

# On The Town dress rehearsal

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Mathew Cummings, playing the role of Chip, and Pascale Vinkhuyzen, playing the role of Hildy, perform Wednesday during a dress rehearsal for the South Valley Civic Theater production of On The Town.



From left, Chris Bezanson, playing the role of Ozzie, Taylor Barnes, playing the role of Gabey, and Mathew Cummings, playing the role of Chip, perform a musical number together Wednesday during a dress rehearsal for the South Valley Civic Theater production of *On The Town*.



From left, Chris Bezanson, playing the role of Ozzie, Taylor Barnes, playing the role of Gabey, and Mathew Cummings, playing the role of Chip, perform a musical number with members of the cast Wednesday during a dress rehearsal for the South Valley Civic Theater production of *On The Town*.



Members of the cast of *On The Town* perform Wednesday during a dress rehearsal for the South Valley Civic Theater production.



Members of the cast of *On The Town* perform Wednesday during a dress rehearsal for the South Valley Civic Theater production.



Chris Bezanson, playing the role of Ozzie, and Saskia Vinkhuyzen, playing the role of Claire, perform Wednesday during a dress rehearsal for the South Valley Civic Theater production of *On The Town*.

## Lights, camera, action!

Samantha Quijano has completed more than 100 performances with SVCT

Morgan Hill Times

by Angela Ruggiero Staff Writer

Lora Schraft Posted: Thursday, February 16, 2012 5:01 pm | Updated: 9:44 am, Fri Jun 29, 2012.



Samantha Quijano carefully puts the finishes touches on her eye makeup as her mother Lisa watches from the doorway at their home, as she prepares for her role as the little old lady in the South Valley Civic Theater production of *On the Town*. Quijano usually does her hair and makeup before going to the theater.

It's one thing for actors and actresses to star in more than 100 performances in their lifetime. It's another if that actress is only 15 years old.

Samantha Quijano, 15 of Morgan Hill, received news and a surprise certificate that she officially starred in 100 performances with the South Valley Civic Theater.

Each production, be it a musical or play, has 10 shows each. Quijano has been cast in 11 SVCT shows since 2007, although in one production she did not appear in all 10 performances. "On the Town" which ended its run this past weekend, finished off her golden 100th show mark.

"Each show always bring a new thrill, it never gets boring," said Quijano, now a freshman at Saint Francis High School in Mountain View.

Quijano's mother, Lisa, said she started acting in the second grade with a school play at Paradise Valley Elementary School. She continued acting in plays at the Charter School of Morgan Hill in junior high. Samantha begged her parents to let her audition for SVCT plays, and finally in 2007 she did, landing a part as an urchin in "Scrooge the Musical," at the age of 10.



Samantha Quijano, center, stands with fellow actors in the South Valley Civic Theater production of It's a Wonderful Life in November 2008.

Lisa said Samantha received the 'acting bug' soon after, and hasn't stopped since.

"She loves to be a part of the team ... That was the part of the acting bug that got activated in 2007," said Lisa.

Samantha's discipline translates to other areas in her life, including school and sports. As if the 100 performances wasn't enough to keep Samantha busy, she also acted in Saint Francis' production of "Up the Down Staircase" this past fall, while running cross country, taking three honors classes and finishing off the semester with a 4.14 grade point average.



Samantha wants to continue performing throughout high school and even in college, where she plans to minor in theater. Currently, her career goals are leaning toward something in anthropology, she said, as history is her favorite subject. She's running track and field for Saint Francis now, practicing five times a week, and said she plans on focusing more on sports in high school, yet wants to continue her work with SVCT.

"It's pretty demanding but most of the time, it's a lot of fun to do," said Samantha.

Samantha Quijano, in the brown dress, stands next to her best friend Megan Carillo, as the cast of *On the Town* get instructions from musical and vocal director Terry Sodergren as they have their vocal warm-up before a performance Friday night.



Submitted

## **Samantha Quijano**

Samantha Quijano performs the role of Louis Leonowens, a British school boy, in her favorite South Valley Civic Theater play, *The King and I*. Quijano is talking with actress Sharon Maxwell-Yamamoto, playing the role of her mother Anna Leonowens, during the opening scene of the play.



Lora Schraft

Samantha Quijano gets a hug from her best friend Megan Carillo, 14, backstage before they begin their performances Friday night in the South Valley Civic Theater production of 'On the Town'.



Lora Schraft

Samantha Quijano talks with fellow cast member Machiel de Groot, 13, from Gilroy, backstage before they begin their performances Friday night in the South Valley Civic Theater production of *On the Town*.