



LOVE SONG — James Mead Maya as Captain von Trapp and Betsy McIntosh as Maria share an intimate scene during

rehearsals of Gilroy Community Theatre's "Sound of Music," opening Aug. 4. - Photo by K.S. Lai

'Sound of Music' slated

Familiar music and fascinating plot will combine to entertain area theatre patrons when "Sound of Music" is presented by Gilroy Community Theatre in August.

Tickets are available from Theatre Angels Art League members for the Aug. 4 opening night performance and champagne reception following at TAAL House.

Tickets for Aug. 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19 are available in Gilroy at Plaza Drugs, Dick Bruhn's and Music Tree and in Morgan Hill at Music Tree. All performances will begin at 8 p.m. at Gavilan College Theatre.

The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, which has been portrayed on stage and film, traces lives of the von Trapp family in Austria just before invasion by the Nazis.

Central to the theme is the love story of Captain von Trapp, a widower, and Maria, a nun who looks after his children and later with permission from her Mother Abbess is able to marry him.

Maria is played by Betsy McIntosh, a relative newcomer to GCT who appeared in last year's musical, "Sugar," and the spring comedy "Play it Again Sam." The role of Captain von Trapp is played by James Mead Maya, a GCT veteran who was Proctor in "The Crucible" and John Adams in "1776."

Longtime GCT supporters are in charge of the production, with Russ Hendrickson as director and Marie Perkins as producer. Music is under the supervision of Creighton Yip and choreography will be created by Greta Tegel.

Marty Pyle portrays the Mother Abbess and nuns with speaking parts are played by Sandra Rapazzini, Penny Lockhart and Carol Gauthier.

Von Trapp children are played by Laura Almada (Liesl), Daniela Aprea (Louise), Vince Campanile (Fredrick), Katie Harley (Greta), Heather Hendrickson (Marta) and Christin Schmidt (Brigitta).

Others in the cast are Ron Williams as Franz the butler; Natasha Silberstein as Frau Schmidt; Bob Fisher as Admiral von Schriber; Ann Zuhr as Elsa; Mark Shiplett as Rolf; Tony Tomaro as Zeller; Roger Bennett as Max; and Carol Maya, Doeri Welch, Lynette Williams, Laura Youngworth, Shelly Andrews, Vivian Campanile, Dodie Cox, Gayle Heffner, Melody Heffner, Kris Johnson and Donna Kraft all as nuns.

For the TAAL reception, Frances Howson, vice president, is in charge of the refreshment committee and Roberta Hughan is head of the ticket committee.

'Sound of Music'



READY, MARCH - Enthusiastic marching is demonstrated by Greta Tegel, left, choreographer for Gilroy Community Theatre's "Sound of Music," opening Aug. 4. Practicing their steps are, from left, Betsy McIntosh (as Maria) and the children, played by Laura Almada, Daniela Aprea, Katie Harley, Heather Hendrickson, Joey Johnson, Vince Campanile and Christin Schmidt. Theatre Angels Art League will hold a champagne reception following the opening night

performance Aug. 4 and tickets for that night only are available from any Theatre Angel member or by calling 842-5375 between 4-7 p.m. Tickets for Aug. 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19 are available in Gilroy at Dick Bruhn's, Plaza Drugs and Music Tree and in Morgan Hill at Music Tree. All performances begin at 8 p.m. at Gavilan College Theatre.
-Photo by K.S. Lai.

THERE'S NUNS AND CHILDREN AND SINGING AND EVERYTHING YOU WANT in the "Sound of Music" playing every Friday and Saturday through August 19. The musical is produced by Gilroy Community Theater. Above Sister Margaretta (Sandra Rappazzini) and sister Sophia (Carol Gauthier) dress the Mother Abbess (Marty Pyle). Below are the talented children of "The Sound of Music," Liesl (Laura Almada), Louisa (Daniela Aprea), Friedrich (Vince Campanile), Brigetta, (Christin Schmidt), Kurt (Joey Johnson), Marta (Heather Hendrickson) and Gretl (Katie Harley). The play opened before a capacity crowd last Friday and ovations were had at the end. Tickets are still available from Plaza Drugs and the Music Tree and Dick Bruhn's.



DANCING LOVELIES—Under the direction of Greta Tegel, choreographer, these young dancers shine as an integral part of Gilroy Community Theater's production of "The Sound of Music," now playing every Friday and Saturday through August 29 at the

Gavilan College Theater. From left to right in the first row are Christine Wendell, Gayle Heffner, Heidi Hendrickson, and Shelly Andrews. In the back row from left to right are Kathy Hogan, Christine Schau, Mark Shipllett, Melody Heffner and Christi Hitchner. (Photo by Rachael Wrege)

'The Children' shine as central theme in 'Sound of Music'

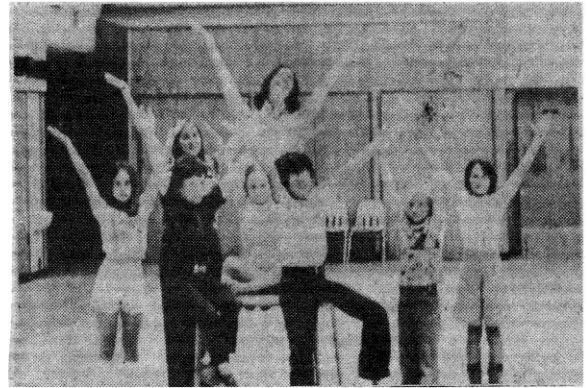
Tuesday, August 22, 1978

Morgan Hill Times

MUCH ADO BY JOHN HAMMOND

Many readers probably saw the Gilroy Community Theater's terrific production of "The Sound of Music. It was successful there is talk of a later revival to accommodate those who couldn't get tickets. If you were among the lucky, I'm sure you'll agree this was the high water-mark of the company's efforts. Given a great book and score by Rogers and Hammerstein, that extra something that makes for exciting theater was there, in the production at Gavilan Theater. The star of the show wasn't on-stage this time. I'm referring to Russ Hendrickson, the director, who deserved a curtain-call of his own. He had rehearsed his cast into a smoothly performing unit, and inspired them to their highest efforts. His pacing of the entire show was flawless, with a light touch when appropriate but never losing sight of the dramatic essentials. Betsy McIntosh played the role of Maria, the part created by Mary Martin. She looked and acted her role delightfully. Maya, as the Baron von Trapp, gave the outstanding performance, in my opinion. He really "lived" the part, and his enunciation, even in the most dramatic scenes, was flawless. A great singer he isn't, yet his rendering of "Edelweiss" was truly moving-proving. I guess, the old operatic adage that the best singers are actors. Being drama instructor at Gilroy High, he certainly showed his students how a role should be handled. Next in line for honors is Riger Bennett as the free-loading impressio. Max. Bennett has a real flair for comedy, and since this was his stage debut, we can look forward to the future appearances to the Live Oak High vice-principal. Marty Pyle was movingly severe and tender by turns, as the Mother Abbess. All of the 7 von Trapp children were captivating, especially Morgan Hill's own Joey Johnson as Young Kurt. Only one of the performers - who shall remain nameless - was really mis-cast. That's a very good average for a large production.

They call it the Gilroy Community Theater" but about one-third of the cast are from Morgan Hill and San Martin. Among them: Marty Pyle, Ron and Lynette Williams, Joey Johnson, Roger Bennett, Walter VonTagen III, Dodie Cox, Donna Kraft, Linda Welk and Kris Johnson..



THE MAJOR STARS may sing and dance and act out the story, but it's 'the children' who play a central role in "The Sound of Music," which will be presented beginning this Friday and Saturday and continuing through August 29 by the Gilroy Community Theater.

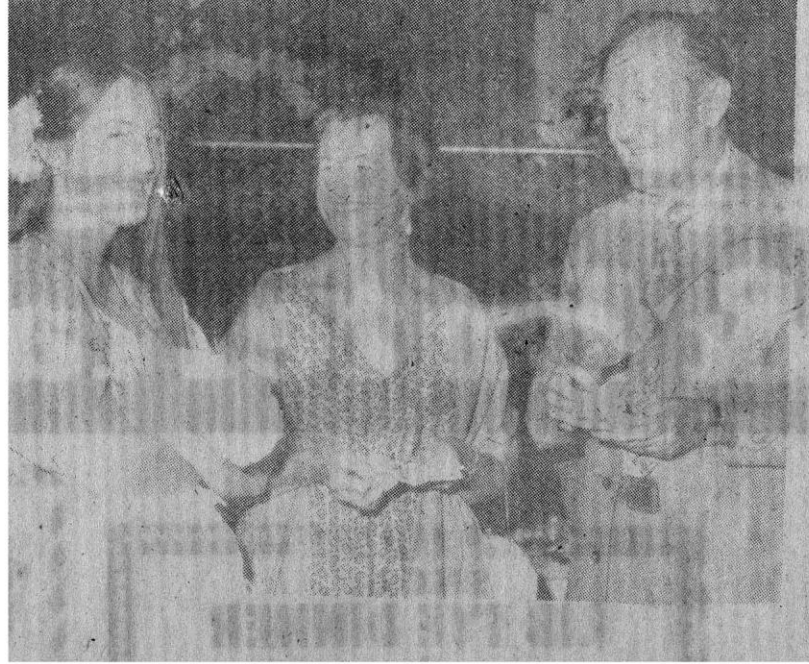


CHILDREN IN THE CAST have a wide variety of acting experience and in photos above are seen in rehearsal. They are Christin Schmidt as Brigetta, Daniela Aprea as Louisa, Vince Campanile as Friedrich, Katie Harley as Gretl, Heather Hendrickson as Marta, Joey Johnson as Kurt and Laura Almada as Liesl. Rehearsing with them is Betsy Macintosh, in the lead as Maria.



GRETA TEGAL, choreographer, and Jim Maya (Captain von Trapp) discuss the young dancers' style. Following the opening show Friday, Theater Angel's Art League will host a champagne buffet in TAAL's Cultural Center in Gilroy. (See additional story and photos on Page 8. Photos by Rachael Wrege)

'Sound of Music' cast lauded at champagne reception



TAAL RECEPTION — "Sound of Music" cast was given extra honors following opening night performance when Theater Angels Art League held a gala champagne reception and buffet in the organization's center. An Austrian garden reflected the theme of the musical and more than 300 theater-goers crowded the restored dwelling for the occasion. Among visitors were, above left, Barbara Biafore, Bee Champlin, Judge Joseph Biafore and Chad Champlin. In center photo, William C. Hart, San Felipe project engineer, his wife Ruby and daughter Patti, talk. AT right, four of the famous "children" of the cast line up for refreshments.





Nobody asked me

But...

By Jerry Fuchs

The Gilroy Community Theatre production of "Sound of Music" was enchanting, lovely and melodious. It is another smash hit directed by Russ Hendrickson, choreographed by Greta Tegel, musically conducted by Creighton Yip and produced by Marie Perkins.

By now we have all seen "Sound of Music" at least three times, but each time the story line and the music seems to get richer. Our local people, led by Betsy McIntosh as a Postulant, turned baby-sitter, turned wife, is vivacious, expressive and alive in her part.

Betsy sings such wonderful tunes as "Do Re Mi," "My Favorite Things," "The Sound of Music" along with other great scores, with a lovely, enthusiastic voice. Her whole role was marked by charm and energy. She was one of the lifebloods of the show.

Jim Maya played Captain Georg von Trapp, the father and lover with his usual flair. Maya is no singer, but he carried his tunes well and then rang home with a beautiful rendition of "Edelweiss." I predict that Maya will even strengthen his performances during the next week.

Sandy Rapazzini takes a small part as Sister Margareta and creates a whimsical character. Her voice is as beautiful as ever, especially when she sings Maria. It is good to see Sandy back with the Community Theatre, she has so much talent and expertise on the stage.

Marty Pyle is not only an accomplished actress, she has a voice that stopped the audience and brought the house down. I would gladly hear her sing "The Sound of Music" over and over again. As the Mother Abbess she was compassionate and wise, but her singing was a highlight of the show.

The von Trapp children, played by Vince Campanile, Daniela Aprea, Joey Johnson, Christin Schmidt, Heather Hendrickson, and Katie Harley were not only cute, but masterful in setting the theme. They sang, danced and acted their way into the hearts of the audience.

A special note for Laura Almada who played the oldest child, Liesl. Her voice was strong and beautiful. Her flirtations and

dancing with newcomer Mark Shiplett were finely portrayed.

Roger Bennett played Max Detweiler, the producer, with humor and gusto. His energy and enthusiasm sparked his performance. Ann Zuhr made certain that the audience would not want her as a mother to the von Trapp family and the wife of the captain. She tuned her role finely to the story line and came out losing with class, when the captain and the children choose Maria.

Mark Shiplett has an excellent voice and dances well. He played the part of Liesl's boyfriend and Nazi youth. Mark was convincing as one of the bad guys, who finally turns out a hero in the end, when he covers up for the von Trapp family's escape.

Both Natasha Silberstein as the housekeeper and Ron Williams as the butler, were excellent in their character roles. Natasha's Frau Schmidt was played with her usual expertise. She just fits the part perfectly. The nuns and postulants were always a source of humor and strength in their singing. The ballet dancers and ballroom dancers showed off the wonderful work of Greta Tegel who choreographed the show. The sets were professionally done and added to the beauty of "Sound of Music."

It is hard to know what Russ Hendrickson does best, act or direct. "Sound of Music" came off as a labor of love not only for Russ, but for the entire cast and the people behind the stage. The audience responded to the final curtain with a standing ovation which should warm the hearts of all who contributed to the magnificent efforts of the show.

Creighton Yip is one of Gilroy's finest talents. Surrounded by an orchestra which can rise to his demands, the background music was everything you would expect to hear on Broadway.

We're proud of you, the Gilroy Community Theatre. You continue to enrich our lives with your talent and to make us proud that we have so many amateurs with professional standing in our community. If you miss "Sound of Music" you will miss a wonderful treat. Don't, it plays Aug. 11, 12, 18, and 19.

She's a kind person, but also very spunky

By RACHAEL WREGE

GILROY — "Maria is a kind person but she's also very spunky. I probably identify with her—I love to sing and dance," says Betsy Macintosh, Gilroy resident and lead in the Gilroy Community Theater (GCT) production of "The Sound of Music."

The original Maria is still alive and living in Vermont, says Macintosh. "She's such an outstanding and wonderful person, that I don't want to do her an injustice. It's a privilege to play the part of a woman like that and that's why it's important for me to do a good job," Macintosh adds.

The perky and pretty Macintosh has been a Gilroy resident for the past year and a half with her daughter, Jenny, 6. Originally from East Chester, New York, her only other leading role was in "Carousel", a play she did in high school there.

Majoring in dietetics while in college, Macintosh performed with a singing trio appropriately named "The Three of Us." She has also performed in the GCT productions of "Sugar" and "Play It Again Sam",

the latter in which she was assistant director.

"I never studied drama, I just always loved it," Macintosh says. "The Sound of Music was always one of my favorite plays which is why I tried out for it," says Macintosh. "I saw Mary Martin in the musical when I was a child."

A teacher at the Learning Center in Gilroy, Macintosh says she also enjoys the children in the show and "feels comfortable with them." "It's basically a fun show for me with all the singing and dancing in it."

The song she likes best in the show admits Macintosh is "The Lonely Goatherd." And why? "Well there's all that yodeling," Macintosh smiles.

Macintosh became interested in GCT after working for the Learning Center—Learning Center teacher and owner, Russ Hendrickson, has directed several plays for the company. One of the best things about the group, says Macintosh, is the "family atmosphere" where parents in the show or working on costumes or props feel free to bring their children. "The children get to watch and its good exposure for them," says Macintosh as well as providing "a good feeling and lots of fun too."

The play is also good for audiences, says Macintosh, because



almost everyone knows the music "and plays are always more fun when you know it."

Macintosh has been rehearsing four days a week "plus a few afternoons and mornings thrown in" for the show. From the little seen at rehearsals, Macintosh promises to be a shining star in the play's crown.

The "Sound of Music" will open this Friday and continue every Friday and Saturday through August 19. Don't miss it!

Opening night reception slated

A cultural center in late Victorian times, the old Judge Willey house at 140 Fifth Street in Gilroy continues in the same tradition under ownership of Theatre Angels Art League.

Purchased by TAAL in 1972, the turn of the century home built by Gilroy's first Justice of the Peace, Judge Howard Willey, is being renovated by Theatre Angel members.

In addition, the home is once again a focal point for the arts in Gilroy and is used for musical performances, art and craft shows and workshops sponsored by TAAL and other community organizations.

On Aug. 4 the spacious gardens and rooms of the center will be transformed into an Austrian garden for the champagne reception that will follow the opening night performance of "The Sound of Music" by Gilroy Community Theatre.

Part of the proceeds from ticket sales for the reception and the musical's opening night will benefit TAAL Cultural Center, which is a nonprofit corporation. Champagne, hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks will be served in the garden atmosphere.

Opening night tickets are available from TAAL members or by calling Roberta Hughan, ticket chairman, at 842-5375 between 4-7 p.m.

Tickets for performances Aug. 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19 are available in Gilroy at Plaza Drugs, Dick Bruhn's and The Music Tree and in Morgan Hill at the Music Tree. All performances begin at 8 p.m. at Gavilan College Theatre.

'You just have to shout to get their attention'

The curtain opens, the play begins. You may be concentrating on the lines spoken, the story line of the play, the way the actors act.

You would probably never think about the director unless you were a drama critic or unless the play progressed less than smoothly.

The director of the play is, however, the most vital person in the production. "The play has to move, particularly the music, the set changes, the tempo. If not, you run the risk of producing a boring show," says Russ Hendrickson, currently directing Gilroy Community Theater's (GCT) production of "The Sound of Music."

This means the show has to be orchestrated, everything from the lights and the sets to the dancing and acting has to be in concert, running smoothly.

This particular lesson was learned from George Costa, Hendrickson says. Costa, a professional director, was hired eight years ago by GCT to produce Gilroy's first musical.

"Although some people might disagree with me, I think Costa was responsible for making GCT what it is today," says Hendrickson. "The local people worked very hard but Costa set the standard for our theater with strong discipline. That's what amateurs need."

"He taught me that a show falls down not so much with the acting as with the technical end, especially the pacing," Hendrickson says.

The hardest part of being a director is directing a person "who doesn't want to be directed," Hendrickson says. Those people may audition well, he adds, but they don't respond to directions. "With those people you have to play a lot of psychological games. I'm not good at it and I don't like it although some directors like Costa are masters of the game."

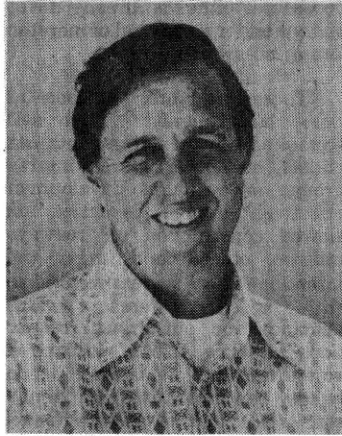
Usually however, those people are rare, Hendrickson adds, especially in a community theater group. "Most people cooperate," he says "because they want the experience of a play."

The director usually "has to do a lot of shouting and cajoling to make people move," says Hendrickson.

Hendrickson has also directed many children in plays as he is with the "The South of Music." That is, surprisingly enough, not very difficult, he says. "You just have to yell to get their attention," he says.

The rehearsals for "The Sound of Music" are going well, says Hendrickson. All the scenes are blocked out and the cast and technical crews have until the first weekend in August to run through the play. "We'll be in great shape when the play opens," Hendrickson says.

With this musical, says Hendrickson, he is working hard to keep the play from slipping into melodrama.



RUSS HENDRICKSON

"It's a musical, not a musical comedy, and essentially it consists of a few dramatic scenes on the way to the next song." Hendrickson adds. "You have to be very careful or you may get laughs in the wrong places."

Hendrickson is trying to keep the show "understated to avoid this problem. Another difficulty with "The Sound of Music" is the length of the first act, lasting "two-thirds of the show" Hendrickson says. "You don't want to send the audience out tired. You want them to be bouyant and expectant for the second act." To help solve this problem, Hendrickson is cutting out parts of the musical, although "not enough to destroy the authors intent."

The "Sound of Music" is "one of America's best loved musicals, second perhaps only to "My Fair Lady," says Hendrickson. Not sure exactly why, Hendrickson says the musical has "charisma."

Hendrickson, a teacher in the Gilroy school district is currently teaching mentally gifted students. A long time Gilroy resident, he became involved in acting in college with his first play which he says was "a complete disaster." He was then cast for the "smallest part" in another play in Long Beach and says "I was terrible and everybody told me so."

Hendrickson gave up drama until he came to Gilroy and became involved with GCT. Since then he has directed many plays including "Sugar," "Pajama Game," "Bye, Bye, Birdie," "Harvey," "1776," "1000 Clowns," and "Everything Goes."

"The Sound of Music is slated for the first three weekends in August. Be sure to watch for it and when you go, think of the director.



THE HAPPY COUPLE—James Maya as Captain Von Trapp and Betsy Macintosh as Maria get together in the Gilroy Community Theater production of the "Sound of Music" slated to open the first weekend in August. (Photo by Kai Lai)