

## Entertainment set at champagne reception

**GILROY** — As an added attraction to Theatre Angels Art League's champagne reception Friday, entertainment will be provided by Una, a belly dancer.

The annual reception will be held at 140 Fifth St., following the opening night performance of

Gilroy Community Theatre's production of "Kismet" at Gavilan College Theatre.

Hors d'oeuvres made by Theatre Angels members will accompany the champagne, and members of the "Kismet" cast will be on hand to meet with theatre patrons.

Tickets for the reception, the

opening night performance, or both, are available by calling ticket co-chairmen Joy Hall at 847-2797 or Jacquie Woodworth at 847-0855.

"Kismet" tickets for other performances are available at Dick Bruhn's, Music Tree and Plaza Drugs.

## 'Kismet' rehearsal



**OPENING TONIGHT** — Cast and band members of "Kismet," the latest Gilroy Community Theatre production that opens at 8 p.m. tonight at the Gavilan Theatre have been hard at work with last minute details this week. Coordinating the musical group is Creighton Yip. A few first performance tickets for tonight's premier will be available at the door, as well as tickets for the champagne reception to follow at the Theatre Angels Art

League house at 140 Fifth St. Cast members and others involved in the production will be present at the reception. Added to the evening's fare at the TAAL house is a performance by Una, a belly dancer. Tickets for other performances slated Aug. 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18 are available at Dick Bruhn's and Plaza Drugs in Gilroy and at Music Tree in Morgan Hill and Gilroy.



**NIGHTS OF NIGHTS** -- The Caliph (Frank Vanella) describes his reactions after falling in love as Omar (Bill Dunlap) listens sympathetically.

# GCT's 'Kismet' a sparkling production

BY JOANNE SHOWALTER

GILROY - Sparkling with exotic settings and costumes, "Kismet" is a jewel offered by Gilroy Communitytheatre for its 10th anniversary.

The musical fantasy opened to a full house last Friday and continues Aug. 10, 11, 17 and 18 at 8 p.m. at Gavilan College Theatre. Tickets are available at the door and at Dick Bruhn's, Plaza Drugs and Music Tree.

It is a musical with songs to hum on the way home: "Stranger in Paradise," "Baubles, Bangles and Beads," "And this is My Beloved" and "Night of My Nights."

Mary Jane Sponor brings her outstanding vocal talents to the role of Marsinah, a beggar's daughter turned prosperous. A veteran of past GCT productions, Spohr plans to study voice this coming year and may soon trade her amateur status for professional.

As her father, Haji, Charles Krahenbuhl brightens the role of seeker and finder and loser and finder of fortune. His sidelong, crafty glances as he strives to stay on top are memorable, and he handles some difficult singing parts with skill.

According to the play: "No man may avoid his fate; that is Kismet."

Despite that philosophy, Haji seems to be pretty good at defying, but there is no doubt at fate has in store for the Caliph after he first sees Marsinah at the Bazaar.

In the role of Caliph, Frank Vanella wraps his mellow voice around solos and duets with Spohr in some of the musical highlights of the show.

Although not outstanding musically, Donna Archer brings a marvelous humor to her first GCT role. As Lalume, the favorite wife of the Wazir -- who is definitely not her favorite male -- she leaves no doubt that his power fades at the harem door.

Perfect foil for her remarks and as evil a police chief as one could ever meet, is Tom Pintello as the Wazir. A Hollister resident and theatre major at Gavilan College, Pintello is a seasoned performer with a natural style.

A newcomer in theatre, Frank Nolan turns in an excellent performance as Javan the bandit, who is domineering, until fate turns and he is reduced to groveling.

Bill Dunlap strikes a suitable style for Omar, who sees all and offers counsel as the storyteller who chronicled Arabian stories of love and fortune.

In her first job as director, Marty Pyle deserves kudos for bringing amateur and near-professional singers together into a splendid chorus which does an excellent job of handling demanding music, often in a minor key. Her own musical background and training are evident.

Deserving credit for delightful movement and action onstage is Greta Tegel, choreographer for the show. Her talent is especially evident in the bazaar scene where virtually the entire cast appears.

The large cast includes several young people from the recent production of the "Ghosts of Sarah Winchester", and it is a definite plus that a city the size of Gilroy provides so many opportunities for testing theatrical ambitions -- or for having a good time.

Having a good time was the rule when Karri Duke and Alicia Johnson appeared as belly dancers. If the coins on their costumes were Susan B. Anthonys, the value of the dollar would have increased immediately.

A 19-piece orchestra under the direction of Creighton Yip provided music for the musical production. Mary Ann Bruegmann was producer.

Costumes and setting were also stars of "Kismet." Among the many, many technicians, artists and construction helpers, special mention goes to Rusty McMillan who adapted the settings designed by Gene Pelligrini; artists Carol Maya and Laurie Sak; and costume mistress Georgette Ghielmetti, who must have worked enormously hard to accumulate the outfits which create a mosaic to delight the eyes.

A private touch before the curtains opened was the presentation of a plaque to Jewell Pray in appreciation of her continued support to GCT. She has played violin in each of the musicals produced during the community theatre's 10-year history.

A theatre for the community and by the community isn't Broadway but it can still be good theatre, as "Kismet" proves.



**EARNEST PLEA** -- While swordsmen wait, Haji (Charles Krahenbuhl) offers to perform magical powers. If only the bandit Jawan (Frank Nolan) will spare his life.



**FIRST NIGHTERS** -- Enjoying the champagne reception by Theatre Angels Art League following last Friday's opening night performance of "Kismet" are a trio involved in the Gilroy Community Theatre production. At left is Mary Jane Spohr, a Live Oak High teacher who plays the leading female role of Marsinah. At center is Frank Nolan, basketball coach at Live Oak who portrays

a bandit in his first acting role. At right is Marty Pyle of Morgan Hill who has often been on stage in theatrical productions but applies her talents as director to "Kismet." Theatre patrons and cast mingled at Theatre Angels Cultural Center after the play to sip champagne, nibble hors d'oeuvres, enjoy the lantern-lit grounds and watch belly dancing by Una and Bobby Stevens.



**KISMET CROWD** - Tom Pintello as the Wazir of Police and Donna Archer as his wife Lalume, sing out in "Kismet," a musical fantasy presented by Gilroy Community Theatre. Final performances of the summer musical are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. at Gavilan College Theatre. Tickets are available at the door or at Dick Bruhn's, Plaza Drugs and Music Tree. Others starring in the musical are Mary Jane Spohr as Marsinah, Charles Krahenbuhl as Jajj, Frank Vanella as teh Caliph, Bill Dunlap as Omar and John D'Arcy as chief policeman. Marty Pyle is director, Creighton Yip is musical director, Greta Tegel is choreographer and Mary Ann Bruegmann as producer.



