

GILROY COMMUNITY THEATRE

ANNOUNCES

AUDITIONS

for the musical hit

'How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying'

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, JUNE 6 & 7, 7:30 P.M.

at Gilroy High School Band Room

Director: Russell Hendrickson

NEEDED . . .

LARGE CAST OF MEN AND WOMEN

From TeenAge On up

BE IN THE CAST!!

HELP WITH THE CREW!!

ASSIST IN PRODUCTION !!

HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE...

JOIN GILROY COMMUNITY THEATRE!!

BE A PATRON . . . 6 TICKETS PER SEASON . . . \$25.00

BE A SPONSOR . . . 3 TICKETS PER SEASON . . . \$15.00

New play goes into rehearsal

Cast selections were nearly completed for Gilroy Community Theatre's forthcoming musical "How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying", it was announced today by director Russell Hendrickson.

"We're still short a number of males for minor speaking parts and production numbers," Hendrickson said.

"The movie producers missed the boat on accenting the satire of today's corporation and company man, not to mention the general tone of our business morality in today's distorted world." There's a wealth of laughter and good music in "How to Succeed."

Candidates for the additional male roles, teenager and older, may join the cast in rehearsals at Gilroy High School band room at 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and on Sunday at 2 p.m. at the high school cafeteria for George Costa's choreography.

12• Gilroy Dispatch (Calif.) Monday, June 3, 1974

Auditions for musical slated

Auditions for the musical production "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" were announced by Mrs. Mary Ann Brueggmann, president of Gilroy Community Theatre, for Thursday and Friday, June 6 and 7, 7:30 p.m. at the Gilroy High School band room.

"We will need a large cast of men and women of all ages," observed the theatre group head, adding "This will be a great vehicle for teenagers, too."

With book by Abe Burrows, music by Frank Loesser, who teamed on other Broadway hits such as "Guys and Dolls," and directed by Russell Hendrickson, "How to Succeed" is a spoof on the corporate image. Portrayed are some of the shenanigans of the "executive suite" and the meteoric rise of an ordinary window washer whose ambitions are affected by the altitude, the fates, and the Peter principle.

Wednesday, July 31, 1974 (Calif.) Dispatch - 3



DIRECTOR - San Jose's veteran musical director and choreographer George Costa is sandwiching the Gilroy Community Theatre's production of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" in between his busy schedule of producing three shows in San Jose. Sunday afternoons Costa works with the Gilroy cast at the high school developing the stylized scenes for the musical. Show opens Aug. 16 at Gavilan College Theatre and runs Aug. 17-23-24, 30-31. Photo by John White Jr.



PRODUCTION PRELUDE - Members of the Theatre Angels Art League are planning ticket sales and an after-theatre champagne reception party for the Gilroy Community Theatre's production of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," slated to open Aug. 16 at the Gavilan College Theatre. Left to right above are committee members going over plans: Annette Anagnoston, food chairman; Laverne Tyler, over-all chairman; and Roberta D'Amello, decorations. Not shown is Linda Betty Klaben who is in charge of ticket sales. Curtain time will be 8 p.m., and the opening night reception will be held at Al Sanchez Volkswagen showroom, Welburn and Church Streets.

4 - Gilroy Dispatch (Calif.) Friday, July 26, 1974

New musical production set

Cast members of the Gilroy Community Theatre's August musical production, "How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," have been in rehearsal for three weeks preparing for the six late August performances at Gavilan College Theatre.

Involved in the chorus and dance ensembles are Sally Bunning, Randy Tyler, Sandra Rappazini, Ellen Fuchs, Bette Brown, Marie Perkins, Carole Spendlove, Juan Gonzales, Kim Spendlove, Jennie Kajiko, Dick James, Marcia Almada and Kent Kenny, all of

Gilroy. Others are Walter Von Tagen, Fannie Gargiulo and Frank Vanella of Morgan Hill.

Also working with the chorus and dancers are the leads - Donald Benson and Gay Delaney of Morgan Hill; Diane Query and Dennis Perry of Hollister; Dr. Dan Parmerlee, Joe M. Brown, Kathy Weinberger, Bill Spendlove, Fred Wood and Reg Keddle, all of Gilroy. Other parts being filled by Nance Barker and Mary Nixon.

The musical opens Aug. 16

DIRECTOR - Weeks of rehearsals will pay off this month when members of the Gilroy Community Theatre present the hit Broadway musical "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." Russ Hendrickson, director, was first attracted to the theatre when he was at Long Beach State College; and after trying out for productions, took a year's leave to study at the Free University of Berlin. An English and drama teacher at the high school, he has been directing and performing in plays at that level and at Gavilan College. These include the lead role in "Guys and Dolls," direction of "West Side Story," directing and acting in "Oliver," and participating in productions of "Pajama Game," "Fiddler On The Roof", and "My Fair Lady." The current Gilroy Community Theatre production, with Hendrickson in his first directing job for the group, will open at Gavilan College Theatre on Aug. 16 at 8 p.m. Six performances are scheduled, and tickets may be obtained at Dick Bruhn's or from booths at local shopping centers. - Photo by Eugene

Opening night nears

Champagne reception

Opening night theatregoers interested in attending the first night champagne reception for "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" may obtain tickets for the affair slated Aug. 16 at the Al Sanchez showroom from members of the Theatre Angels Art League.

Further information on the third annual reception sponsored by TAAL may be obtained by calling Lindabetty Klaben, opening night ticket chairman, at 842-8211.



Donald Spencer in role of "Finch" works his way up from the window washer to company president in a series of hilarious scenes in Gilroy Community Theatre's musical "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," opening Aug. 16 at Gavilan College Theatre. Show time is 8 p.m. and it runs from Aug. 16-17, 23-24, 30-31. Tickets are available from Dick Bruhn's and in shopping centers.



Kathie Weinberger, a convalescent hospital employee and Gavilan College student, tackles a comedy role this season in Gilroy Community Theatre's musical spoof, "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," opening Aug. 16 at the campus theatre. With Miss Weinberger is Dr. Dan Parmerlee, local dentist. Scene is from "Coffee Break."



Corporation boss, played by Joe M. Brown, gets assist from his loyal junior executives in scene from "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying," produced by the Gilroy Community Theatre and opening Aug. 16. Show time is 8 p.m. and runs from Aug. 16-17, 23-24, 30-31. -- Photos by John White Jr.

Opening night champagne reception

Wednesday, August 21, 1974 (Calif.) Dispatch



THEATRE ANGELS - Members of the Theatre Angels Art League staged Friday night's champagne reception following the opening night presentation of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." During the event held at Al Sanchez Volkswagen, Jerry Fuchs, Gilroy Dispatch publisher, introduced members of the cast. Pictured above are some of the TAA L members who worked on the reception and were on hand to greet guests, from left: Gigi Green, Martha Sargenti, Laverne Tyler, Susan Perino, Annette Anagnoston and Virginia Wood.

CAST MEMBERS - Pictured at the champagne reception held after their opening night production of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" are, from left: Dennis Perry, Bill Spendlove, Katherine Weinberger, Dan Palmerlee, Diane Query and Peg Brem. The Gilroy Community Theatre's production will be presented again Aug. 23, 24, 30 and 31 at the Gavilan College Theatre with curtain time for all performances at 8 p.m.





**George Costa, Ed Perkins, Creighton Yip
and Russ Hendrickson**



**Mary Ann and George W. Milias
with Firman Voorhies**



Stanley Francis and Connie Simmons



MARY ANN BRUEGMAN



Roberta D'Amelio and Joe Barretta

'How to Succeed' - a smashing success

By DOROTHY GUTTERMAN
Six weeks of hard work came to fruition Friday night at Gavilan Theatre when the packed house gave a standing ovation to the Gilroy Community Theatre's presentation of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

The opening night's audience was treated to a delightful evening of professional entertainment, enhanced by the fact that many of the fine performers are probably your neighbors, maybe even your dentist. This first rate production is due to Russ Hendrickson's ex-

pert direction of an unusually able cast, the refreshing choreography of George Costa, excellent musical direction under Creighton Yip and the ingenious sets designed and constructed by Costa and Ed Perkins.

Mary Ann Bruegmann, producer, and Maryann Mattos, her assistant, have a real winner.

This is the story of a young man's meteoric rise to power by his adherence to the simple rules contained in a book "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." This

adroit manipulator, J. Pierrepont Finch, admirably portrayed by Donald Benson, eventually succumbs to the wide-eyed secretary, deftly handled by Diane Query. Katherin Weinberger's voice and acting ability gives dimension to her role as match-maker.

In a cast of many fine performances, two skilled comedians, Peg Brem and Dan Palmerlee, received repeated applause and laughter. Joe Brown delivers a credible tycoon and Bill Spendlove's "Burtorian" voice lends authenti-

city as the narrator. He also has fun playing a favor-seeking personnel manager.

Among others deserving special attention in key spots are Reg Keddle, Muriel Brem, Ellen Fuchs, Dennis Perry, Julian Gonzales and Fred Wood. Vignettes are supplied by Mary Nixon, Nance Barker, Marie Perkins, Sally Bunning, Kent Kennie, Dick James and Peter Chaney.

The chorus delivers two outstanding numbers in "Coffee Break" and "A Secretary is Not a Toy," and presents the hit songs, "I Believe in You"

and "Brotherhood of Man," with gusto. The group consists of Walter Von Tagen III, Randy Tyler, Frank Vanella, Kent Kennie, Bette Brown, Sandy Rapazzini, Carol Spendlove, Marcia Almada, Fannie Gargiulo, Kim Spendlove and Jenny Kajiko.

Adding to the fast-paced musical are the talented young musicians in the orchestra.

Treat yourself to an evening of fun. The play will be staged Aug. 23, 24, 30 and 31. Tickets are available at the box office and Dick Bruhn's. Curtain time is 8 p.m.



Fred Wood and Dennis DeBell

Photos by John White Jr.

Community Theatre

The smash hit "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" has by this time, reached every corner of San Martin, Gilroy and Morgan Hill. The Broadway success has been playing to packed audiences at Gavilan College.

Enough cannot be said of the performers. Some of them truly belong in showbusiness and will forever dabble in acting. The director, choreographer, set designer, and others, in the cast, worked long and hard to make the show a hit.

But this editorial comment is reserved for the president of the Gilroy Community Theatre, Mary Ann Brueggmann. It's through her energy and efforts that the Community Theatre exists.

The South County area is fortunate to have a group interested in putting on local productions so that local talent can participate. One of these days a Peggy Brem is going to spring forth from our own Community Theatre to the big time.

Meantime, those of us who know the performers feel a vicarious pleasure in watching them, laughing with them and appreciating their efforts. Thanks to Mary Ann Brueggmann, Gilroy has an outstanding Community Theatre.

Theatre credits

EDITOR:

In the Wednesday, Aug. 21 Dispatch, an editorial appeared titled "Community Theatre." The editorial commended Gilroy Community Theatre (GCT) as being an outstanding community asset. But some statements in that editorial were erroneous with misplaced credit attribution.

There is no disagreement with the acknowledgment of GCT's high quality, tremendous achievement and service to the community-at-large. Certainly GCT is all of these things. In fact, few people today in South County can remember back to when there wasn't a GCT. It's become a popular, successful, entertainment medium for the entire area.

The point of contention here is the editorial writer's attribution to one person - Mary Ann Brueggmann - the credit for GCT's "energy" and "existence." Both descriptions are false.

In no way to demean Mrs. Brueggmann's popularity or to push aside her dedication to GCT, the existence of GCT, its birth, took place before Mrs. Brueggmann, or almost anyone else, was on the scene. I happen to have been fortunate to have been there during GCT's gestation period, birth, and through its first shaky steps. The foundation blocks were laid by two people alone... Al and Frances "Pinky" Bloom; two names which probably only hang foggily in theatregoers' memories. But it was these people who dreamed of giving Gilroy a theatre and undertook the task of making it a reality.

Reality was not easy in the beginning. There were many problems. Would be actors had to be enticed to tryout for parts and audiences were sparse. But the Blooms were promoters working to make a dream come true. The second play and each succeeding production came easier and easier. Like a rolling stone which does indeed gather moss, GCT began to pick up theatre supporters who were willing to share their efforts with GCT. Mrs. Brueggmann was one of these who joined the ranks those first two formative years, along with Walden Sampson and Sharon Sacco, both of whom have served GCT as president.

The credit for GCT's success today must be laid not to the energies of one person, but to the energetic efforts of all the presidents, past and present. To remove this much deserved credit from these people is totally unfair and unjust.

Bloom guided GCT through its formative years. Sampson picked up the yoke and most successfully expanded GCT's membership. He and Sally Connell formed the Theatre Angels Art League (TAAL) and expanded active theatre involvement into every corner of this community.

Mrs. Sacco took the reins as an energy unto herself, and pushed GCT to still new heights of success. And now Mrs. Brueggmann holds the position of president. She is well liked, and effective in her guidance. Like so many others she worked backstage and on the stage intermittently for several years.

None of the presidents could have done their work alone though. The corps of perpetual laborers, along with the casts and crews must be recognized as holding an enormous share in GCT's real "energy." Each president, in his or her own way, guided the theatre upward to new heights by their inspiration, love of and dedication to theatre, and personal "energy."

So, while Mrs. Brueggmann should not be denied her share in the just accolades to GCT's success, let's not let the glitter of the current seasons' successes make us forget where GCT really began and why GCT exists today... with Al and Frances Bloom, its founders and guiding light during those early years - hectic though they were, and to the host of theatre devotees who've seen GCT up an ever spiraling ladder to its present achievements.

The Dispatch editorial writer should have directed his enthusiastic 'thanks for a job well done and for GCT's existence and energy' to all of the people I've mentioned, and not to just one person.

DONNA AVINA