

YUMA COMMUNITY THEATRE A Brief History

Community theatre exists for many reasons and purposes. The primary reasons are to provide an outlet for people who enjoy working in the theatre as a hobby, as a means of creative expression and to provide live entertainment for the community.

In 1979 four enthusiastic people, Wanda Dittman, Roger Burr, Cheryl Bouquet and Lee Rappoport got

presented at the Oddfellows Hall on 2nd Avenue and it was a great success. It paved the way for further theatre experiences with *Never Too Late* following at Woodard Junior High School auditorium. This funny comedy in three acts was an immediate hit. There was no stopping



together and through advertising looked for other people who were interested in the theatre. Many people came to their first meeting, including some of our present members, and this group formed the foundation of Yuma Community Theatre.

The first play was decided upon and in March 1980 *Lovers and Other Strangers* was



Yuma Community Theatre.

Next came Yuma Community Theatre's first musical and dinner theatre *The Fantasticks* directed by Sandra Elliott and presented at the Stardust Motel to an enthusiastic audience in August 1980. This was followed by *Once Upon A Mattress* a riotous musical comedy directed by Gerry Giss and presented at the Arizona Western College Little Theatre. Once again

another tremendous success.

Yuma Community Theatre has grown enormously since those four successful plays and has produced many wonderful plays and musicals to delight the community. With our 1988-1989 Theatre Season of *South Pacific*, *Subject to Change* and *Sound*



of Music we feel sure we have a successful season to add to all the past "hits" and hope you will continue to enjoy our productions. Maybe you



will be encouraged to join our happy group and contribute your talents, in whatever direction, to the vast cauldron of skills we have already amassed.

—Marjorie Hirst



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