

# Designer to leave Sun Cities

## Says harassment forcing him out

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Demetrius says he can't take the threats any more.

So he's moving away.

Demetrius, a retired professional costume designer, and his business partner, Christopher Brown, said they have been harassed



■ DEMETRIUS

by amateur entertainers over the fund-raising productions they've staged for organizations in the Sun Cities.

The two have donated their talents to raise thousands of dollars for various charities during the past four years, including the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Brown said.

The harassment has led to anonymous phone calls and unsigned, typewritten letters, they said.

After an article appeared April 16 in Northwest Community about their plight, the threats worsened, they said.

"We've had people call to say they are going to burn down our house," said Demetrius, who shares a house with Brown.

"I can't take it anymore," Demetrius, 70, said.

A personal tragedy — the death of his only child in January — also is part of the reason Demetrius is leaving. His 35-year-old son died unexpectedly. Demetrius said he plans to spend more time with his three young grandchildren.

Al Spanjer, president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West board, said Demetrius will be missed.

"It's unconscionable that people would treat another person this way," Spanjer said of the threats against Demetrius and Brown. "They represent a minute minority of Sun City West."

Brown, a retired professional director, dancer and choreographer, will stay in Sun City West, though.

"They won't drive me out," Brown, 68, said. "God gave me this talent, and I'm using it to help the community."

Demetrius is moving to Arkansas in July.

He said Arkansas is centrally located, allowing him to travel to neighboring states, where he will donate his costume design expertise.

"I have friends in the costume design business all over," Demetrius said. "I also plan to help young costume designers get started. It's very exciting to do that."

Brown said some amateur dancers and actors in Sun City and Sun City West resent professionals like him and Demetrius upstaging them.

The harassment began shortly after they moved to Sun City West four years ago, Brown said. It increased in February shortly after the production of the "Tale of Twin Cities Encore," which Brown directed and choreographed. That event raised money for the Community Funds of Sun City and Sun City West.

Demetrius is delaying his departure from Sun City West for a couple of months because he will accompany the Christopher Girls

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## DESIGNER

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on a cruise ship this summer en route to Bermuda. Brown started the Christopher Girls.

Even after Demetrius has left Sun City West, he said, he will continue to design costumes for the Christopher Girls.

Brown and Demetrius, who have been business partners for 31

years, donate about \$4,000 a year of their own money for costumes for various fund-raising shows.

For example, Brown wrote the variety show "Tale of Twin Cities," based on the life story of Sun Cities founder Del Webb. The show raised money for charity.



# ENTERTAINMENT



Jeanne Tarr opens the second act of the Sun City West Variety Show with a rendition of "Hello dolly!" The show's run ends Saturday.

## SCW Variety Show director faces final curtain Saturday

Tarr bids farewell in a flourish of her 'Favorite Things'

BY JACK HAWN

As former New York Yankee great Yogi Berra once said, "It's déjà vu all over again."

For Jeanne Tarr, outgoing creator, director and featured performer of the annual Sun City West Variety Show, it's been déjà vu for 16 consecutive years.

However, the current production at the Stardust Theatre, "Our Favorite Things," rekindles more memories than ever. Only seven among more than 40 acts in the two-hour extravaganza are new, she told the capacity audience of 300 last Wednesday at the midway point of 15 performances that will conclude Saturday night.

"We've had wonderful, wonderful audience reactions,"

she said. "How many people get a chance to say goodbye like this?"

She begins her farewell in typical Tarr fashion with a splashy, upbeat opener in which she casts herself with a large chorus, attired in tuxedos and gowns, singing "It's Today," from the 1992 production.

Although the show includes an array of entertainment, Tarr places heavy emphasis on humor, including the hilarious "Goofus," introduced by the Comorre twins, Dave and Don, last year.

Former professionals who danced on Perry Como's TV show, the identical twins had the audience roaring during

their slapstick routine.

One wore patched Ozark garb, his face twisted, eyes bulging. The other dressed as an overweight woman with a huge, bulbous chest, full-length housedress and frilly petticoat, ridiculous wig and clodhoppers.

"That was the first time he dressed as a woman," Tarr said.

Three other acts were equally hilarious—"Triplets," from the 2000 show; "To All the Girls," first performed by Bill Cannella in 2003; and "The Stripper," from the 1997 show.

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down to their underwear as they strip to the classic burlesque tune.

Jan's Jazz Dancers reprise the 1992 favorite "One" from "The Chorus Line," and Jan Wilson is featured in "Le Jazz Hot," a sultry, sexy routine that sizzles. Jan later teams with husband Carlos Wilson in a memorable duet from 2003, "Me and My Shadow."

Another hot dance is "Roxy" from "Chicago," performed by the Roxy Dancers who sparkle in short gold costumes with sequins.

Two entertaining novelty acts are Verne Stout's memorable 2000 diddy, "Sara Lee," with an assist from chorus members who hold boxes of the food product, and "Doggie in the Window" from the 2004 production.

Hochstatter, Atwill, Cannella and Roseann Wagner, are upstaged in "Doggie" by cuddly little Crissy, a snow white pet with a pink ribbon, wagging tail and tongue-licking affection.

"The dog belongs to Marilyn Dreyer," Jeanne Tarr said. "It's the sweetest, sweetest dog. It stays backstage in a little basket (waiting to go on). The dog visits patients in the hospital."

Production numbers are performed by the Rhythm Tappers ("American Patrol," 1992), Country Cuzzin' Cloggers ("Red Neck Woman") the hip-bouncing, grass-skirted Nani Komahana Tutus ("Te Manu Pukarua,"

1989), Theatre West Dancers. Jazzy Poms and a marvelous, colorfully costumed chorus.

Soloists include vocalists McCollor, Suzanne Schmick, Owen Lowe, Bob Hill, Bob Shumway, Helen Larmon, John Gamber, Jim Blexrud, Doris Pirret, Wayne Kimball, Jan Rittmaster and Mike Tarr and tap dancers Dody Homan and Janet Lang.

Special mention goes to Larmon for her red-hot version of "Good to Mama," and Pirret, whose powerful soprano was explosively applauded for her renditions of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "You'll Never Walk Alone."

A duet by Rittmaster and Kindall, "Unforgettable," performed in 2000, is particularly well staged and romantically moving.

Sandy Burke teams with Atwill in a duet and with Jan Wilson and Marion Forsyth for a jazzed up version of the old Andrews Sisters hit, "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree."

The song "Lida Rose," from 1999, features Eunice DeBaker, a marvelous soprano, and four harmonious gentlemen in white dinner jackets, bow ties and straw hats—Bud Redburn, Ron Seegers, Kindall, and Blexrud.

In a somewhat emotional tribute to her husband, Jeanne Tarr—who narrated much of the show—introduced husband Mike's number, which she had placed near the end.

Semi retired from showbiz because of health problems after working closely with his wife for 19 years to keep

the community entertained, Mike Tarr stepped on stage wearing a predictable costume—that of Don Quixote, the lead character from "Man of La Mancha."

Tarr delivered a moving performance with dialogue that preceded the stirring vocal, "The Impossible Dream."

"It just brings tears to my eyes for him to pull off a number like that," the director said. "It really is something. He saves himself all day. It was always his dream to end his career like that. He's given more than 65 performances. It's his signature song."

For Jeanne Tarr, "Hello Dolly!" may be her signature vocal, which she sang to open the second act, aided by the Comorre twins, Shumway, Atwill, Howie Schalk, Jerry Golden and the chorus.

Wearing a fiery red gown, her head adorned with brilliant red feathers, the director seemed in her glory. Concluding the number, the twins elevated her from the floor and she literally glowed.

Her directorial reign will end Saturday, but the celebration will continue Sunday at the Johnson Social Hall, where 200 people are expected for a wrap party, to be followed by the couple's Hawaiian cruise next month.

Under Tarr's leadership, Variety Show ticket sales have contributed to donations of \$1.3 million for the Del Webb Hospital.

Next year's show, booked at the Events Center, will be directed by Jan Wilson.



March 1, 2006

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

# Variety show finds director

Wilson takes  
over in 2007

By Matt Loeschman  
Independent Newspapers

The show will indeed go on.

The Sun City West Variety Show will continue past 2006 with a new director leading the popular entertainment and talent showcase.

Jan Wilson, a 22-year resident of Sun City West and variety show performer since 1985, will assume directorship of the musical extravaganza after this

year's farewell performance of the show's longtime director Jeanne Tarr.

"I've always loved dance and music," Ms. Wilson said. "And I was hooked on the variety show from the first moment I started in 1985. I'm excited to have the opportunity to help carry on this wonderful, community-based exhibition of outstanding talent."

"I've been part of this show for more than 20 years," she added. "It's just something we do every fall. It's a tradition."

Ms. Tarr was thrilled to learn Ms. Wilson will take the reins of the variety show.

## Let us know

What is your reaction to the announcement the Sun City West Variety Show will continue past 2006? You can post comments at [newsblog.info/0302](http://newsblog.info/0302), e-mail [mloeschman@newszap.com](mailto:mloeschman@newszap.com), write 10220 W. Bell Road, Suite 116, Sun City, 85351 or call our anonymous Speak Out line at (623) 445-2892.

"I am sure Jan will do a wonderful job — she's a great friend who has years of experience working with us," Ms. Tarr explained. "And I am very happy that Sun Health will con-

tinue to reap the rewards."

Proceeds from the variety show from 1987 through 2005 went to the nonprofit Sun Health Foundation to benefit Sun Health Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West.

In recent years, the show has provided major funding to build the auditorium in the hospital's Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health. The 2006 proceeds will benefit the Stardust Theatre but beginning in 2007, the proceeds will again benefit the Sun Health Foundation for the benefit of both Sun Health Del E. Webb and Boswell hospi-

tals.

Over the years, the show has generated more than \$1.4 million for the Sun Health Foundation.

Ms. Tarr and her husband, Mike, who has served as the show's technical director, have led the show for 18 years. Their final variety show presentation, titled "Our Favorite Things," will be staged during 15 performances Oct. 29-Nov. 18 at the Stardust Theatre, located at the intersection of Stardust and R.H.

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# Show

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Johnson boulevards.

Tickets, \$15 each, are available at the Stardust box office beginning Sept. 5.

"Preparations are going well," Ms. Tarr confirmed. "We have the show mapped out and we're working on musical selections right now."

Sun Health officials said the Tarrs' contributions over the past two decades are immeasurable.

"We're extremely grateful to Jeanne and Mike Tarr for the truly fabulous shows they've directed for 18 years and for the \$1.4 million that has been raised during that time to benefit Sun Health Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital," said Pamela Meyerhoffer, Chief Executive Officer of Sun Health Foundation. "Now we are pleased that Jan Wilson will be carrying on the best traditions of the variety show for the benefit of Sun Health's hospitals."

Many residents feared this year's show would be the last offering.

Complications arose when Maricopa County took control of the Sundome from Arizona State University, signing Nederlander Downtown, Inc. to a 10-year initial contract to manage the

venue.

The variety show traditionally was held in the Maricopa County Events Center, formerly known as the Sundome, until last year.

In 2007, the variety show will return to the MCEC, Ms. Wilson confirmed.

"There are pros and cons to the smaller venue," she said. "Every seat was a good one — the audience could see and hear much better as it was a more intimate setting. However, a lot of the performers just could not handle having to put on 15 shows."

"That number will decrease after the show moves back to the bigger venue," Ms. Wilson added. "I expect it to be a fairly simple transition."

Mrs. Wilson brings experience to the directorship of the variety show. In addition to being one of its mainstay performers, she has been a certified Jazzercise instructor for 19 years.

She has also directed, produced and choreographed the Monte Carlo Review for 11 years at the Stardust Theatre with proceeds benefiting the Sun City West Community Fund and Sun City West Foundation.

In addition, she has served as director and choreographer for Jan's Jazz Dancers since 1991 and leads a vocal ensemble known as the Jan Wilson Trio.

She formerly was the leader of the vocal group Sugartime.

She is married to Carlos Wilson, retired from a 30-year career as an arts administrator. Ms. Wilson said he is "excited to be part of the support team" with the new variety show.

While Ms. Wilson will direct the show, Ms. Meyerhoffer said the "team effort" associated with the production continues to make it a success.

"The accomplishments of the hundreds of community residents connected with the variety show — whether belting out tunes and dancing on stage, or sewing costumes and moving sets and lighting in the wings — truly have been a blessing to our organization," she said. "We hope everyone connected with the show knows how much they are cherished and appreciated."

Ms. Tarr said this November's performance will be slightly bittersweet.

"The show really means something to me," she explained. "It is kind of sad. You get kind of connected when you work on something for nearly 20 years, but it's good to know Jan will carry on the legacy."

*Post your comments on this issue at [www.newszapforums.com/forum29](http://www.newszapforums.com/forum29).*

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# Curtain falls on variety show

**Director: No venue deal reached**

**By Matt Loeschman**  
Independent Newspapers

A quarter-century-old tradition will end after the Sun City West Variety Show's final performance this fall.

"At this point, we are planning on having one last show," explained longtime show direc-

tor Jeanne Tarr. "We would love to move back to the larger venue but we've heard nothing about it. There's been no meetings. So this fall, we are looking at the 27th and final variety show."

After more than two decades of annual shows at the Sundome, last year's variety show fund-raiser was held at the Stardust Theater, which has a much smaller capacity.

"Let me tell you, it was a challenge," said Jerry Hallstrom, chairman of the show's execu-

## Let us know

Do you have fond memories of the Sun City West Variety Show? Are you disappointed the show is ending this fall? Post comments at [www.newszapforums.com/forum29](http://www.newszapforums.com/forum29), e-mail [mloeschman@newszap.com](mailto:mloeschman@newszap.com), write 10220 W. Bell Road, Suite 116, Sun City, AZ 85351 or call our anonymous Speak Out line at (623) 445-2892.

tive committee. "We had to put on 15 shows instead of just five. It wears on you. We only raised

about \$53,000 at the Stardust when we've been over \$90,000 at the Sundome. We would prefer to go back there."

Maricopa County recently took control of the Sundome from Arizona State University, signing Nederlander Downtown, Inc. to a 10-year initial contract to manage the venue.

Scott Isham, Dist. 4 Supervisor Max Wilson's chief of staff, said Maricopa County officials wanted the show back in the Sundome.

"We always had that in mind," he said. "We believed it was just a matter of getting the groups together to hammer out a deal."

That will not happen, according to Dee Hermjstad, president of the Sundome Performing Arts Association.

"This fall will be the last show," Ms. Hermjstad said. "It is my understanding that the Tarrs are ready to retire, so that's it."

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## Curtain

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This will be the swan song."

In the past, funds generated from the variety show were donated to Sun Health. Ms. Tarr said since approximately 1980, the variety show has raised about \$1.2 million for the health-care organization.

Ms. Hermjstad said that number cannot be understated.

"We are extremely grateful for everything they've done," she said. "Raising more than \$1 million for Sun Health over the years? That's simply remarkable."

"But time goes on," Ms. Hermjstad added. "We're all a bit disappointed but I guess all good things must come to an end."

Sun City West resident Emil Meyer has been a longtime variety show supporter.

"We definitely enjoy that show — we've enjoyed and supported it for years," he said. "It's

definitely disappointing to hear that the end is coming. I know they gave a lot of money to Sun Health and they are going to miss that support once the show is over."

Unlike previous years, the fall 2006 show will not benefit Sun Health.

"This show will benefit the building fund of Theater West for the additions to the Stardust Theater," Ms. Tarr explained.

The theater is located at the intersection of Stardust and R.H. Johnson boulevards.

Although the show is still months away, preparations are well under way.

"We're putting the show together as we speak," Ms. Tarr said. "We have to plan way ahead due to the fact many of the participants will not be here during the summer."

The show features the talents of Sun City West residents who sing, dance and perform various kinds of entertainment.

The final show, titled "Our Favorite Things," is set for Oct. 29-Nov. 18 at the Stardust Theater. Fifteen performances are scheduled. Tickets are \$15 each available at the Stardust box office beginning Sept. 5.

"The show's theme really means something to me," Ms. Tarr said. "We're going to look back and pick out a lot of favorite pieces from the past. We're going to reminisce a bit."

"It is kind of sad," she added. "You get kind of connected when you work on something for nearly 20 years."

Could the show eventually be reincarnated in some other form?

"One does not know," Ms. Hermjstad said. "Only time will tell."

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*[mloeschman@newszap.com](mailto:mloeschman@newszap.com).*



# SCW Variety Show garners Valley award

CLAUDIA SHERRILL  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

DAILY NEWS-SUN

THURSDAY, NOV. 18, 2004

More than 820 people gathered Wednesday evening to celebrate philanthropy and to honor those individuals and organizations that, through their work and generosity, make the Valley a better place to live.

The Sun City West Variety Show was one of the organizations presented with a Spirit of Philanthropy award by the Association of Fund-raising Professionals, Greater Arizona Chapter, at its annual awards dinner.

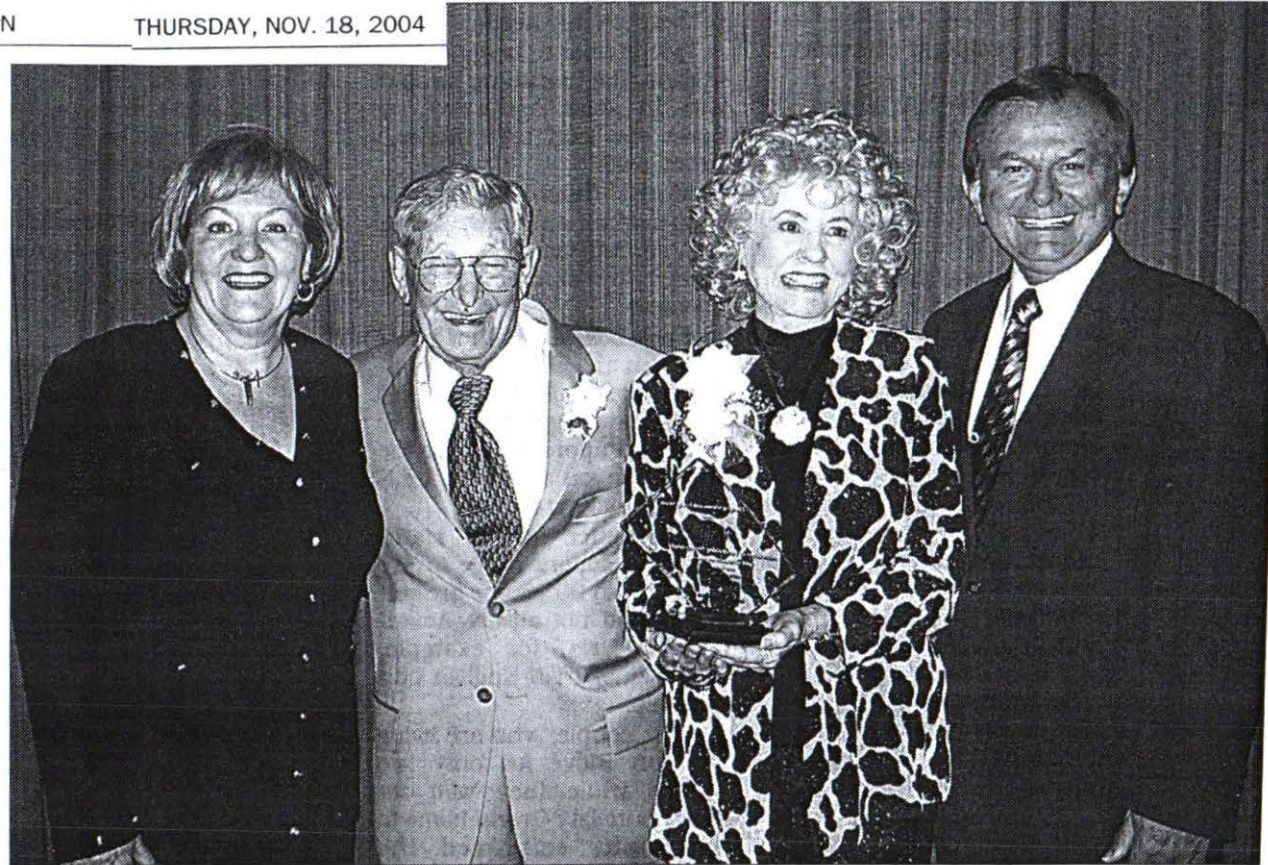
The Spirit of Philanthropy awards recognized donors and volunteers for "significant philanthropic contributions awarded on behalf of the nonprofit organizations."

Nominated by the Sun Health Foundation, the Variety Show has donated all the proceeds from its annual shows to Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital.

Accepting the award on behalf of the Variety Show were Jeanne Tarr, creator and director for the last 14 years, and Jerry Hallstrom, chairman of the executive committee for the Sun City West Variety Show.

"We don't do this for the recognition," Tarr said. "We love what we do, and we love that it benefits our community."

Serena Sorensen, director of special projects for Sun Health Foundation, said the Variety Show has so much impact both from a



CLAUDIA SHERRILL/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Celebrating the Spirit of Philanthropy award given to the Sun City West Variety Show are from left, Jo Adkins, CEO of Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital, Jerry Hallstrom, chairman of the executive committee for the variety show, Jeanne Tarr, creator and director of the show, and Birt Kellam, chairman of the board of directors of Del Webb Hospital.

fund-raising standpoint, and perhaps more importantly, for what it does for those who participate.

"The people who take part in the Variety Show are so enthused and involved," she said. "They are more vital and active, which leads into the Sun Health mission — to maintain an active lifestyle and to stay well."

Sorensen also noted that the money donated to the hospital is "net dollars," after all show expenses are paid.

Birt Kellam, chairman of

the board of directors of Del Webb Hospital, and Liz Reeve-Calley, president-elect of the Sun Health Foundation, were equally enthusiastic about the Variety Show and the contribution it makes to the community.

From 1987 through 2003, the total funds raised for the hospital by the Variety Show is \$1,335,300. The money has gone toward providing such things as a portable X-ray unit for the Emergency Department, MRI diagnostic services, patient-friendly

beds, the RIS/PACS system, bedside cardiac monitoring, angiography suite, expansion of outpatient services and the auditorium for Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital, Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health.

More than 200 people contribute time and talent to the annual variety show. This year's performances begin at 7:30 tonight and continue at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Master of ceremonies for the awards dinner was Grady

Gammage, Jr. Forty-eight individuals, groups and organizations were awarded Spirit of Philanthropy awards; Diana Hoyt was recognized as the outstanding fund-raising executive, KFNN 1520 AM was honored as outstanding media organization, Intel Corporation was named outstanding corporation/foundation, Jeanne Herberger won the award for outstanding volunteer fund-raiser and Debi and Jerry Bisgrove were named outstanding philanthropists for 2004.



# Celluloid to Sundome – 70 Years of Entertainment

Is there a better way to memorialize a top tune or dance number than to tuck it into a good story and put it on the silver screen? Probably not!

Dozens of these magic moments from famous movies will be relived Nov. 15-17 by the talented cast of the 22nd Annual Sun City West Variety Show.

"YOU OUGHTA BE IN PICTURES" will debut at 7:30 p.m. at the Sundome on Nov. 15, with same-time performances the following two nights. Matinees are scheduled for 2 p.m. on Nov. 16 and 17.

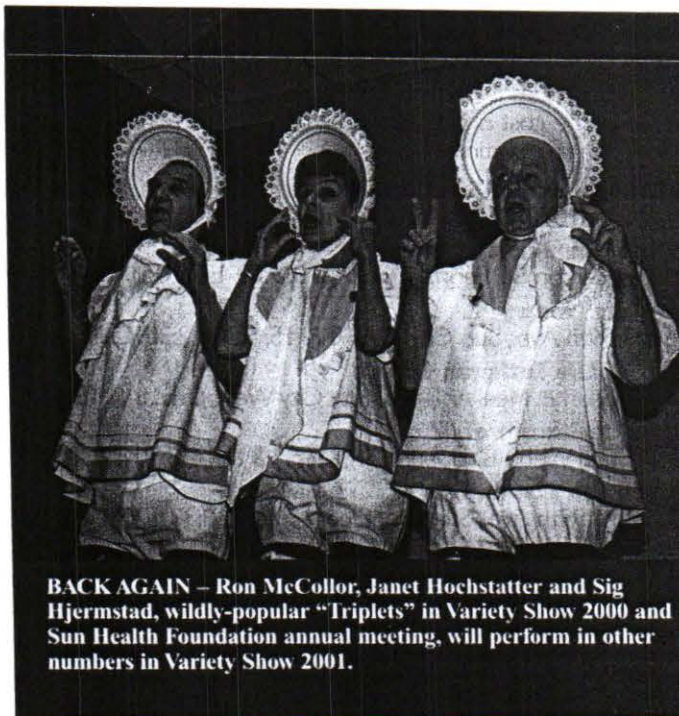
A cast of more than 225 residents of the Sun Cities will don colorful costumes to entertain with their singing, acting and dancing talents. Production numbers span a 70-year period, from Al Jolson's *Jazz Singer* to the theme song from *Titanic*.

## Tickets on sale

Tickets are on sale at the Sundome Box Office for \$4, \$8 and \$12 (plus a \$2 facility fee). Proceeds will benefit ongoing construction at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital. More than \$1 million has been donated to date; Sun Health recently memorialized the new Webb Hospital auditorium for Variety Show contributions.

Those who attend are encouraged to honor the long-time custom of bringing donations of canned goods. "Each year, tons of food are collected for local charities," says Ruth Welsh, publicity chair for the Variety Show committee.

YOU OUGHTA BE IN PICTURES, set for just under two hours in length, will conclude with several numbers dedicated to upcoming holidays. ☼



**BACK AGAIN** – Ron McCollor, Janet Hochstatter and Sig Hjermstad, wildly-popular "Triplets" in Variety Show 2000 and Sun Health Foundation annual meeting, will perform in other numbers in Variety Show 2001.



# Variety spices Sun City West show

JOHN SOKOLICH  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

For the past 14 years, patrons of the Sun City West Variety Show have enthusiastically supported the show's benefactor, Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital, and their generosity is expected to top the \$1 million mark this year.

Proceeds pay for a variety of programs and go toward the purchase of equipment at the Sun City West medical center.

"This is our 22nd year of putting on the variety show, but we didn't start charging admission until 1987," said Ruth Welsh, a publicist for the show. "Up until then we did it for the fun of it, and then we thought maybe we should make the whole thing worth the while."



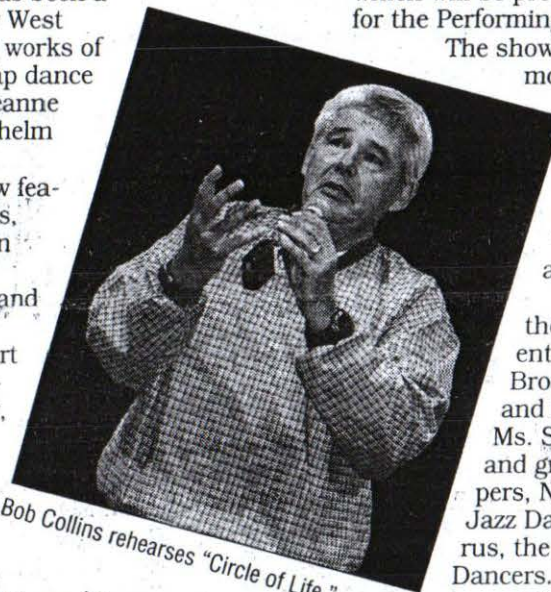
Barbara Paripovich sings "Over the Rainbow."

The variety show has been a staple in the Sun City West community, featuring works of music ranging from tap dance to jazz. Its director, Jeanne Tarr, has been at the helm for 10 years.

This year the show features 200 performers, and the talent of Len Atwill, Judy Ross, Janet Hochstatter and Val Gitter.

The four are part of the Disney segment of the show, and will be dressed at Mouseke-teers.

The theme for the show this year is "You Oughta Be In Pictures,"



Bob Collins rehearses "Circle of Life."

which will be presented at the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts Nov. 15-17.

The show features music made famous in movies from the 1920s through the 1990s, by such performers as Mae West and Al Jolson. There also will be music made famous in Disney musicals, such as the "Lion King," "Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "Pocahontas."

The performances showcase the talents of many popular local entertainers, including former Broadway stars Beverly Allyson and Barbara Schiefelbein, former Ms. Senior Arizona Jan Rittmaster, and groups such as the Rhythm tappers, Nani Komohama Tutus, Jan's Jazz Dancers, Bob Collins and Chorus, the VS Chorus and the Nian Dancers.

John Sokolich can be reached at [jsokolich@aztrib.com](mailto:jsokolich@aztrib.com) or at 876-2526.

## IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** Sun City West Variety Show
  - **WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15; 2 and 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 16-17.
  - **WHERE:** Sundome Center for the Performing Arts, 19403 R.H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West.
  - **COST:** Tickets, at \$4, \$8 and \$12, plus \$2 service charge, are available at the Sundome Box Office from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.
- Information: 975-1900.





PHOTOS BY MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Members of Jan's Jazz Dancers practice to the tune of "Pop Goes the Movies" during rehearsal for "You Oughta Be in Pictures," the Sun City West Variety Show slated later this month.



# WESTER

## Section

# B

## Territory

Thursday, November 20, 1997

### Variety Show raises more than \$70,000 for Foundation

#### Over 200 performers dazzle crowd

By Ruth Borchardt

Between \$70,000 and \$75,000 was raised by the Variety Show which wowed Sundome audiences with its four performances.

It was a night to celebrate, and the cast of over 200 and their wives or friends did just that after last Saturday night's performance.

Serena Sorensen Director of Special Projects from Sun Health Foundation announced the good news of the money received, and Peg Markovic, Trustee, drew the cruise winners. They included Mary Tashnick from Mesa; Faye Ellis from Sun City West; Chet Stanley from Sun City and Jacque Picha a visitor from Indiana. "Winnie" Foster, a dancer from Jan's Jazz Group was the winner from among cast members.

At the cast party held at the Palm Ridge Rec. Center, everyone was thanked for his valuable input to the total production. Jeannie and Mike Tarr were crowned "Angels" with halos from the "Blow Gabriel" scene in the show. Others were also the recipients of the "circle of silver."

A dazzler to be sure, was the 18th Annual SCW Variety

Show, thanks to the unlimited ability of the Tarrs—Jeannie and Mike, and the over 200 performers.

The show was conceived and directed by Jeannie Tarr, plus she had an outstanding scene with an ensemble in "Ring Them Bells."

In addition to all his other talents, Mike has a wonderful singing voice which he used to best advantage with glorious singer Barbara Paripovich, and in a solo number.

From start to finish, it was an evening of superlative performances.

Just highlighting a few, as an opening Barbara Schiefelbein in the introduction number and at closing was a standout.

The melodious chorus, with Esther Slager's dancing was the perfect way to continue with the second number. Jan's Jazz Dancers brought the house down, as did the Rhythm Tappers, astounding everyone with their lithe body movements and legs that went waaaaay up!

The costumes added so much with their colorful, designs, giving depth to the singing and

See VARIETY, Page B3



**VARIETY: Show raises \$70,000,** *from Page B1*

dancing. The costume coordinators include Gwen Szelap, Fran Martin, Roseann Wagner and Crockett Muncie.

Definitely two of the most hilarious numbers were the ones with Verne Stout and the chorus, dressed in angel costumes, complete with silver halos singing "Blow Gabriel," and the Contempo Dancers attired in Nuns' habits. They started out rather docilely, but as the dance proceeded, the pace escalated, and they were a group of "hot stepping tamales."

Never ceasing to amaze, is Carlos Wilson. No, he is not a professional, but one would think so. Remember his performance in the recent *Deathtrap*?

This time around he was a polished, suave song and dance man with the panache and ability of the "real McCoy." Then in another scene where so many favorable comments were voiced was the "Shall We Dance Number" with beautiful and talented Jan Rittmaster.

The Shannon Sisters, having appeared in many Variety Shows are always a crowd pleaser. Eunice DeBaker is another star singer, as is Grace Marconi and Barbara Huntley.

Debra and Own Lowes' dancing was a picture, the two moving in such perfect unison. Shirl

Leech and Greg Klazura were a great singing duo, and The Wester's own Pat Young and Ron McCollor were a stand-out as another couple paying a visit to the Starlight Club.

Jerry Hicks voice is as mellow as a butterscotch sundae. All the music conceived in the Cole Porter segment was nearly everyone's favorites from yesteryears, which never grow old. As always Lynn Reed did an impressive introduction to this and "We Love A Broadway Melody" segment.

Who could forget the men Rhythm Tappers?! Doing "Singing In the Rain," they received voluminous applause. Reminiscent of the great trios of the past were the modern interpreters—Shirl Leech, Susie Smith, and Jan Wilson.

Two more wonderful singers evoking much praise were Carolyn Turvin and Doris Pirret.

Another page could be devoted to listing the behind-the-scenes workers who did such a commendable job. Also should be mentioned the colorful Wester Jesters who acted as lobby greeters.

It's another notch in the belt of hits for the Tarrs, true geniuses when it comes to anything connected with the theater.





Four of the Contempo Dancers portraying Nuns in the dance number, "Maria" (l. to r.) Margaret Chamberlain, Carolyn Golden, Pat Pantea, Flo Dunworth. (L. to r.) Peg Markovic (trustee) and Serena Sorenson (director Special Projects) Sun Health Foundation at cast party of Variety Show.

Photos, Pat Young

## Variety Show raises more than \$70,000 for Foundation

### Over 200 performers dazzle crowd

By Ruth Borchardt

Between \$70,000 and \$75,000 was raised by the Variety Show which wowed Sundome audiences with its four performances.

It was a night to celebrate, and the cast of over 200 and their wives or friends did just that after last Saturday night's performance.

Serena Sorensen Director of Special Projects from Sun Health Foundation announced the good news of the money received, and Peg Markovic, Trustee, drew the cruise winners. They included Mary Tashnick from Mesa; Faye Ellis from Sun City West; Chet Stanley from Sun City and Jacque Picha a visitor from Indiana. "Winnie" Foster, a dancer from Jan's Jazz Group was the winner from among cast members.

At the cast party held at the Palm Ridge Rec. Center, everyone was thanked for his valuable input to the total production. Jeannie and Mike Tarr were crowned "Angels" with halos from the "Blow Gabriel" scene in the show. Others were also the recipients of the "circle of silver."

A dazzler to be sure, was the 18th Annual SCW Variety

Show, thanks to the unlimited ability of the Tarrs—Jeannie and Mike, and the over 200 performers.

The show was conceived and directed by Jeannie Tarr, plus she had an outstanding scene with an ensemble in "Ring Them Bells."

In addition to all his other talents, Mike has a wonderful singing voice which he used to best advantage with glorious singer Barbara Paripovich, and in a solo number.

From start to finish, it was an evening of superlative performances.

Just highlighting a few, as an opening Barbara Schiefelbein in the introduction number and at closing was a standout.

The melodious chorus, with Esther Slager's dancing was the perfect way to continue with the second number. Jan's Jazz Dancers brought the house down, as did the Rhythm Tappers, astounding everyone with their lithe body movements and legs that went waaaaay up!

The costumes added so much with their colorful, designs, giving depth to the singing and

See VARIETY, Page B3



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**VARIETY: Show raises \$70,000, from Page B1**

dancing. The costume coordinators include Gwen Szalap, Fran Martin, Roseann Wagner and Crockett Muncie.

Definitely two of the most hilarious numbers were the ones with Verne Stout and the chorus, dressed in angel costumes, complete with silver halos singing "Blow Gabriel," and the Contempo Dancers attired in Nuns' habits. They started out rather docilely, but as the dance proceeded, the pace escalated, and they were a group of "hot stepping tamales."

Never ceasing to amaze, is Carlos Wilson. No, he is not a professional, but one would think so. Remember his performance in the recent *Deathtrap*?

This time around he was a polished, suave song and dance man with the panache and ability of the "real McCoy." Then in another scene where so many favorable comments were voiced was the "Shall We Dance Number" with beautiful and talented Jan Rittmaster.

The Shannon Sisters, having appeared in many Variety Shows are always a crowd pleaser. Eunice DeBaker is another star singer, as is Grace Marconi and Barbara Huntley.

Debra and Own Lowes' dancing was a picture, the two moving in such perfect unison. Shirl

Leech and Greg Klazura were a great singing duo, and The Wester's own Pat Young and Ron McCollor were a stand-out as another couple paying a visit to the Starlight Club.

Jerry Hicks voice is as mellow as a butterscotch sundae. All the music conceived in the Cole Porter segment was nearly everyone's favorites from yesteryears, which never grow old. As always Lynn Reed did an impressive introduction to this and "We Love A Broadway Melody" segment.

Who could forget the men Rhythm Tappers?! Doing "Singing In the Rain," they received voluminous applause. Reminiscent of the great trios of the past were the modern interpreters—Shirl Leech, Susie Smith, and Jan Wilson.

Two more wonderful singers evoking much praise were Carolyn Turvin and Doris Pirret.

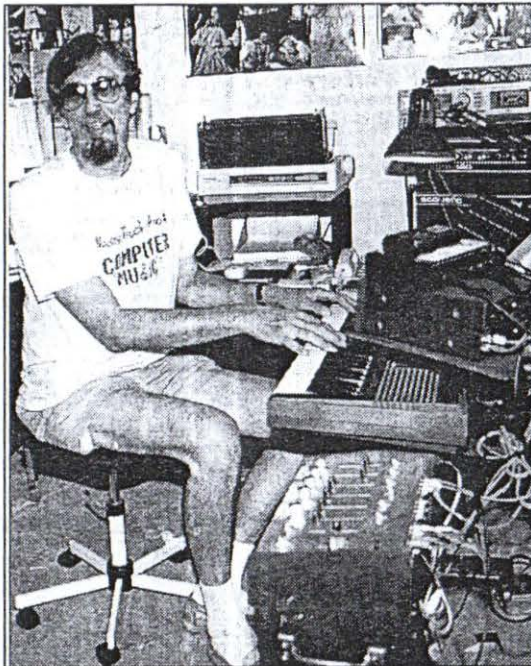
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Wednesday, October 27, 1993 The Arizona Republic/THE PHOENIX GAZETTE 9

## COMMUNITY ARTS / ENTERTAINMENT



Mike Tarr, technical director of the annual Sun City West Variety Show "Salute to the Stars," has computerized the show's music. The show will be Nov. 18 and Nov. 19 at the Sundome.

Special to Community

# Variety Show set to computer music

By Ray Simmons  
Special to Community

SUN CITY WEST — The 1993 version of the annual Sun City West Variety Show is going high tech.

All of the 25 songs in the show have been computerized and reside on two 3½-inch computer disks.

"Computerizing the music allows us to have the effect of a full orchestra in the pit," said Mike Tarr, the show's technical director.

"This helps us accomplish one of our long-standing goals for the show," he said, "to make each show more professional than the last one."

There will be three performances of this year's show, "Salute to the Stars," at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18 and at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Nov. 19. Tickets, from \$4 to \$8 are available at the Sundome box office.

"I've always been involved in music," said Tarr, who plays half a dozen musical instruments, "but I never considered myself a musician."

"About two years ago, my wife, Jeannie, and I went to a musical at the Theater Works in Glendale, and there were no musicians, but the music was beautiful. And that intrigued me."

"So I looked up the executive producer of the show, and asked him how he did the music. He showed me how it was done. Then I went out and invested in this specialized equipment to make computer music."

The equipment includes a personal computer, which Tarr had, a software electronic sequencer and a keyboard. The user selects any instrument he wants and plays it on the keyboard. That music is held in the sequencer's memory on a single track. The user then can add tracks for other instruments he wants in his band.

The sequencer then "dumps" the tracks into the computer

**"I've always been involved in music. But I never considered myself a musician."**

**Mike Tarr**

Technical director  
Sun City West Variety Show

where it is mixed, blended and recorded on the computer disk ready for playback.

Tarr and a friend spend more than 100 hours recording the 25 songs for the Variety Show, tailoring each piece to fit the vocal ranges of individual performers.

As technical director, Tarr has also been responsible for coordinating special effects, lights, sound and sets. He is well equipped for his assignment, having been associated with some form of show business since the age of 15.

He started as a tenor in his high school chorus production of a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, working his way up to the lead. He did the same in dentistry college, appearing in seven G&S shows.

Tarr continued as an actor and singer with community theater, dinner theater and summer stock in West Chester, N.Y., while keeping an active dental practice.

In 1972, he met his wife, Jeannie, when both were singing second leads in the musical, "Most Happy Fella."

The Tarrs moved to Sun City West from Mesa about six years ago, because the area made it easier to pursue their combined interests in square dancing and theater. Each Tarr has directed two Variety Shows. They have also directed Monte Carlo performances. Mike Tarr has directed six musicals for Theater West and has one play in rehearsal for the fall and soon will start rehearsing a musical for next spring.



# Variety benefit set for Sun City West

By CONNIE STEELE YOUNG

Daily News-Sun staff

**W**hen the 1991 Sun City West Variety Show unfolds in two weeks, a tradition that keeps on giving will be perpetuated.

For 12 years, the variety show has showcased the talents of Sun City West residents and, in the past four years, the show has raised more than \$171,000 to benefit Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital.

This year's revue, "Westward Ho," takes place at the turn of the century in an Arizona frontier town. The town's hotel serves as the backdrop before which more than 100 hoofers and singers entertain.

"A thin storyline ties the acts together," said Lu Putao, Variety Show spokeswoman.

Jeanne Tarr of Theatre West directs the cast and backstage crew with help from her husband, Mike.

Bellhops are played by Charles Walker, Bob Hart, Sig Hjernstad, Carl Brill, Ray Simmons, Lynn Reed and Bob Berg.

In one scene, "waitress" Lois Untch and "bartender" Harry Forbes of Sun City warn each other that "People Will Say We're in Love."

Featured groups are the Rhythmn Tappers dance troupe, Contempo Dancers, Noni Konohana Tutus Hawaiian Dancers and the Jazzicisers led by Jan Thomas.

Accompanying musicians feature Betty Jane Johnson and Bill Fraley on the piano, George Ravalis on bass, Dick Engle on drum and Danny Wal-



Frances Guarino/Daily News-Sun

Donn Achtenberg, left, and Bill Kratz rehearse a scene from the 1991 Sun City West Variety Show

that will be at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, and 2 and 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, in the Sundome.

ters on the guitar.

Barbara Dahlor, a voice teacher who founded and irected the Kansas City Civic Opera Company between 1984 and 1989, will sing selections from "Carnival." Dahlor directs music at the Sun City West First Baptist Church

where her husband, Owen, is the minister.

Howie Schalk is one of four to five men who appear with the Rhythmn Tappers.

"Some guys go out and play golf,"

he said after Tuesday's rehearsal. "I'd rather dance with 150 women."

Schalk said dancing has helped his racquet ball game which has won him three silver medals in the Arizona Senior Olympics.

See 'Westward Ho', C5



## Behind The Scenes With Dolly Gallagher Levi And Family

by Joyce L. Salfingere

Dolly Gallagher Levi's family arrived in town! Dolly's mother, Mrs. Marjorie Wells from Sayville, New York; Dolly's son and daughter-in-law, Jory and Grace Dennison and Dolly's two grandsons, Colby, age 5, and Sean, age 3, from W. Redding, Connecticut.

They all arrived to see their vivacious Dolly perform on stage at the Stardust Theatre. Perhaps many of you would recognize Dolly Gallagher Levi much better if we used her real name - Jeanne Tarr.

Jeanne Tarr has the lead in the musical comedy of "Hello Dolly" at the Stardust Theatre and directed by her husband, Mike. The production has been sold out for weeks even after additional performances were scheduled.

Jeanne Tarr's mother, Marjorie Wells, was asked how she enjoyed her daughter's performance. "Oh, need you ask!" smiled the proud mother. "I've seen it twice already and plan on seeing it two more times." Grandson, Colby, thought his grandmother was "good." While little three year old Sean looked up with a big grin and said, "Her is in 'Hello Dolly,'" as he pointed proudly to his grandmother.



"Hello Jeanne" and her real-life family, (l-r) Jeanne Tarr with grandson, Sean; son Jory; husband, Mike; daughter-in-law, Grace; grandson, Colby; and (seated) mother, Marjorie Wells arrived for "Hello Dolly" opening.

(Photo by J. L. Salfingere)

Jeanne's mother commented that her talented daughter had "always been inclined to get into these types of things" referring to Jeanne's involvement in glee club, drama, ballet, tap, and various theatre related jobs.

But the dynamic duo of Jeanne and Mike Tarr began in 1973 when Jeanne met Mike at an audition for "The Most Happy Fella." Cast in the roles of Cleo and Herman, the two found their relationship extended "beyond the footlights." Jeanne commented, "Our shared

interest in theatre brought us joy, fulfillment, and aggravation, fortunately, the first two outweighed the last."

As a business team, Jeanne was the office manager for dentist, Dr. Mike Tarr. Their avocation involved theatre where they performed at dinner theatre productions at "The Theatre Place." One summer they were contract players at Mahopac Farm Summer Playhouse where they starred in "Hello Dolly", "A Thousand Clowns", and "Forum", while commuting back and forth between

the dental practice and theatre.

During their last few years in New York, the Tarrs eased out of theatre and developed a new interest - square dancing. It was that discovery that brought the Tarrs to the Valley of the Sun.

Upon their arrival SCW they contacted Bob Porterfield, Director of the SCW Variety Show and volunteered to assist with the 1988 Variety Show. They were asked to take over direction of the production when the Porterfields were unable to continue. The Tarrs subsequently were asked to direct the 1989 SCW Variety Show.

Their lives are focused around theatre. Jeanne is president of Theatre West, vice president of the Stardust Council and Board Office chairman of the theatre. Mike is the resident lighting designer as well as, having directed "Hello Dolly," the Variety Shows, and other productions.

Both Jeanne and Mike never hesitate to give praise to their "wonderful cast and crew."

After all the applause has died down, the stage lights are dim, and the audiences have departed the memories of "Dolly" will linger on. Particularly the memories of two little boys, Colby and Sean, whose eyes sparkled when they looked up into the pretty face of their Dolly Gallagher Levi and declared, "That's my grandma!"



## Variety Show food donors assist West Valley needy

A very deserving thank you is extended to all concerned West Valley residents for the tremendous amount of non-perishable food donated to St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Salvation Army prior to each Sun City West Variety Show performance held at the Sundome, Nov. 29 and 30.

Both publicly-supported and very credible charities will be able to make the holiday season a little brighter for the Valley's economically disadvantaged children and adults as a result of more than 8,900 pounds of food received from generous donors.

In addition, contributed funds help provide a variety of programs offered to the poor, regardless of race or religious affiliation, by the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Salvation Army.

Year after year, community support for the variety show is outstanding and greatly appreciated by the two organizations.

We can all take pride that volunteerism and humanitarian assistance is alive and well throughout the Sun Cities and neighboring areas.

God bless those who express their caring with needed sharing.

Bob Bosler  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
Board of Trustees  
Peoria



# SCW Variety Show Director Resigns

by Joyce L. Salfingere

Michael Barnard from the Phoenix Music Theatre of Arizona (MTA), and, the director for the 1991 SCW Variety Show has resigned.

The announcement was made by Barnard at the May 9 meeting held in the SCW Community Services Building and attended by those participating in the upcoming 1991 Variety Show.

The group was taken by surprise when the announcement was made. Barnard stated he had received letters and threatening phone calls suggesting he resign. "Last night I received a threatening phone call saying if I stayed with the show there would be big trouble." Barnard continued, "I'm not interested in staying with a show where I get threatening phone calls." Barnard added, "And, I am not interested in working with this added stress of a threat."

Barnard felt perhaps the community needed to have a director who knows the community better, "not someone from the outside." Barnard said he was willing to stay on as a technical consultant, but "was not interested in being involved in the artistic side anymore."

Members of the SCW Variety Show Committee, as well as, the performers, were visibly shaken by the



*Former director and assistant director of 1991 SCW Variety Show, Michael Barnard and JoAnn Yeoman.*

announcement which had come to the attention of the committee just prior to the meeting.

It was suggested, and accepted, that the 1991 Variety Show Committee should "run the show" utilizing the concepts presented by Barnard, as well as, receiving technical advice from Barnard.

Ed Frome, chairman of the Variety Show Committee, said, "Let me put it this way, the Variety Show is not gone." Lu Patao, a member of the committee, assured those attending the meeting that the 1991 SCW Variety Show would be presented.

Putao is in charge of publicity for the upcoming Variety Show and said the theme for the production is, "Western." The show will be presented on December 5 and 6. Evening performances will be held at 8 p.m. with a matinee on December 6 at 2 p.m. Performances will be held at the Sundome. Tickets are \$3 and seats are reserved. Proceeds will be given to the Sun Health Foundation for the Del E. Webb Hospital in SCW.

Putao said, "There will be dancing, singing, and dialogue. The production takes place in a western town and I think it's going to be fantastic."

Auditions were in March. Rehearsal will begin in September. "Some people are rehearsing on an individual basis during the summer," said Putao.

The 1991 SCW Variety Show Committee includes: Ed Frome, chairman; Kathy Cunningham, treasurer; Mary Jo Copelan, secretary; Jerry Hallstrom, stage manager; and Lu Patao, publicity.



## Christopher Brown To Direct 1990 SCW Variety Show

by Joyce L. Salfingere

"I'm a dancer who sings badly," quipped the handsome, energetic man seated in the overstuffed chair. Christopher Brown is no ordinary man. His enthusiasm is catching. His attitude is upbeat. He has a love for life. And, he considers himself to be "lucky."

SCW is "lucky" to have the talent of a Christopher Brown as its director in the upcoming fall production of the SCW Variety Show entitled, "Hurray for Hollywood."

This "dancer who sings badly," as Brown humorously described himself, has rubbed elbows with the brightest of stars. Marlene Dietrich, Julie

Andrews, Dick Van Dyke, Elvis Presley, Joel Grey, Chubby Checker, Gene Kelly, Doris Day, Jayne Mansfield and a very popular fella by the name

Continued on Page 3



Dancing with one of his very first dance partners, a rag doll, is Christopher Brown, the new director of the SCW Variety Show for 1990.

(Submitted Photo)



of Ronald Reagan. Luck? Maybe. But one surmises a lot of talent was behind Brown's "luck."

Brown has danced his way to fame on the Jimmie Durante, Red Skelton, Dinah Shore and Perry Como shows. He has been in four Broadway shows and four light operas, danced on countless night club stages and worked as a choreographer at such famous spots as the Silver Slipper and Follies Bergere in Las Vegas. Three years at the Club Lido in Paris added to his many accomplishments.

Brown admits he was always a chorus member and never a star, but he has no regrets and "was

never out of work." He added, "I was proud of being a chorus boy - a good chorus boy," smiled the lucky dancer.

His chorus boy status carried him through such impressive films as Mary Poppins, Rock Around the Clock, Singing in the Rain, April in Paris, Call Me Madam and Band Wagon.

How did this "farm boy from Texas," as he refers to himself, get into show business? The lure of the lights captured Brown while he was stationed with the Navy in the Aleutians. Some Red Cross nurses were putting together a show and needed male performers - "Chris" was one of the performers chosen. After the service he took advantage of the GI Bill and pursued his professional studies in New York and Los Angeles.

After four months of dance classes, Warner Brothers picked him up for its stable of dancers, then he was asked to be on Broadway and from there onto the gala Lido nightclub in Paris.

His favorite part? "Working with Dietrich."

The most rewarding part of his career? "Helping to raise money for children in need" through benefit performances.

Brown's favorite performing media? "Night clubs - because of the audience contact."

The most influential person in his life? It must have been his mother whom he talks about with great fondness. She instilled a strong religious faith in Brown. "When you need help, just look up," said Brown.

Today, Christopher Brown would rather direct than perform. He is directing the upcoming "Old Tyme Music Hall" production at the Stardust Theatre in February. He will switch roles in March and be on the other side of the stage lights performing in "Hello Dolly" directed by Mike Tarr.

Brown admits he's a bit of a taskmaster, "If people just give me their personal best, that's all I ask."

Auditions for the Variety Show will begin in March. "There is so much talent in this area," commented the director. Lu Gay will serve as Chairman of the Variety Show Committee. The lure of the lights. The magic of the stage. The many moods of the dance. All are a far cry from what Christopher Brown had in mind for a career. He wanted to be a pharmacist, but that was the wrong prescription for his toe-tappin' talent.



# Costuming Is The Fabric Of Life For SCW Variety Show's Costumer

by Joyce L. Salfingere

Wester, Demetrius Vonglis, is no ordinary man. The award winning costume designer literally keeps you in stitches. Particularly if you happen to be one of the performers in the upcoming SCW Variety Show, "Hooray for Hollywood."

Demetrius Vonglis and the Variety Show's director, Christopher Brown, a retired professional dancer and singer, share a home in SCW. Their home is quite unique. Costumes of all designs hang on racks in the living room. In the back of the house, Demetrius has bolts of material, sewing machines, feathers, buttons and bows and just about anything needed to make and sew costumes.

Upcoming Variety Show's Demetrius has



*Demetrius Vonglis, costume designer for upcoming SCW Variety Show is busy making the over 200 costumes to be seen in "Hooray For Hollywood" production. (Photo by J.L. Salfingere)*

produced over 200 costumes. First he designs the outfits, then puts his fingers to work and creates his concepts, first, out of muslin, which later becomes the lining for the costume. Fittings take

place, then the costume is on its way to completion. Brown interjected, "You (the model) just put it on and zip it right up - that's a genius."

Continued on Page 18





*Director of "Hooray For Hollywood" production, Christopher Brown, is shown at home with one of the many hats he and Demetrius Vonglis have created for the Variety Show.*

*(photo by J. L. Salfingere)*

## SC West Variety Show

Continued from Page 1

Every color of the rainbow is carried out in the costumes and head-dresses. The headdresses, designed by Demetrius, and made by Brown, are lightweight. Foam rubber, glue, and wire are the main ingredients of the headdresses and costumes. "Years ago they used such heavy materials," commented the designer. In the early years the two men "had to invent things," such as the concept of using foam rubber for the lighter weight effect. "We had to invent these things when we began because we couldn't afford it," said Brown.

Ideas for new costumes come to mind in the middle of the night to this talented costumer. Brown commented it is not unusual to hear the sewing machine during the wee hours of morning as Demetrius comes up with another innovative design.

Demetrius has designed

and made costumes for Shirl Conway, who appeared in "Auntie Mame," and Ruth Warwick who appeared in "The King and I," plus many other distinguished artists.

The Sundome stage is a challenge to Demetrius. He had to design costumes for performers on a 55 foot stage - larger than stages he has worked on before, and with fewer performers.

Demetrius and Brown went into business together in 1967 and sold their business in 1983. When Brown retired from dancing he drove around the country putting on fund raising shows with his partner. "We'd put on a show in three weeks," recalled Brown. "We've had 20 years of doing fund raising shows, so we ought to know what we're doing."

While Demetrius and Brown are getting the costumes ready for the

November 29 and December 1 production, members of the community are lending a hand. "We try to involve the whole community," said Brown. Each Friday and Monday evenings, groups of women get together to stitch, sew, and tie feathers on the costumes.

The entire concept of costuming is relaxing to this talented Wester. His efforts, and those of his friend, director Christopher Brown, will be seen on stage in a burst of color in the upcoming "Hooray for Hollywood" — a look at the old Hollywood musicals that still live in the hearts of many theatre-goers today.

Tickets are \$6, \$5, and \$4 and will go on sale at the Sundome Box Office on November 5 or by mail prior to November 5 by stopping at the Box Office and picking up an order form.



# Variety show demonstrates SC-SCW spirit

By Doug Morris  
Editor

You'd have thought it was Bob Hope or Lawrence Welk. The Sundome was full almost to capacity. And what was it? The Second Annual Sun City West Holiday Variety Show, Nov 11, 8 p.m.

It's hard to figure these things. Major professional talent hasn't dragged half that many people out of their homes. The fact that it was free had something to do with it, of course; but lots of things in our

communities are free, and folks won't give up their evenings to enjoy them.

It's quite possible that we now know we have talent of all sorts, among our friends and neighbors, that can stand up against the high-ticket performers. And, then, there's that other factor . . . community spirit. The folks on stage, and the folks in the audience, are the same people . . . and they enjoy each other affectionately.

Jerry Svendsen, for years the

gracious and ingratiating PR voice of DevCo, set the theme for the evening with this anecdotal "Some of the best music is played on old instruments."

Master of Ceremonies, Bob Porterfield, guided the program through its variety and excellence. To single out some groups or individuals for recognition would be to omit the equally notable, for lack of space.

Failing to recognize the Rhythm Ramblers, the Sun City West

Westerner Square Dance Club, the Sun City West Jazzercise, the Encore Round Dance Club, the Westernaires Choral Group, the solo performances of Barbara Jordan and Joseph Waugh, and the truly professional accompaniment of Alma Linder, would be an abuse of generality.

It seems that the Sundome is not only a "Center for the Performing Arts;" it's a center for the development and expression of a community spirit.

