

GCT opens season with revue 'Rogers Ala Carte'



By Patty Muntzel

GILROY — Gilroy Community Theater's first production of the season, the musical revue *Rogers Ala Carte*, opens for a four-day run Thursday.

It's basically a low-budget moneymaker, like last year's *Side by Side* by Sondheim. And like *Side by Side*, GCT hopes, it will draw sell-out crowds and be extended for another weekend.

Right after *Rogers Ala Carte* GCT will hold rehearsals for the big August production, *South Pacific*, said George Costa, director.

Ala Carte is basically a bunch of Richard Rogers' most well-loved songs cleverly strung together and sung by two or more people.

Eight of last year's Sondheim singers return for *Ala Carte* — Richard Nelson, Betsy Andrade, Phil Skiver, Ruthe Mullins, Ted Sanchez, Steve Schneickert and Dennis Charvez, with Marilyn Guerin at the piano.

Three newcomers to the revue (but old-timers to theater) join them: Rosalind Farotte, Russ Hendrickson and Sandy Rappazinni, all from Gilroy.

For the first time, GCT will utilize as its theater the dance floor at Le Grand Etage School of Dance above the old Strand Theater on Monterey Street.

sons' Lodge. It can accommodate 150 people.

Shows will begin at 7 and 10 p.m. June 21 through 24. Cost will be \$7.50 for adults and \$5.50 for children, students and seniors.

The revue will string together songs like *Bewitched*, *Manhattan* and *Funny Valentine*, which Rogers composed with Lorenz

Hart; *I Enjoy Being a Girl*, *The Most Beautiful Girl In The World* and *June Is Busting Out All Over*, which he composed with Oscar Hammerstein; *Do I Hear A Waltz* — by Rogers and Stephen Sondheim; Rogers' and Martin Charnin's *Two by Two*; *No Strings* the title song from the Rogers' musical score by the same name; and a medley from that musical called *The Sweet Sounds*.

Rogers had a long career as a composer and songwriter that brought him together with other musical geniuses of his time. Rogers and Hammerstein wrote the musical score for *Oklahoma!* in 1943, *Carousel* in 1945, *South Pacific* in 1949, and *The Sound of Music* in 1959.

What's to do?

June still busting out all over

Enjoy some of Richard Rodgers' finest music in *Rodgers Ala Carte*, a three-act musical revue, which is Gilroy Community Theater's first production of the season. Performances are scheduled for tonight, Saturday and Sunday at the Le Grande Etage (above the old Strand Theater), 7598B Monterey St., Gilroy. Shows start at 7 and 10 p.m. Songs include *Bewitched*, *Manhattan*, and *The Most Beautiful Girl in the World*. Cost is \$7.50 for adults, \$5.50 for children, and reservations are recommended. Call 842-SHOW.



Catch 'Rodgers Ala Carte' this weekend.