

'The Sky's the Limit' for Music Mania '89

By KATE GILDERDALE
 With this year's Music Mania theme entitled "The Sky's The Limit," it only seems natural for director Ed Warlow to hope the audience will come in and "focus skyward for a few hours," both literally and figuratively.

The Summitview teacher has been part of the show for the last three years. "I started when I came to Stouffville, because the principal then was Lorne Boadway. He was very involved and (music director) Linda Hollin was working as a teacher's aid during my first year."

Musical person

Since he's a "very musical person," Ed joined the chorus the first year. In 1988 he took on the task of directing and agreed to do it again this time around, "because I enjoyed my experience so much and there were things I wanted to do differently."

This year he'll be part of the chorus as well.

"My first priority is keeping people happy and making sure the experience is enjoyable enough they'll come back another year."

The people involved may be amateurs, says Ed, "but they seem to recognize very early the show is quite slick and everybody strives to get as close to professional as possible."

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the show, he feels, is the diversity of age groups, backgrounds, and interests of the people involved. It's also a great way to become part of the community.

"I've got to know a lot of people outside the school community thanks to my involvement."

close group

During the months of practice,

participants form a close knit group. "By the end of the first month, I knew I was here to stay," he stresses.

Ed's never done anything on this scale before, although he's directed church choirs and been involved in drama groups at university.

"It's quite a challenge," he admits. "I wasn't sure I could do the job they were asking of me."

He's found everyone involved helpful and supportive. "Everything is broken down into committees so "by the time they come to the high school in April, I'm there to pick up the threads and put it all together."

He's also grateful for the help he's received from assistant director Cathy Christoff.

"It's nice to have a second person's opinion on everything."

There will be some local content, he says. "We have a lot of fun doing that because you really appreciate the feedback from the audience."

The nature of the show demands both dedication and time from the participants.

Hard work

"I would say from January to March we're putting in approximately two nights a week; for the month of April it's four to five, until the last week, when it's every single night."

Ed is looking forward to a record breaking crowd this year.

"We had between 1,600 and 1,800 people last year over the three nights, which was up significantly from the past few years."

It's good to see those who are new to the community taking part says Ed.

"It takes a lot of guts to come out and get involved in such an established type of show."

As well as a polished group of actors and singers, the show



ED WARLOW
 Music Mania director

boasts some very talented writers; some of whom are professional, he notes.

It's unique

He feels Music Mania is a unique undertaking. "I didn't think you would find this kind of group functioning in this size of town, anymore."

At the end of the day, concludes Ed, "there's such a great feeling of accomplishment. It's not so much on the personal level, it's more a collective thing. If there's one message that comes through, it's this is a community effort, and everyone takes a lot of pride in it."

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