

# ANNIE GET YOUR GUN Opens

Miracle Miles - July 31, 1987

By Jim Maya

Miracle Miles Correspondent

Once again, South Valley Civic Theatre brings a great institution, the Grand Summer Musical, to Gilroy. All across the country this summer, in barns (like the Barn Theatre in West Augusta, Michigan, where Susie Chastang is working, and was too busy to write to her home town theatre columnist to let him know how things are going and who should be very glad that he isn't bitter, even though she was able to drop a line to the folks at Mauro's Stationers), high school and college theatres, big tents and under the stars, people flock to summer stock.



**Rod Pintello, Frank Paddie, Karen Wilson and Paul Marsh are cast members of ANNIE GET YOUR GUN.**

ANNIE GET YOUR GUN is one of the all-time favorite big American musicals. To my knowledge, it has never been done in this area, so for the first time we will be able to hear all those great songs on the Gavilan college stage.

What songs, you say? How about this list? *I Can Do Anything You Can Do Better* (you can't get better) . . . *There's No Business Like Show Business* (a real rouser) . . . *The Girl That I Marry* (a real heart melter) . . . *Doin' What Comes Natru'llly* (a natural) . . . *They Say It's Wonderful* (a wonderful song) . . . *I Got The Sun In The Morning* (a sunny tune) . . . Is that some list? You'll be humming those tunes for the rest of the summer!

And the story line, you ask? Does Annie Oakley's mad love affair with Buffalo Bill Cody ring a bell? Of course not, because she had the affair with Sitting Bull . . . O.K. It was with Frank Butler.

Annie is about the famous Buffalo Bill Wild West Show, with lots of cowboys and cowgirls and Indians and little Annie Oakley, the greatest shot who ever lived.

Did I hear someone say, "Who is in the show, Jim?" Well, I'm glad you asked. The two leads are Karen Wilson and Paul Marsh as Annie and Frank. Karen was seen this Spring in 'THREE PENNY OPERA' at Gavilan, as was Paul. Paul, of course, was also in last Summer's MUSIC MAN where he played Professor Harold Hill. Both have great voices. I mean, they are really good.

The rest of the gang includes Ruth E. Mullins as Dolly Tate, Ed "Gonzo" Gonzales as Sitting Bull, and South Valley legend, Frank Pattie, as Buffalo Bill. Rod Pintello plays Charlie Davenport and Frank Fletcher is Mack.

I counted 46 in the cast, many of whom are familiar faces to local audiences, like Monique, Marion, Matt, Sidney, Danny, Jane, Karen, Mandy, Megan, and many more.

The same team of Jeff Richards and Vicky Hunter that did the directing and choreography-ing for last summer's MUSIC MAN have been roped into doing ANNIE this year. (Roped is actually the wrong work, but is in keeping with the theme of the show).

Richard Nelson is the musical director and will be the conductor for the "poor" orchestra . . . I say "poor" because, as Chuck Myer pointed out during one of his many visits to the hospitality booth at last weekend's Garlic Festival, once again the members of the orchestra will not be able to see the show. They will be back-stage for this one, which is even worse than being in the pit, which has a limited view itself.

I would be very neglectful if I didn't mention that the captain, head honcho, main whip-cracker and trail boss (producer) of the SVCT summer musical this year is once again Robin Stocks.

Whenever I think about the job of producing such a venture, another song comes to mind . . . "*Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen*" . . .

Last year she produced MUSIC MAN. This year she is producing ANNIE GET YOUR GUN. What do you do for an encore? GONE WITH THE WIND with the original cast? The job is immense, and the normal rewards few. But then Robin is no normal person.

I've got it! Next year she can produce the Garlic Festival!

Bravo, Robin . . . and thanks!

ANNIE GET YOUR GUN runs for three weeks, with a matinee this Sunday, the 2nd. Call 842-SHOW for more information and reservations. Don't forget the reception at the Theatre Angels House after opening night.

# Play promises Wild West time for all

Wednesday,  
July 29, 1987  
The Dispatch

GILROY --  
Talk about  
seeing a real  
shoot-'em-up.

The classic  
American  
musical Annie  
Get Your Gun  
will open  
Friday at  
Gavilan  
College,  
courtesy of  
South Valley  
Civic Theater.

The 8 p.m.  
performances  
will run Friday  
and Saturday  
nights through August 15, with a 2 pm. matinee this Sunday at Gavilan College.



Chas Metivier/The Dispatch  
Front: Pauli and Peri Welton, Megan Stocks. Back: Melanie Nelson, Karen Wilson, Darren Duarte, Susannah Myrvold.

The musical features the music and lyrics of Irving Berlin. Among the many familiar tunes are *There's No Business Like Show Business*, *The Girl That I Marry*, *Anything You Can Do*, and *Doin' What Comes Natur'lly*.

The musical is directed by Jeff Richards, who also oversaw last summer's *The Music Man* for SVCT.

Leading the cast is Karen Wilson of San Jose as sharp-shooting Annie Oakley, a backwoods prodigy who falls for sophisticated showman Frank Butler, played by Gilroy resident Paul Marsh.

Other members of the Wild West show that take over a sleepy Ohio town are Rod Pintello of Hollister as con man Charlie Davenport; Dolly Tate, played by Ruth E. Mullins of Morgan Hill; Frank Pattie as Buffalo Bill, and Eddie Gonzales of Gilroy as Chief Sitting Bull.

Tickets for performances are \$7.50 and \$5 for reserved seating. For reservations and information, call 842-SHOW.

In addition, the matinee performance Sunday will benefit Homebound Seniors of Gilroy. The \$25 tickets are good for the performance and for an old-fashioned ice cream social afterward. For those tickets, call 847-2967.

# Review Time For ANNIE

Miracle Miles - August 7, 1987

By Jim Maya

Miracle Miles Correspondent

South Valley Civic Theatre's production of ANNIE GET YOUR GUN opened last Friday night to a very appreciative, hand-clapping audience. We loved the **BIG** musical and, along with Ken Cooper, give it a B plus for quality and an A plus for effort.



**Annie Oakley and her "kids". Karen Wilson's acting, voice, and physical aura created an Annie that stole your heart and put you right in her corner from her first moments on stage.**

First and foremost, you get to hear the classic music and lyrics of Irving Berlin. You can't help but love the music. My wife kept saying all night long, "I didn't know that song was from this show." I suspect many in the audience had the same reaction.

These songs come one right after the other, with titles like: *Doin' What Comes Natur'lly*, *The Girl That I Marry*, *You Can't Get A Man With A Gun*, *There's No Business Like Show Business*, *They Say It's Wonderful*, *I Got The Sun In the Morning*, and *Anything You Can Do . . . I Can Do Better*. Those songs are only some of the better known ones. Name a show from the last 20 years with as many great songs. Go ahead, try. I dare ya! See . . . you can't!

Right now you're saying that if I'm going to hear those songs, then they better be done right . . . right? Well folks, step right this way, because those songs are done better than right.

The voices in the show are excellent! The solos, done by Karen Wilson and Paul Marsh, are professional in quality. They form the backbone of the play, because they have so many of the solos. I frankly can't imagine those songs being handled any better on any community theatre stage.

As in most plays of this type, it's very hard to buy the plot, but Marsh and Wilson create such likeable characters that they immediately pulled the audience into the show. They make us care about Frank Butler and Annie Oakley.

You have got to love Annie. Karen Wilson's acting, voice, and physical aura created an Annie that stole your heart and put you right in her corner from her first moments on stage.

Yeah, I was impressed!

Marsh and Wilson received great support from the supporting characters. We all love Frank Pattie. I think his Buffalo Bill is a lot more likeable than the real character, Bill. It was wonderful to see him swagger about in those knee high boots, the wig, and the goatee.

Rod Pintello, who played Charlie Davenport, the Wild West Show's traveling manager, brought his usual comic genius to the role. I continue to be impressed with his singing voice, however. His voice just seems to get better.

Ed Gonzalez's Sitting Bull worked very well with some excellent timing on his punch lines.

The rest of the cast, for the most part, is up to the task. There is an outstanding version of last year's pic-a-little MUSIC MAN ladies. I was especially impressed with Donna Simi. Her's was the background voice throughout the Indian adoption scene. She has a great set of pipes. I also understand that much of the impressive art work was hers.

It would have been nice to have had a more balanced cast, age-wise. The cast is too young, but that is one of the unavoidable of community theatre. Still, they were all fun and the audience soon forgot about the large number of sixteen-year-old cowboys and Indians.

There were, however, some very avoidable distracting moments. Some of the younger female members of the cast seemed to forget, often, that they're not supposed to carry on conversations and "fidget" while something else more important is going on while they were on stage. It's called upstaging and scene stealing, young ladies.

And then, there is Ruth E. Mullins, who plays Dolly Tate. Darn, she is good! Forget any community theatre disclaimer -- Dolly is a pleasure to behold. Ruth E. is a musical theatre performer of the first order, no matter the level of expectation. Once again her voice, acting, stage presence and energy have graced our local stage.

Costume designer Sylvia Myrvold deserves sainthood for the costumes. They were marvelous, both in their quality and quantity. Sylvia and her helpers did a grand job.

The unseen orchestra, under the direction of Richard Nelson, despite a shaky start, was way above average. (I sure am glad that Mr. Yip was in the pit during my time of need when I was in CABARET.)

Director Jeff Richards and choreographer Vicky Hunter did a fine job for the second year in a row. Despite it's massive size, the show moved very well.

ANNIE GET YOUR GUN is a major project, filled with special effects, great music, loads of costumes and scene changes. SVCT does a first rate job and brings us a show for the whole family to enjoy.

ANNIE continues for the next two weekends. Call 842-SHOW for reservations.







