

Musical evening slated with Rodgers and Hart

Theatregoers who want to view "An Evening with Rodgers and Hart" may do so without attending the dinner show, announced Marie Perkins, producer of the musical to be performed later this month.

The non-dinner performance is slated at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 29, at the United Presbyterian Church social hall, Fifth and Church Streets. •

Tickets are going fast and seating is limited for the Gilroy Community Theatre production. Tickets for all performances are available by calling Perkins at 847-7375.

Dinner show productions are slated March 23, 24, 30, April 4 and 7. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with dinner to be served at 7 p.m. sharp.

Reduced price tickets are available to senior citizens and students for the non-dinner show. Perkins stressed that no tickets will be sold at the door for any of the performances.

"An Evening with Rodgers and Hart" is a musical celebration featuring tunes of the famous musical duo.

Director is MaryAnn Bruegmann with choreography by Greta Tetel and music by Marilyn Guerin.

The Valley World, February 21, 1979-

GCT begins rehearsals for musical

By KAILAI

Gilroy Community Theatre will start off its 10th season with a delightful dinner show, 'An Evening with Rodgers and Hart,' musical celebration featuring over 60 nostalgic tunes from the twenties and thirties.

As the name of the show implies the songs from the show are all written by the famous Lorenz Hart, the librettist and lyricist, collaborated with the composer Rodgers in 'Poor Little Rich Girl,' 'A Connecticut Yankee,' 'On Your Toes,' 'The Boys from Syracuse' and 'Pal Joey.'

The 60 odd songs to be presented in the dinner show are selected from the Broadway hits of the two musical duo. Classics such as 'With a Song in My Heart,' 'This Can't be Love,' 'I Wish I Were in Love Again,' 'Mountain Greenery,' 'Blue Moon,' 'Johnny One Note,' 'Manhattan,' 'Small Hotel,' 'Betwitched' and 'The Lady is a Tramp' are but a few of the many to be featured in the show.

The show is produced by Marie Perkins and directed by the very talented Mary Ann Bruegmann, who also directed the smashing hit "I Do! I Do!" last year for GCT.

The cast of the show includes, Betsy McIntosh, who portrayed Marie in 'The Sound of Music,' Frank Vanella, Roger Bennett, Sandy Rappazzini, Chuck Meyer, Jheri Sundberg, Geoffrey Ward, Marty Pyle, and Mary Jane Spohr.



NOSTALGIA—Rehearsals are underway for Gilroy Community Theater's production of the musical 'An Evening with Rodgers and Hart.' Above are members of cast rehearsing a routine from 'The Boys from Syracuse,' left to right: Betsy McIntosh, Chuck Meyer, Mary Jane Spohr, Roger Bennett, Marty Pyle, Frank Vanella, Sandy Rappazzini, Jheri Sundberg and Geoffrey Ward. (Photo by Kai Lai)

There will be cameo appearances by the noted director, performer from San Jose, George Costa, Russell Hendrickson, and Tony Andrade from Hollister.

Choreography for the show will be under the direction of Greta Tetel. Rehearsal for the show is well is confident that this dinner show will be entertainment at its best

providing the audience with sweet reminiscence of the golden ere of music.

The music director for the show is Marilyn Gruin.

The show is slated to be performed for three consecutive weekends in mid March. It will be a dinner show in a very relaxing environment. The price for the show

will be \$10 per person, which includes the dinner. Tickets for the show will be made available in ear March. Based on the success of last year's show, producer Perkins predicts all six performances will be sold out early and suggests theatre enthusiasts to get the tickets early to avoid disappointment.



DINNER SHOW — Rehearsing for the upcoming Gilroy Community Theatre production, "An Evening with Rodgers and Hart," are, from left, Chuck Meyer, Betsy McIntosh, Roger Bennett, Mary Jane Spohr, Frank Vanella, Marty Pyle, Sandy Rappazini, Geoffrey Ward and Jheri Sunberg. They are recreating a scene from "The Boys from Syracuse."

GCT presentation

Rodgers and Hart show slated

Gilroy Community Theatre begins its 10th season with a dinner show, "An Evening with Rodgers and Hart."

The show to be presented in mid-March features over 60 nostalgic tunes from the 20s and 30s. As the name of the show implies, the songs are written by the famous Lorenz Hart with the music provided by noted composer Richard Rodgers.

The show is produced by Marie Perkins and directed by MaryAnn Bruegmann who also directed last year's hit "I Do! I Do!" for GCT.

Cast of the show includes: Betsy

McIntosh, who brought the house down last year with her portrayal of Maria in "Sound of Music," Frank Vanella, Roger Bennett, Sandy Rappazini, Chuck Meyer, Jheri Sunberg, Geoffrey Ward, Marty Pyle and Mary Jane Spohr.

There will be cameo appearances by noted director, performer George Costa of San Jose, Russell Hendrickson, long active in local theatre groups, and Tony Andrade of Hollister.

Choreography of the show will be under direction of Greta Tegal. Rehearsals for the show are well under

way, and director Bruegmann is confident the second GCT dinner show will be entertainment at its best. Musical director is Marilyn Guerin.

The 60 songs to be presented in the dinner show are selected from Broadway hits of the musical duo. Classics such as "With a Song in My Heart," "This Can't be Love," "I Wish I were in Love Again," "Mountain Greenery," "Blue Moon," "Johnny One Note," "Manhattan," "Small Hotel," "Bewitched" and "The Lady is a Tramp" are only a few of the many to be featured.

Dinner show tickets on sale

Space is limited so no tickets will be sold at the door, is the word from Gilroy Community Theatre concerning its spring dinner show slated at the social hall of the United Presbyterian Church, Fifth and Church Streets, on March 23, 24, 29, 30 and April 4 and 7.

Admission price includes dinner to be served at 7 p.m. and the doors will open at 6:30 p.m. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the premises.

Because of limited seating, tickets will be sold in advance of performances only. They may be obtained by contacting Marie Perkins at 842-7375; Marge Probert 842-0143; Marty or Bob Pyle 779-7872 or Georgette Ghielmetti at 842-7729.

Versatility marks staging of musical program

By Jo Anne Showalter

Sixty songs may seem quite a few, but not when considering the works of Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart. The prodigious song-writing team wrote 550 numbers.

The chosen 60 are presented on stage in "An Evening with Rodgers and Hart," which opened last Friday. Produced by Gilroy Community Theatre, the dinner show spotlights a cast of 10, who demonstrate versatility in solos and ensembles in a variety of styles.

Performing in cameo appearances were Tony Andrade, Russell Hendrickson and Jorge Costa, director of San Jose Light Opera who aided in founding GCT.

Kudos for the crisp pace and sparkle of the production belong to Mary Ann Bruegmann, director; Marilyn Guerin, music director and pianist; and Greta Tegel, choreographer.

Carol Maya also should take a bow for her bigger-than-life sketches of cast members which decorate black panels flanking the wine velvet stage backdrop.

But the show belongs to the singers. Marty Pyle demonstrated her professional-quality vocal skills, especially on "Funny Valentine," a slow number, and "To Keep My Love Alive," a satiric portrayal of the war between the sexes.

The theme of love and hate ran throughout the show, as songs were interspersed with background information about the song writers.

Geoffrey Ward delivers the line of Rodgers telling of his first meeting with Hart: "That day I found a career, a partner, a best friend and a permanent source of irritation."

The show features songs from Broadway, follows the writing team to Hollywood and then back to New York, for an effective rendition by the entire cast on "I'll Take Manhattan."

A touching medley features Jannine Carrera singing "Without a Sail," which leads into other numbers by other performers. "Only his songs told us how he really felt," Carrera says of Hart.

Rodgers is portrayed as the steady one, turning out dependably medodious tunes. A standout number illustrates several sets of words to one tune before the final clicks into "Blue Moon." Backed up by the cast, Chuck Myer wails into a fake mike for a jazzy version which deserves the hearty applause it garners.

Blue is also the color for a quiet solo when Sandra Rapazzini sings a beautiful rendition of "Little Girl Blue."

Sisters Mary Jane Spoor and Betsy McIntosh (who plaed Maria in GTC's "Sound of Music") illustrate that vocal talent runs in that family, and they don't do badly in the beautiful eyes and dimples department, either.

Jheri Sundberg combines music and emotion, shining particularly on "The Lady is a Tramp."

Frank Vanella and Geoffrey Ward take on a multitudie of duties in pursuing the women or in being musically pursued. The 10th cast member, Roger Bennett, will be back onstage for the rest of the shows after missing the opening because of schedule conflicts.

Along with Guerin's piano, the musical beat was produced by Jon Krahenbuhl on bass and Chip Welch on drums. An evidently compentent crew worked behind stage under the direction of Marie Perkins, producer.

Hart eventually broke up the partnership and Rodgers, now a living legend at 77, collabarated with Oscar Hammerstein for many more tuneful years.

Still, 550 songs is really an accomplishment and the cast acknowledges that with a heartfelt "Thank you, Mr. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Hart."

One addition is in order. "Thank you, Gilroy Community Theatre."

The musical evening continues at Gilroy Presbyterian Church on Thursday (a non-dinner show) at 8 p.m. and March 30 and April 6-7, when dinner begins at 7 p.m. For tickets, call Marie Perkins, after 5 p.m., at 847-7375.



SING OUT — Joyously pulling out all the stops are cast members of Gilroy Community Theatre's "An Evening with Rodgers and Hart," from left, Betsy McIntosh, Jheri Sundberg, Geoffrey Ward, Sandra Rappazzini, Marty Pyle, Chuck Myer, Jannine Carrera, Mary Jane Spohr and Frank Vanella.



MINE — Mary Jane Spohr, left, leaves no doubt during the number "Isn't it Romantic" that Geoffrey Ward is coming

with her, no matter what that means to brokenhearted Jheri Sundberg.



TOUGH GUYS — Not all of Rodgers and Hart's songs were love songs, as illustrated by "It's a Lovely Day for a Murder." Making up the villainous quintet are, from left,

Russell Hendrickson, Frank Vanella, Geoffrey Ward, George Costa and Chuck Myer.



SIXTY SONGS—Big share of the long repertoire of famed composed Rogers and Hart was presented by Gilroy Community Theater players, some of whom are seen above. Five of seven male members of cast perform scene above left. They are, Russell Hendrickson, Frank Vanella, Geoffrey Ward, Tony Andrade and Chuck Myer. Above, Myer listens to pleading of Jannine Carrera while Mary Jane spohr laments loss of her man. Below, Jheri Sundberg and Vanella perform duet.—C.K. Hurd photos.



HEART AND SOUL — Chuck Myer, left, and Geoffrey Ward react with fervor to a jazzed-up version of "Blue Moon."

Rogers & Hart wins plaudits

GILROY—The Gilroy Community Theatre's premiere performance of "An Evening with Rodgers and Hart" was a resounding success judging by the accolades of applause from the capacity dinner show audience.

Staged at the United Presbyterian Church Hall last Friday night, the production promises to be a hit with local community theatre fans. The curtain goes up at 8 p.m. again March 29-30 and April 6-7.

The musical celebration of some classic standards showed the deft touch of Mary Ann Bruegmann's fast paced direction. She is also president of the Gilroy school board.

The music was directed by Marilyn Guerin, who brought out the best in the ensemble's talents. Together they made some

memorable moments in the first and second acts. The renditions of classic standards such as "My Romance," "With A Song In My Heart" and "My Funny Valentine" were rhapsodic praises to romance and everyone's romantic nostalgia.

Members of the ensemble included Janine Carrera, Betsy McIntosh, Chuck Meyer, Marty Pyle, Sandra Rapazzini, Mary Jane Sphor, Jheri Sundberg, Frank Vanella and Geoffrey Ward, who was their emcee.

Janine Carrera is the newest member of the theatre group, and also their youngest performer. She has performed in San Jose theatre groups. Chuck Meyer is another cast member new to the Gilroy group. Betsy McIntosh is a teacher at the

Learning Center and also appeared in "Sound of Music." Marty Pyle lives in Morgan Hill and is a veteran local performer.

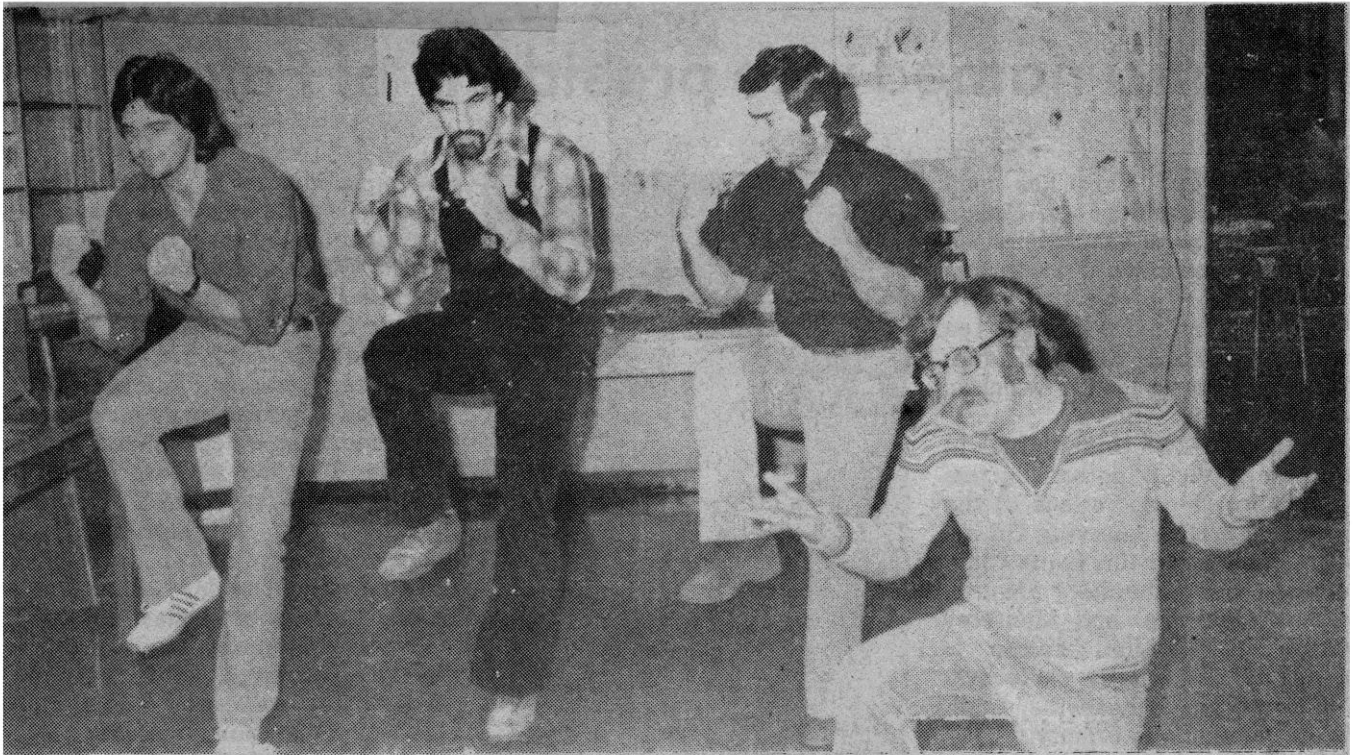
Standouts in their cameo performances were Tony Andrade, Jorge Da Costa and Russell Hendrickson.

Their spot roles contributed to the rousing staging of "Chicago," "The Most Beautiful Girl in the World," and other numbers like "Bewitched" and "The Lady is a Tramp." These great Rodgers and Hart songs were among the highlights of the second half of the show.

There were more than 60 songs in a number of scenes choreographed by Greta Tegel. She put the dancers through their paces in a fine demonstration of professional choreography.

The dinner was served by Gilroy Rainbow Girls supervised by Lisa Young and coordinated with Doris Mason.

Tickets are available for the forthcoming productions. Don't miss a chance to fondly recall your most treasured romance. Chances are you'll hear "our song."



BLUE MOON—Jazzy routine from "An Evening with Rodgers and Hart" is rehearsed by Geoffrey Ward, Frank Vanella, Roger Bennett, and kneeling, Chuck Meyer. They perform to music "Blue Moon," one of

60 odd songs included in the hit musical that will be presented for three weekends starting Friday, March 23. (Photo by Kai Lai)

Extra 'walk-in' show added to GCT program

GILROY—Marie Perkins, producer of the upcoming dinner show "An Evening with Rodgers and Hart" announced this year's show will be presented slightly different than last year's.

The third performance which is scheduled for Thursday, Mar. 29, will be

a non dinner show. This will offer those theatre goers who would like to see the show without dinner an opportunity to enjoy the musical performance.

Admission for the non-dinner performance will be \$5 adults, \$2.50 students and senior citizens. Curtain time will be 8 p.m.

Tickets for all performances can be obtained by calling 847-7375, 842-0143, 779-7872 and 842-7729.

There will be no tickets on sale at the door. The show is slated, with dinner to be presented on March 23, 24, 30, April 4 and 7. Admission for the dinner show is \$10 per person.

"An Evening with Rodgers and Hart" is a musical celebration featuring the tunes of the musical duo of Rodgers and Hart. The director of the show is Mary Ann Bruegmann with choreography directed by Greta Tegel and Music directed by Marilyn Gruin.