

Tuesday meeting may see old theatre troupe reborn

Globe revival could open whole new universe

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

If a revived Globe Productions Company gets off the ground next year, it could mean a whole new "world" of theatrical adventure for Georgetown.

During an 8 p.m. open meeting at Georgetown's Knox Presbyterian Church, next Tuesday, some of the community's brightest talents hope to arouse interest in an amateur musical production group, eventually making good use out of the new library-cultural centre.

It's not a new idea of course, Georgetown and District High School music director Ralph Urset told The Herald last week. In 1964, a troupe of Georgetown and Peel county

residents formed Globe Productions, wowing audiences for four years before the company finally folded.

Mr. Urset attributes the demise of the company to the lack of a proper local stage on which to perform. Members used to travel for rehearsals and performances to Brampton's Central Peel High School on Kennedy Road, but the inconvenience of travelling, coupled with the onerous hours spent readying each production, took its inevitable toll.

In its first few years, Globe concentrated on pantomime, closely akin to the "mummers" plays celebrated throughout the Britain during Christmas.

Globe decided to switch to full-scale Broadway productions after three years of per-

forming on Boxing Day — usually to the consternation of the actor's and families. The

company's "Finians Rainbow" and "My Fair Lady" were also avidly received,

playing in Brampton once again. And now, Mr. Urset, who

was the Globe's musical director in the sixties (as well as Georgetown Little Theatre's (GLT) Ron Hill and Ron Hunt, who were also involved in the old troupe), hope to join other curious people in reviving musical theatre in Halton Hills.

"I think now that we have a theatre, a lot of people in the area would be interested," Mr. Urset said. "Even with the people I know who have talked about this before we could cast a musical. But there are new residents that I probably don't know who would like to come out."

At Tuesday's meeting, Mr. Urset hopes that a Globe executive can be chosen and a reading committee struck to select a suitable production for a possible opening run next spring.

But, he stressed there's a tremendous demand for technical people, the back stage crew who ensure that the production rolls crisply along without a distracting hitch. "There's even a far greater need for technical people in

this sort of thing than you might have in many plays," Mr. Urset explained. "In musicals you have several set changes, dance sequences to be choreographed and you have to have promotional people and people to sell tickets."

"For every 30 actors you have on stage, you may need 30 people off stage."

While it's relatively easy casting the show — witness the successes of not only GLT but the Georgetown Choral Society and the Cantante Singers —

Mr. Urset pointed out that the company can't expect to draw on the GLT's technical people who will be busy with their own projects.

While a cast is picked and an army of backstage workers recruited, Globe will also be looking for an orchestra — that's right — strings and all.

"There's no problem getting band instruments," Mr. Urset said, but unless they can find people who are pretty handy with fiddles, cellos and whatever, some of the music will have to be re-written.

Nor are production costs cheap. Mr. Urset said that the company's shows will probably have to run for longer than three night stints in the new 280 seat theatre in the new library-complex.

Mr. Urset's calm and confidence in the project is in the undertaking is almost unnerving. But he realizes that this town has one large pool of talent to draw from and an unquenchable community thirst for top class local entertainment to support the venture.

PRODUCTION STAFF		THE CAST	
Lighting.....	Bruce Astwood	Dick Whittington.....	Sandra Craig
Sound and Props.....	Steve Boney, Chris Walker	Eliza.....	Feld Urset
Makeup.....	Leonor Inglis	Sarah the Cook.....	Mirra Armstrong
Set design and Construction.....	Dagmar Dillig	Fido.....	Wright Smith
Choreography.....	Bob Reid, Chris Fisher, Carol Smith, Lee Urset, Mick Currie, Dale Hinch	Alderman Fitzsimmons.....	Ron Hunt
Stage Manager.....	June Gusting	Captain.....	Keith Duncan
Special Music Arrangements.....	Anna Currie	Mr.....	George Mitchell
Costume.....	Mike Baker, Jim Hundert	Grand Vizier.....	Jim Hundert
Tickets.....	George Urset, Mary Urset, Joyce Van Loon	Mr. Urset.....	Ed Berman
		Mr. Urset.....	Jack Ferguson
		Mr. Urset.....	George Sandier
		Mr. Urset.....	Verla Macdonald
		Mr. Urset.....	Joyce Van Loon

Old editorial suggested new theatre

Editor's note: Some people must have had a sense of déjà vu recently when plans were drafted for the new library-cultural centre now under construction on Georgetown's Market Street. Former Herald editor-publisher Walter Blehn, after watching "Finian's

Rainbow" put on by the old Globe Productions group, predicted the need for a large theatre in Georgetown in a Dec. 7, 1967 editorial. Highly acclaimed in the mid-sixties, Globe could be resurrected for a spring production next year — in our new cultural centre.

One pity about the Finian show is that it had to be presented in Brampton because Georgetown has no adequate auditorium for such a presentation.

The town has a number of smaller halls, a large combination gym at the high school, all of which fail to give either the required stage space or acoustics.

With the town growing so rapidly, the need for a good auditorium in town is becoming greater. The Little Theatre has plans for such a venture, but there are terrific monetary hurdles to jump.

What would be the best idea is to combine this with the high school, as is done in so many communities.

A further expansion is in the finalization stage at Georgetown high school. This includes a further gymnasium. Could not an auditorium be even more important than a gym, at this stage, in a building which already has three of these?

School functions such as commencement, dramatic and musical evenings, are seriously hampered by a lack of acoustics in a room which was built essentially for sport.

If, within the existing government structure, it is economically impossible to build an auditorium at the present time, an alternative would be to explore the possibility of ceiling masks in the gym to trap sounds from the stage which now disappear upwards.

Here's a program of the cast and support crew for Globe Productions "Dick Whittington" back in the mid-sixties. Some of the names will be familiar to readers, but Ralph Urset, Georgetown and District High School music director, hopes that a revived Globe will feature many new members as well. The new Globe would like to start production on a musical for next spring, this time performing in the library-cultural centre. A meeting for people interested in taking part in the production is planned for 8 p.m. in Georgetown's Knox Church this Tuesday.

HALTON HILLS COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

Tuesday, May 12, 1981
7:30 P.M.

Halton Hills Community Legal Clinic
5 Wesleyan Street
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Reid trial May 11

Brian Reid, accused of second degree murder in the February 2 death of Georgetown resident Hurbert Wild, will be tried by jury at Milton Provincial Court May 11. Mr. Reid has pleaded guilty to manslaughter and other charges.

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