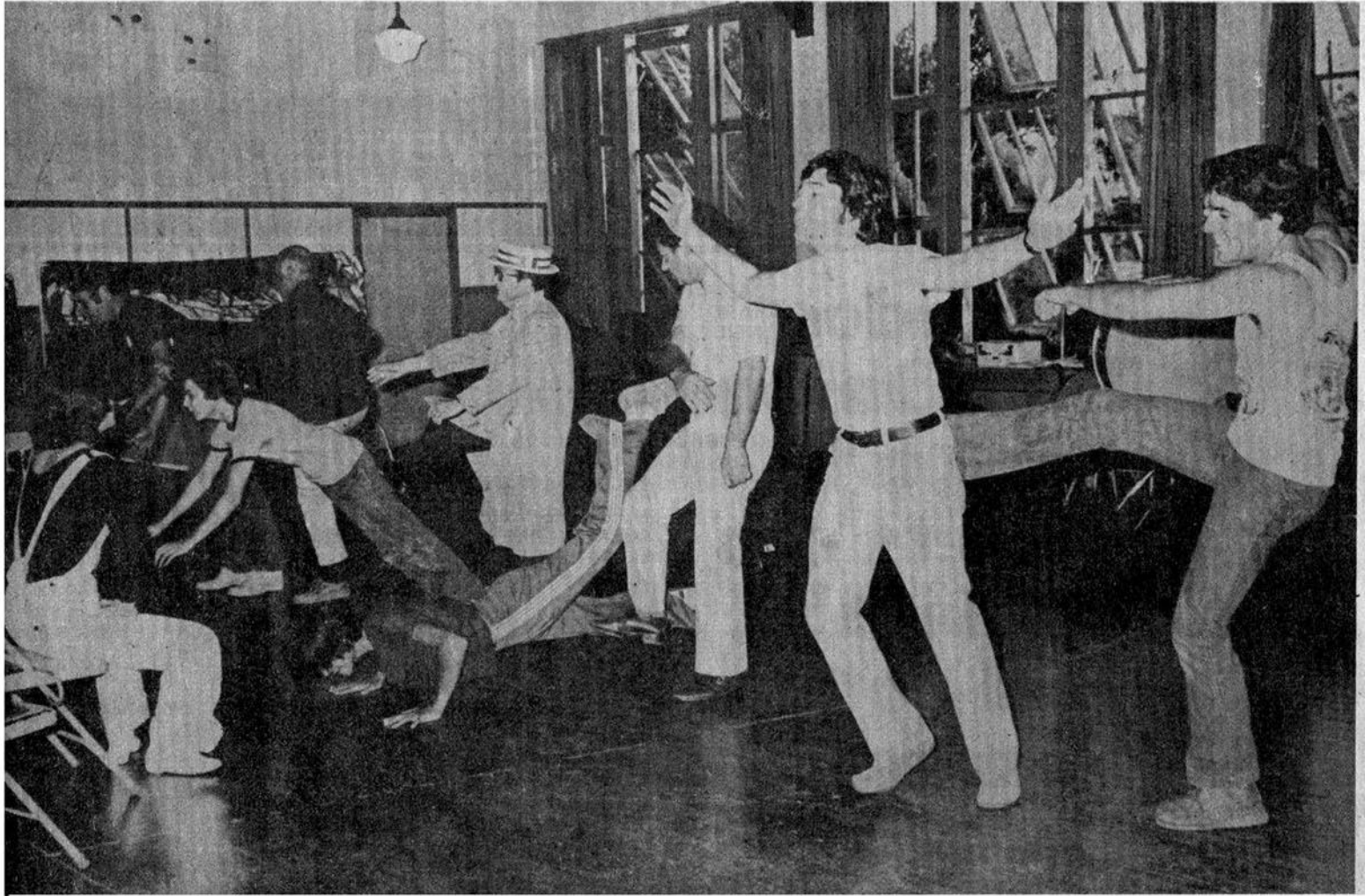
"Sugar" is being directed by Russ Hendrickson, choreographed by Debbie Nelson, and under the baton of Sam Taliuto.



**CHOSEN FOR TITLE ROLE** in musical "Sugar" is Mary Gorak of San Jose. She will portray "Sugar Kane" in Gilroy Community Theatre's forthcoming production scheduled for July 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30 at Gavilan College Theater.

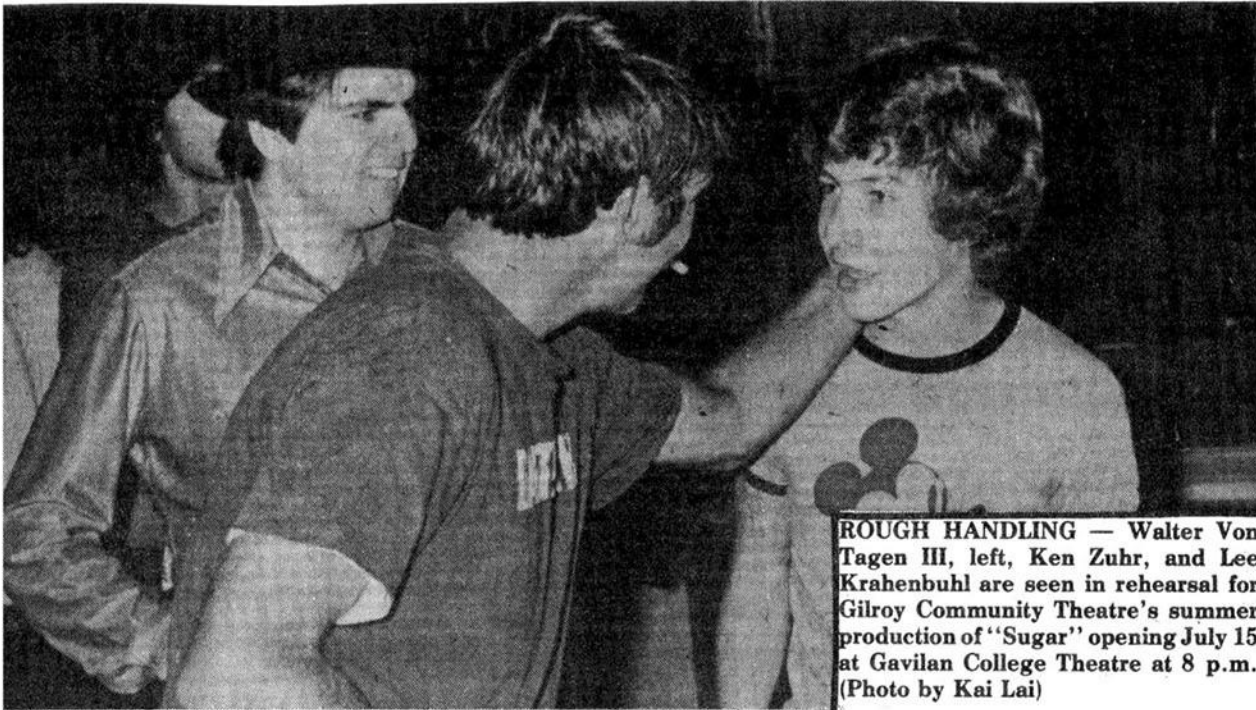


# Mastering tough dance routines



**RIDING FOR A FALL**—Gilroy Community Theater's "Sugar" cast is now in rehearsal for the six July performances at Gavilan College. Choreographer Debbie Nelson of San Jose, seated, left foreground,

instructs male dancers in this scene for "Penniless Bums." Director is Russ Hendrickson. Show opens July 15. (Photo by Kai Lai)



**ROUGH HANDLING** — Walter Von Tagen III, left, Ken Zuhr, and Lee Krahenbuhl are seen in rehearsal for Gilroy Community Theatre's summer production of "Sugar" opening July 15 at Gavilan College Theatre at 8 p.m. (Photo by Kai Lai)

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Opening tonight

# Gilroy Community Theatre has another winner with 'Sugar'

By MARK PAXTON

The Gilroy Community Theatre has another big smash in "Sugar," set to open Friday evening and play the next three weekends, at Gavilan College Theatre. The play is a take off on the hilarious movie, "Some Like It Hot," starring Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemon.

Despite the problems expected at Wednesday's dress rehearsal, the practice came across as a tight, near professional production. "Sugar" is sure to leave tonight's opening audience laughing all the way home.

The plot is simple and tailor made for laughs. Two unemployed musicians in trouble with the mob, dress as women in order to join an all female band leaving Chicago for Miami.

Joe, played by Frank Vanella, and Brad Ryder as Jerry, masquerade as Josephine and Daphne and get employed by the band.

A millionaire played by Frank Pattie falls in love with Jerry. Pattie is excellent in his role as Sir Osgood Fielding, delivering some of the best lines in the show and dancing and singing professionally.

Frank Vanella and Brad Ryder as the two female impersonators are hysterical. The two act like the old friends they are supposed to be and complement each other wonderfully. Both have excellent voices and a talent for comedy delivery.

The movie role played by Marilyn Monroe stars Mary Gorak as Sugar. She plays her dumb blond role without flaw. She looks like a show girl and her singing sounds like something off an old 78 RPM record.

Linda Talluto as the abrasive leader and matron of the "Society Syncopaters," and Joe Breznak as Beinstock, their manager are also cast well.

Spats, the mobster looking for Joe and Jerry, is portrayed by Ron Williams, who plays Spats as a cliché gangster, the way he should be played.

The Depression era costumes are great, they do a lot to make up for sets that are a little shoddy. Since the actors were responsible for much set construction, in addition to rehearsal, the shortcoming is understandable.

The direction of Russ Hendrickson has tied "Sugar" together. He has supervised a number of the GCT's productions successfully and has done it again. The Hendrickson touch is there.

Music, under the direction of Sam Talluto, is put together well. The orchestra sounds big enough for the musical and the melodies bounce.

Choreographer Debbie Nelson is a perfectionist. It shows in her ability to turn actors into dancers in such a short time.

To top it all off, "Sugar" even has a happy ending. The good guys get the girls, and the bad guys just get it. Mark your calendar for one of the next three weekends because "Sugar" is a "must" event.

Tickets for all performances are available from GCT members. Tickets including tomorrow's champagne reception in the Theatre Angels Cultural Center are available from the Theatre Angels.

Cast members for "Sugar" are; Sugar, Mary Gorak; Joe, Frank Vanella; Jerry, Brad Ryder; Sweet Sue, Linda Talluto; Beinstock, Joe Breznak; Sir Osgood Fielding, Frank Pattie; Spats, Ron Williams; Knuckles, Frank Ginelli; Henchmen, Charles Krahenbuhl and Tony Tomaro; Dude, Tony Andrade; first gangster, Walter von Tagen III; gangsters, Lee Krahenbuhl, Curtis Cadill, Ken Zuhr and Eric Bruckner; Society Syncopaters, Cindy Dodge, Ann Zuhr, Kim Spendlove, Kay Cooper, Alexa Fletcher, Donna Fletcher, Helie Rock, Betsy McIntosh and Susan Blumberg; chorus, Shelly Andrews, Doeri Welch, Chris Bolton and Kai Lai.

Direction is provided by Rosalie Andrews, producer; Russ Hendrickson, director; Debbie Nelson, choreographer; and Sam Talluto, musical director.

## Curtain goes up tonight for 'Sugar' at Gavilan

The curtain will go up at 8 this evening on the Gilroy Community Theater's summer musical production, "Sugar," which is being staged in the Gavilan College theater.

Repeat performances are scheduled Saturday night and on July 22, 23, 29 and 30.

"Sugar" is the stage version of the movie comedy, "Some Like It Hot" and the Gilroy production's cast of 25 includes Anthony Andrade of Hollister who appears in the supporting role of "Dude."

The production is directed by Russ Hendrickson of Gilroy

who appeared this spring in "The Crucible" and directed last year's Gilroy Theater production of "1776." Debbie Nelson of San Jose is the show's choreographer and Sam Talluto of San Jose is musical director. Miss Nelson has choreographed many shows, including the theater group's first major musical, "Guys and Dolls." Talluto was musical director for the Community Theater's production of "Cabaret."

Show tickets at \$3 for adults and \$2 for students will be available at the door.



Stylishly costumed for their roles in the Gilroy Theater Community Theater's musical production, "Sugar," are Frank Vanella, left, who appears in the role of "Josephine" and Brad Ryder who portrays "Daphne." The stage version of the movie "Some Like It Hot" opens this evening in the Gavilan College theater.



# Theatre Angles reception



**COMMITTEE** — Behind the scenes of any party are hard working committee members, such as those who decorated and provided refreshments at the TAAL champagne party. From left during the recent action are: Leslie Palmerlee and Linda Partridge, co-chairmen; Robert Kraemer and Joanne Kraemer who is costumed as Lady Moore from a "Man For

All Seasons;" and Frances Howson, vice president of TAAL. Arrangements for the reception being held for the first time at the center, include illumination of the huge magnolia tree by spotlights; lanterns on the porch, garden tables, candles and baskets of flowers.



**COSTUMES** — Satin, velvet and calico gowns were among those donned by members of the Theatre Angels Art League when they hosted the annual champagne reception at the art center on Fifth Street following the second performance of "Sugar." The costumes were those worn by members of the Gilroy Community Theatre group during past productions.

From left above are: Gigi Greene, Francis Sampson and Beverly Valencia, "Barbary Coast"; Jeanine Carrera, Bianca in "Kiss Me Kate;" Maryann Bruegmann, Fraulein Schnieder costume from "Cabaret;" and Robert Bruegmann.



**STARS** — Daphne, portrayed by Brad Ryder, Sugar, by Mary Gorak and Josephine, by Frank Vanella whoop it up in Gilroy Community Theater's production of "Sugar."



**SHOW BIZ** — Daphne and Josephine land much-needed jobs in an all-woman band. The problem lies in the fact that they are both men.



**LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT** — Sir Osgood Fielding, played by Frank Pattie, offers to carry Daphne's bags. For Fielding, its love, for Daphne, horror.



**GANGSTERS** — Gangland leader Spats, played by Ron Williams, orders one of his henchmen, Lee Krahenbuhl, to "rub out" Joe and Jerry.

# 'Sugar' difficult to pull off

By JILL SINGLETON

**GILROY**—The Gilroy Community Theatre played to a near-capacity house Friday night, July 15 at Gavilan College with its most recent production, "Sugar," a musical comedy directed by Russell Hendrickson.

Hendrickson managed to pull off this antiquated vehicle—an anachronistic (sexist) poke at sex and sex roles, and themes that flirt with homosexuality.

Certainly it was not the play itself, but the cast's enthusiasm which allowed the ideas and predictable jokes to be served up one more time, with some degree of palatability. They do pull it off as the audience's warm response throughout the show indicated.

Early scenes were paced for a snail race, but as the evening proceeded, the action speeded up and the cast relaxed into their roles. By the second run, July 22-23, timing should be in good or great shape and continue July 29-30.

Musical director Sam Talluto did an excellent job. Seldom were even the weakest voices drowned out.

Mary Jane Gorak, who played the Sugar lead, a role immortalized by Marilyn Monroe in

the movie version, "Some Like It Hot," managed well to capture the vitality of her character. Her voice carried the songs and she appeared well in control throughout.

Frank Vanella and Brad Ryder played duo female musicians in disguise. Vanella sang well. Unfortunately, the show has only one memorable song.

Ryder improved as the show moved along and delivered several priceless lines.

Ron Williams was electric as a caricature of a thirties hoodlum, playing each second on stage to the limit and adding real sparkle.

Though the choreography is nothing to write home about, the chorus held up well—bright faces, colorful costumes and all.

Frank Pattie (Sir Osgood Fielding) and Linda Morris Talluto (Sweet Sue) did good jobs, but were a little stiff on opening night.

Overall, the show provides good family entertainment. Congratulations to the cast and crew for turning this turkey into a peacock. One still can't help but wonder why the effort, when there are so many fine and still funny musicals to choose from.



# Standing ovation accorded cast of 'Sugar'

By Bruce Anderson

The standing ovation accorded the cast of the Gilroy Community Theater's production of "Sugar" at the end of the musical Saturday night indicated that much, if not most, of the near-capacity audience had enjoyed the show immensely.

This viewer, however, felt feeling that the value of a standing ovation had somehow been cheapened.

The play, which finishes its three-week run at the Gavilan College Theater Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., did have its high moments.

The overall performance, however, suffered from a surplus of lackluster singing and acting and a lack of energy and creative choreography.

"Sugar" is a love story which revolves around two unemployed male musicians who masquerade as women and join an all-girl band so that they can escape mobsters who want them to listen to tunes on their "violins."

The script, based on the screenplay "Some Like It Hot" by Billy Wilder and I.A.L. Diamond, makes the most of the comical possibilities of men in an all-girl band.

Many of the humorous lines were lost rough because of poor delivery. Others were lost on a slow audience. Some were lost to a combination of both.

Of the entire cast, Gilroy High graduate Brad Ryder, who portrayed Jerry, the bass player, seemed to find the audience's funny bone the most often. Jerry becomes Daphne upon joining the band.

He is amorously pursued by millionaire senior citizen Sir Osgood Fielding, played by Frank Pattie.

Jerry's disguised partner Joe, played by Frank Vanella, becomes attracted to Sugar Kane, the blond bombshell in the band and dons glasses and matching cap and convinces her that he is a millionaire.

Vanella gives the strongest all-around performance in "Sugar" as he proves himself to be an actor and the only lead player with a truly singing voice. Fortunately, many of the show's songs were group numbers where individual weaknesses were effectively masked.

Sugar, the object of Joe's romantic scheming, is played by acting veteran Mary Jane Gorak. Gorak is convincing as the vacuous, tittering blonde in search of a young, bespectacled millionaire.

Ron Williams, as Spats, the mob leader who wants Joe and Jerry rubbed out, delivers the outstanding supporting performance of the production.

Throughout the two-act play, Spats moves across the stage tap dancing in a slow cadence. Even while standing, his foot never stops tapping.

Decked in white from his spats to his hat, Williams does a hilarious, drawn-out death scene which drew well-deserved ovation.

Linda Talluto, as Sweet Sue, the authoritarian band leader and Joseph Bereznek, as Bienstock, the tin-eared band manager, give credible supporting performances.

Many of the smaller roles suffered from unenergetic, innocuous performances. During one dance number, the stoic expressions the faces of the dancers give the scene a bizarre comical effect which went unappreciated by most of the audience.

The choreography was equally uninspired. With the few dance numbers the production included it is unfortunate they were not done with more imagination.

The sets on the other hand benefitted from simplicity. And nicely-arranged use of the stage in front of the curtain allowed the production to go off smoothly with no breaks between scenes.

The pit orchestra, under the direction of Sam Talluto, also kept the play moving at a good tempo.



## 'Angels' serving champagne Saturday

GILROY—The Theatre Angels Art League will hold a champagne reception to benefit its cultural center following Saturday's performance of "Sugar."

Tickets for the play and reception are \$7, and part of the money will be spent to restore the old Willey house for cultural activities.

"Sugar," presented by the Gilroy Community Theatre, will begin at 8 p.m. in the Gavilan College Theatre. The reception will be held at the Theatre Angels Cultural Center, 140 5th St.

For tickets call Joanne Craemer, 842-6949.

The center originally was the home of Howard Willey, a judge in Gilroy for many years. His two daughters often presented operettas and recitals in their home to bring some culture to the town.

This was one of the reasons the Theatre Angels selected the house, said Salley Connell, a member of the league.

Once restored, the house will be used for drama classes, small musicals and city cultural activities, Connell said.