

Musical 'Anything Goes' has that 'Global' appeal

...thanks to the new theatre, the 'Brampton connection' and a bubbly cast and crew

By PAUL DORSEY
Herald editor

If there is to be conclusive proof that the Halton Hills Library-Cultural Centre will foster the continued growth of the fine arts here, it may come this week and next in the form of Globe Production's "Anything Goes".

The knowledge that Georgetown would finally have a proper theatre was all that was needed to spark a dozen or so local singers, dancers and actors to revive the old musical troupe last year. Thirteen years earlier, they and other theatre buffs from Brampton had drawn the curtain on four successful seasons of live music and dance that depended solely on Peel County venues to accommodate their audiences.

Georgetown actors simply had no place of their own to call home. Until last fall, of course.

Fresh and eager again despite their hiatus, the Globe crew members begin presenting their rendition of Cole Porter's "Anything Goes" tonight (Wednesday) at the John Elliott Theatre, the debut performance sponsored by the Georgetown Rotary Club. Other shows are already sold out for tomorrow through Saturday and again next week for three performances.

Tickets for all seven shows sold so quickly at \$5 each that Globe decided last week to turn what was planned as a formal run-through for the cast next Tuesday (Feb. 16) into a full-fledged, eighth performance. Another 380 late-comers, many of whom put their names on a waiting list last week in the hope that an eighth show would indeed be added, are relieved they won't miss a chance to see a major highlight of the season for the



Globe Production's "Anything Goes" cast ran through the entire Cole Porter musical Friday night, raising the roof of Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown with the love-conquers-all happy ending. "Anything Goes" is already a smash, selling out its initial two-weekend run a month after tickets went on sale. Asked Friday night if they would agree to put on one more performance just to keep in shape, cast members Friday agreed and an

additional show has been scheduled for next Tuesday night. Ticket information about the new show is available by calling 877-0643 or 877-0478. Meanwhile, the local Rotary Club's benefit night with the Globe's "Anything Goes" gets underway at 8 p.m. tonight (Wednesday) and is also sold out. Read all about the Globe success story inside.

(Herald photo)

Elliott Theatre. Why all the excitement? Why have Georgetowners, so

used to driving to Bramalea and Toronto for their live entertainment, flocked to buy tickets for yet another revival of Porter's enduring musical?

CAST NAMES

There are several factors, according to box office co-manager Enid Williams-Nicholas. To be sure, she told The Herald, cast names like those of Gloria Munro and Sandra Greig are familiar to area theatre patrons, actually popular and consistently good enough to sell many tickets at the drop of a mention. Miss Munro, in particular, also represents the "Brampton connection", a link between Halton Hills and Peel region performers that has survived Globe's initial demise and through the intervening years quietly nurtured several Georgetown talents.

Bev Nicholas, for one, is as familiar to Pearson Theatre audiences in Bramalea as he is to Georgetown Little Theatre and Nornic Studio patrons here. A considerable onstage talent himself, Mr. Nicholas is producing and directing "Anything Goes", and that credit itself has enabled Globe to recruit a number of professional theatre workers to help stage the current production.

Highly-qualified technicians like stage manager Alan Wells and lighting and sound man Alan Maxwell are both training Globe's amateur members on-the-job, as it were, and giving "Anything Goes" the well-produced tightness necessary to meet Georgetown's higher than usual expectations.

Herald glimpses of preparations at Knox Church hall, where rehearsals have been held, indicate there will be no problem meeting those expectations. Area patrons - and many will be driving here from Brampton - will likely be left cheering for more. Unfortunately, "Anything Goes" is the only production Globe plans in 1982.

TWO YEARS
A basic shortage of funds, Mrs. Williams-Nicholas said, has prompted Globe's caution about production plans, for the next two years anyway. Two successful fund-raising dances

late last year provided the financing for "Anything Goes", and a Halloween happening at the Georgetown marketplace turned out to be a worthwhile public relations move, many youngsters thanking Globe's "goblins" for their elaborate facial make-up jobs. For the balance of this year,

Globe's 35 members and any new enlistees will be raising more funds and keeping their limbs and voices in shape with an occasional mini-production. Summerfest seems a likely beneficiary of their collective talent. As a member of the Association of Community Theatres of Ontario, Globe is

also eligible to use some valuable resources to prepare for future shows. The availability of funds and public demand should tell Globe organizers just how many productions per year are possible, but 1983 again will probably see just one presentation.

After being dazzled by "Anything Goes" this year (a smaller revival is also underway at a Toronto theatre club), what can Halton Hills audiences expect for future Globe fare? Six hit shows are being considered, Mrs. Williams-Nicholas revealed, so look for one of the following next year: "New Girl in Town", "Brigadoon", "Oklahoma", "Promises, Promises", "Carousel" or "The Boyfriend".

Mrs. Williams-Nicholas has her own personal preference - "Brigadoon", a play whose traditional Scottish setting invites participation by local pipes and drums crew.

JOIN CREW
Globe is hoping the current production will encourage more area residents to join them as cast-crew members or as patrons. Those interested in either role are welcome to call Bev and Enid at 877-0643. More manpower, they point out, means more shows, and that should mean everyone will be happier.

Would-be patrons can join Globe's support group, paying a set annual fee for the privilege of first ticket choices and guest invitations to Globe's social functions. A large support group will ensure Globe's continued operation just as construction

of the new theatre paved the way for its revival. The "Brampton connection", a number of consistently dependable performers, well-organized ticket distribution despite the lack of a proper, central box office at the theatre and, of course, some lingering nostalgia over Globe's old glory days have all combined to make the company's star shine brightest on the current theatre scene.

A standing-room-only crowd at each of the eight scheduled performances this week and next testify to Globe's formidable appeal and glowing potential.

Besides those already mentioned, other key contributors to "Anything Goes" include musical director Ralph Ursel (another charter member), choreographer Joyce Carpenter, assistant director Mike Burgoyne, costume designer Hazel Gorin, set decorators John Minna and Linda Roe and publicist Reg Swain.

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The fickle nature of love seems to catch Sir Evelyn Oakleigh (Bob Catbert) completely by surprise as Reno Sweeney (Sandra Greig) makes a pass in Globe Production's version of Cole Porter's "Anything Goes" for which rehearsals continued Friday night. The intricacies of the love relationships on board the cruise ship, which provides the back drop for the musical extravaganza directed by Bev Nicholas and musically arranged by Ralph Ursel, knit together in a glorious humorous finale.

(Herald photo)

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