

'The Princess and the Pea' retold

Gilroy Dispatch

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Princess Winifred, played by Jessica Brewka, sings to the men of the kingdom about her shyness during dress rehearsals for 'Once Upon a Mattress.'

Local teens will bring to life just what happened "Once Upon A Mattress," starting Friday, Oct. 29. No, it's not an unseemly tale.

It's the comical Carol Burnett retelling of the classical fairy tale, "The Princess and the Pea."

Queen Agravain (Allyson Finn), the possessive and overbearing mother of Prince Dauntless the Drab (Antonio Silva), has vowed that her son will only marry a princess of the truest royal blood and devised a series of insurmountable tasks to keep potential brides from making a successful match. The only problem with the Prince's lack of wedded bliss is the fact that no one in town can get married until Dauntless does. When Princess Winifred (Jessica Brewka) arrives in the castle dripping wet from a swim through the moat, the townspeople must rally to help her achieve the impossible.

With a cast of 32 and some of their most elaborate costumes yet, the South Valley Civic Theatre is hoping to pack the 200-seat Morgan Hill Community Playhouse for show dates extending through Nov. 20. Choreographers Gina Convey and Heidi Schrupp have added some updated dance scenes for visual interest. Director JoAnna Evans and producers Stephanie Hamik, Joy Reynolds and Tracy Van Gundy have led the cast, whose members range in age from 13 to 19, through 10 weeks of rehearsals. Now all they have to do is wait for opening night.

Shows run Oct. 29 and 30 as well as Nov. 5, 6, 13, 19 and 20 at 8pm. Two o'clock matinees will show Nov. 7, 14 and 20. Ticket prices are \$12 for students and seniors, \$15 for adults and can be purchased at the Morgan Hill Community and Cultural Center as well as at BookSmart (17415 Monterey Rd., Morgan Hill) and California Music (7565 Monterey Rd., Gilroy). Info: (408) 842-SHOW or www.svct.org.



■ Community Theater

A kingdom at play

With Prince Dauntless in the center, the kingdom sings during *Once Upon a Mattress* during dress rehearsal at the Morgan Hill Community Playhouse. The play opened Friday night.

The Jester, the king, and minstrel played by Eliza Deen, Cory Lofstrom and Victor Velasquez, devise a plan to get Lady Larkin, played by Ashley Little, out of the kingdom. The play runs through Nov. 20 on select days at the Playhouse. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for students and seniors. See our review on page C8.