



young and ...

With Theater

... in love

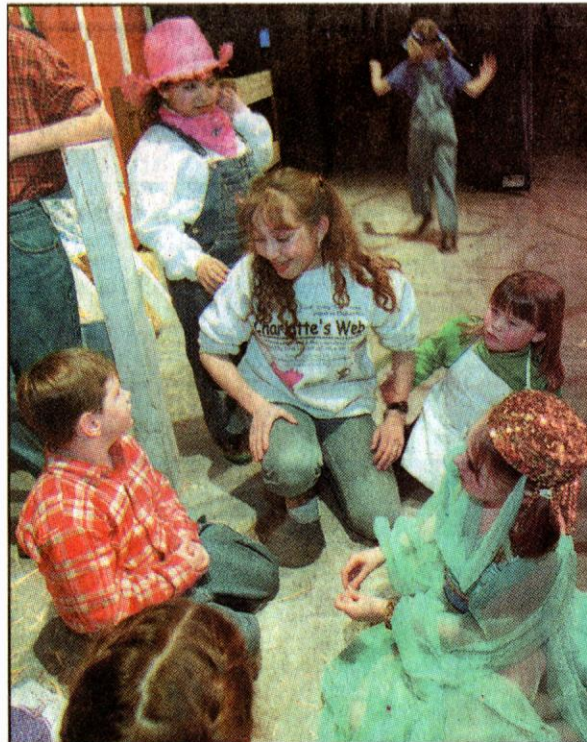
By JOEY BRESS

Special to The Dispatch
GILROY

When South Valley Civic Theatre announced that Colleen Tom would be the director for its upcoming production of "Charlotte's Web," the parents of cast members were a little surprised.

Still clad in her Live Oak High School apparel, 20-year-old Tom seemed young to be directing a children's production on her own. Once she went to work, however, parents and cast members alike grew not only to admire her, but also to appreciate her passion for community theater.

"At first, they were really leery about using me because I was so young," recalled Tom. "But I think I have gained their respect."



'Charlotte's Web'

The South Valley Civic Theatre presents a performance by local 3rd through 8th grade students. Performances take place at Gilroy High School Theater, 750 W. 10th Street and start at 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays in Feb. with a 2 p.m. matinee this Sunday, Feb. 11. Tickets are \$8 for students and seniors and \$10 for adults.

Details: 842-SHOW or visit www.svct.org.

Colleen Tom, with her cast sweatshirt on, goes over finer points with cast members of "Charlotte's Web" during dress rehearsal recently.

"The children treat me like a friend, and yet they respect my opinion and respect what I say."

20-YEAR-OLD DIRECTOR COLLEEN TOM

SOUTH VALLEY CIVIC THEATRE

SVCT's children performers continued the 30th Anniversary Season of popular revivals with a colorful staging of **Charlotte's Web**. **Jaclyn Woolsey** sang well in the title role and gave spider Charlotte the compassion the part requires. **Alexandra Mandel** was adorable as Wilbur the Pig and some



minor characters managed to steal the show. **Anne Hildebrand** and **Aaron Moon** are very funny as Goose and Gander and **Nick Haskell** brings a nice

sardonic edge to Templeton the Rat. **Morgan Simon's** Rooster got a chuckle from the audience every time he crowed. The show looked and sounded good. Congratulations to all.

Next up for SVCT, the teen show **Grease** which opens at Gilroy High School Theatre, 10th and Princevalle, on March 16 at 8 pm and continues on March 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31, April 6

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