

Theatre group plans new play

Gilroy Community Theatre has embarked on one of its most ambitious projects with James Goldman's "The Lion in Winter" slated for presentation Feb. 14, 15, 21 and 22 at 8 p.m. at the Gavilan Theatre.

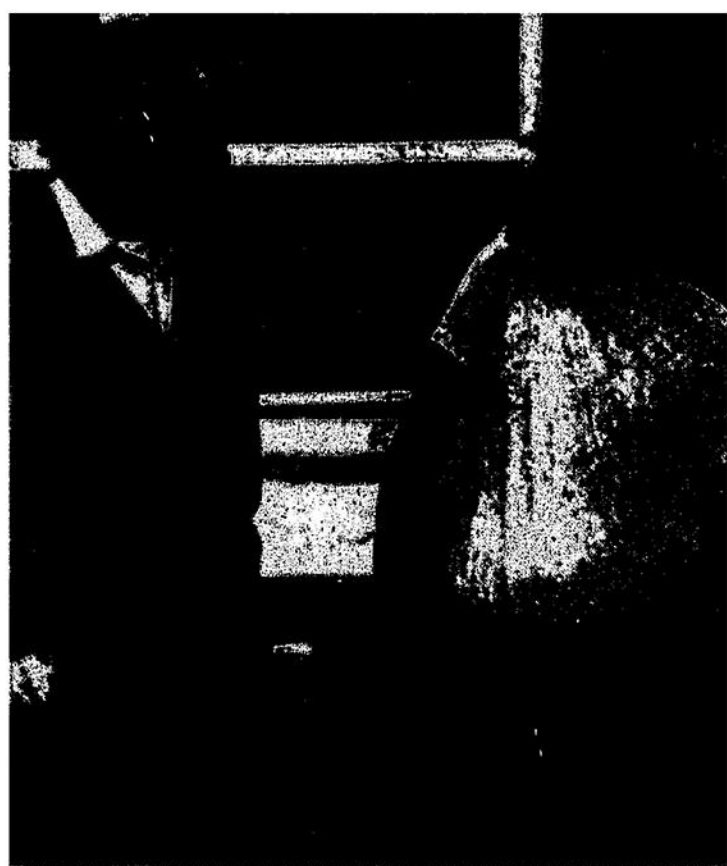
Rehearsals are now under way with James Maya directing the comedy-drama which deals with a 12th century struggle for succession to the English throne.

**GILROY COMMUNITY
THEATRE
presents**



**'A LION
IN WINTER'**

**Feb. 14, 15,
21, & 22**



THEATRE PERFORMANCES - Students and senior citizens will be admitted at reduced rates for the Feb. 15 performance of "Lion In Winter" to be staged at the Gavilan College Theatre at 8 p.m. by members of the Gilroy Community Theatre group. Above in a scene from the James Goldman comedy-dramas of the British royal family in the 13th century



OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION - The Theatre Angels Art League will host an opening night reception following the performance of Lion in Winter, Feb. 14 at Gavilan College's Art Building. Committee members pictured above, are from left, Martha Sargent, Mary Ann Brugemann, past president of the Gilroy Community Theatre; Kay Cooper, John Porter; director of the college art department, and Muriel Brem.

Tickets for opening night may be purchased from members of the league, and at the TAAL Cultural Center, 140 Fifth St. For all other performances of Lion in Winter, tickets may be purchased at the cultural center, Wednesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Tuesday nights from 7-9 p.m. The Gilroy Community Theatre produced play will run Feb. 14-15 and Feb. 21-22 at Gavilan College Theatre.

'Lion in Winter' opens with top performances

By DICK RYAN

Playing to a somewhat smaller than normal opening night crowd, Gilroy Community Theatre began its 1975 season Friday night with an excellent presentation of the "Lion in Winter." The play by James Goldman is set in the time of Henry II of England, but is not, as the author points out, strictly historical. Rather, it uses historical characters to illustrate the problems, tears and comedy existing in family relationships as much today as in times past.

Making their debut on the GCT stage were two Gilroy High School students, Richard Barretta as Prince John and Frank Valdez as Philip of France. Both turned in fine performances and are sure to be seen in future productions. Other newcomers to GCT were Carol Maya who handled the role of Alais Capet, mistress to Henry, with great understanding and competence and

Arlene Causey who as Eleanor of Aquitaine, seemed to have been born for the part. Even in a cast as excellent as this one, her performance was outstanding. Close behind her was the experienced and talented Cal Schlesinger whose portrayal of Henry made the King and his problems warm and understandable. Long time GCT favorites Russell Hendrickson as Geoffrey and Greg Guerin as Richard the Lion Hearted again showed their ability to perform any part well.

An interesting innovation, particularly welcome to those whose knowledge of early English history is sketchy, was the inclusion in the program of a brief outline of the characters being played. Special credit goes to James Maya, director of the play, for his deft handling of his players. All in all, a "Lion in Winter" provides a most enjoyable evening. Further performances will be given Friday and Saturday nights, Feb. 21 and 22.

Theatre Angels stage opening night reception 'A Lion in Winter'

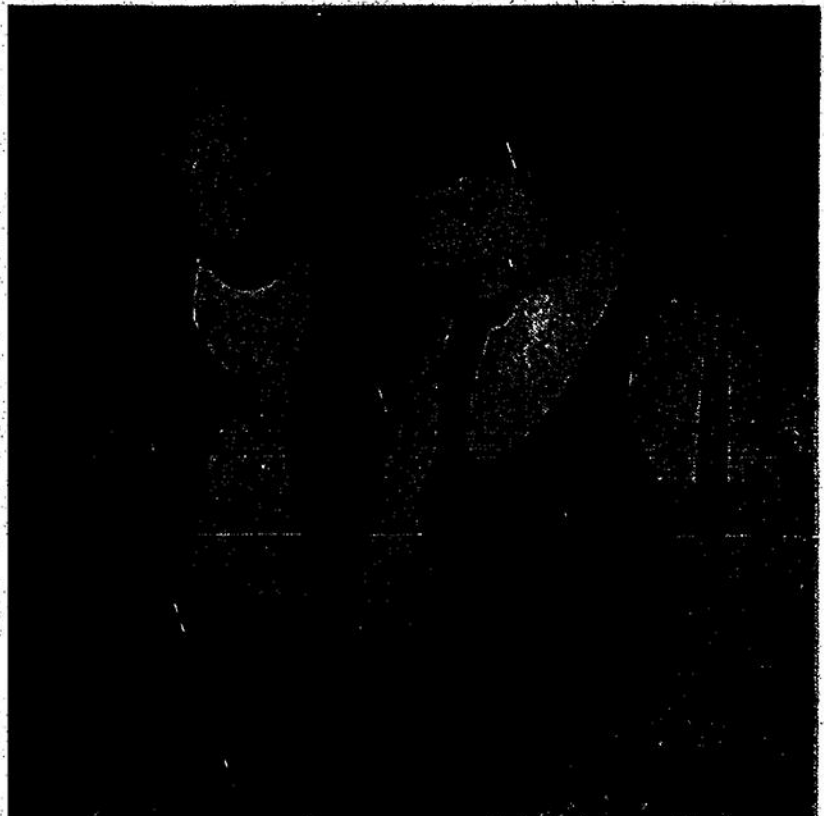
"The Green Room" at Gavilan art building across from the theatre was decorated in a Valentine's Day motif last week when the Theatre Angels Art League hosted an opening night reception for cast of "Lion In Winter" and theatre goers.

Red Hearts with lace and red punch and cookies, and red carnations sparked the room which also contained

an exhibit of paintings by John Porter, art instructor, and his students.

Members of the cast of the play set in the time of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine, received congratulations on their performance from friends and families as they relaxed following opening night.

"Lion In Winter" will be presented again tonight and tomorrow night at the campus theatre.



Cal Schlesinger, King Henry; and Reg Keddle, stage manager Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Barker and Marianne Brugemann

Nobody asked me But...

By Jerry Fuchs



Although "The Lion In Winter" has completed its run at Gavilan College, it's never too late to say something positive about the efforts of the cast and the Gilroy Community Theatre. Of "The Lion in Winter" I say, "bravo, bravo, bravo."

When Russ Hendrickson told me that the Community Theatre was going to present this play I said, "no, a thousand times no, it's too heavy and dull for any small town audience."

I must admit that my comment was a big, fat, blooper. The play is much better than the movie, the dialogue must have been changed by Katherine Hepburn and Peter O'Toole somewhere along the way. Anyway, when you appreciate fine acting and excellent dialogue, "The Lion in Winter" must be scored as one of the best plays done by the Gilroy Community Theatre. It was ambitious, professional and totally enjoyable.

First, James Maya as the director, must be credited with some first rate ability to cast and get the right kind of performances from his actors and actresses. The play moved so well, its lags were few and the laughs were many.

It is hard to believe that Gilroy has someone with the finished acting ability of Arlene Causey. She was so subtle and finely honed as Eleanor of Aquitaine. Her timing, her gestures, her character building, was as professional as anything I've seen on the Broadway stage. When will she be back in another performance so that we can all go to see her?

Cal Schlesinger as Henry II, was excellent. He was really the King, a role he must play in his household or at Casa de Fruta where he works. A real first rate performance in a most difficult role.

My favorite bias is Hendrickson. I think he's got the talent and ability that makes audiences respond. As one of the princes, he

was able to step out of his personality, (one of the nicest guys I know) and play the devil. He played it so well, no overacting, just sharp and incisive. Russ was perfect.

Gilroy High School senior Richard Barretta was cute as Prince Joh. He got the laughs when he wanted them and played the spoiled kid right on target. He's got a future in acting.

Finally, Carol Maya did a better than adequate job as Alais Capet, the mistress of Henry II. For a first performance Carol's acting was excellent and she should soon be competing with her husband for honors on the stage.

The rest of the cast combined to complement the others. The staging was done well. If this is an indication of what the Gavilan Community Theatre can do with heavy drama than I say "give us more, much more."

EDITOR:

We would like to take this opportunity to personally express our appreciation for the very fine publicity you, your staff and your publisher always give Gilroy Community Theatre, but particularly our most recent production, "The Lion In Winter."

Five hundred and eighty persons saw what we feel was our finest drama production and it would have never been possible without your generous support. Your newspaper is doing much to build an even finer and stronger Gilroy.

Board of Directors
Gilroy Community Theatre

Four performances slated

'Lion in Winter' opens

"It's great to see students develop an interest in theatre that carries beyond the classroom," stated Russ Hendrickson, Gilroy High School drama teacher, about working with two of his students in the Gilroy Community Theatre production of "The Lion in Winter."

Hendrickson enjoys having the chance to get away from the usual student-teacher

relationship and work "as friends and equals."

Although Hendrickson has directed some of his students in other Gilroy Community Theatre productions this is the first time in several years he has appeared in a play with his students.

Rich Barretta, who plays the part of Prince John in "The Lion," has overcome his reservations of calling Hendrickson names during

the rehearsals. Hendrickson portrays Gregory and Barretta has been dealing with the student-teacher relationship.

Frank Valdez, another student who appears in the play as King Philip of France, felt more confident working with Hendrickson and Greg Guerin, another high school teacher, because he had known them as teachers.

"The Lion in Winter" is the first Community Theatre drama Hendrickson has appeared in, although he has been involved in several local musical productions.

"The Lion in Winter" will be presented Friday and Saturday, Feb. 14-15 and 21-22 at the Gavilan College Theatre.



*Mrs. Bruce Rowllson, Carol Spendlove, Wally Edwards,
and Mr. and Mrs. George Clausen.*



Arlene Causey, Eleanor of Aquitaine; and Kay Cooper