



The Show Must Go On!

Let's put on a show! Immortal words from every Judy Garland / Mickey Rooney movie. Judy & Mickey seemed able to produce a full scale block-buster with very little effort. In real life, it's not quite that easy.

Here's how it goes in Yuma Community Theatre. The director chooses a script and presents a play proposal to the YCT Board of Directors. If approved, the work and fun begin.

Someone, in a moment of weakness, agrees to be the producer. The director-producer team set out to create stage magic. Auditions are held and the cast is chosen, always a traumatic time for all concerned. A performance place is chosen - dinner theatre at a motel? the Yuma Theatre? a school auditorium? the Civic Center? Negotiations begin. Rehearsals are set. The schedule will never suit everyone, after all there are conflicts like earning a living, spending time with the family, going to school, eating, sleeping and walking the dog. It somehow works out with a lot of support and understanding from family, employers and teacher. And the dog.

Costumes are created out of the YCT costume collection, the thrift shops and everyone's closets - with the help of some talented seamstresses. Sets are built, painted and endlessly hauled around. Props appear. Furniture is rebuilt and re-covered. The producer, keeper of the budget, watches the bottom line and slowly goes gray.

Cast members can no longer carry on

a normal conversation; they speak their lines to whomever will listen. One, who has learned 2½ acts of the play, has to drop out and be replaced with someone who can learn 2½ acts in less than 2 weeks. Fortunately, there is always someone.

The director alternates between euphoria and despair: It's Broadway



quality (cheers and standing ovations) it's not ready and never will be (close the curtain and sneak out of town).

Meanwhile, everyone hammers, paints, sews, writes publicity releases, gathers props, runs errands, rehearses, makes endless phone calls and, in general, has a great time. The magic is there. It is a sense of working together on a wonderful project. New friendships are formed and new talents are discovered. Everyone is bigger and better than they were before.

On opening night, it all comes together. A Yuma Community Theatre production comes to life. Everyone has contributed and everyone shares the applause. We did it again!

—Betsy Murphy