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### SCHOOL SCENE in Almaden Valley

#### The smell of the grease paint and the roar of the crowds

*The Glue Factory presents the American classic "42nd Street"*

By Jeanne Carbone Lewis

Staff Writer

Some people love the smell of the grease paint and the roar of the crowds. And many of them are Almaden residents living right next door to you.

The Glue Factory theater production team founded and under the direction of Steve Dini, will soon present its ninth show, the American classic "42nd Street."

And not only is the prolific Dini directing, he also appears on stage as one of the leads in the energetic play, singing, dancing and acting. That's after his day job as a Pioneer and Leland High School drama teacher. And just as many of the cast and crew have double lives—a full day working and then play rehearsals in the evenings.

"Every year it amazes me that these people come back and donate hundreds of hours to this," said Dini. "I'm grateful and humble. They are a fantastic group of parents."

And the parents do it all to help Pioneer High School's Performing Arts Department with funds going toward rebuilding the Performing Arts Center which was burned down in an arson fire two years ago. Well, maybe that's not the only reason. They're having a great time, too.

"We always have a ball," said Almaden resident Diane Zlotziver who teaches drama at Castellero Middle School and whose daughters attended Pioneer. "It's my sixth show and they are a really neat group of people. They're like an extended family."

Zlotziver even talked her husband Murrie into acting in the Glue Factory's productions, a familiar theme as you talk to the



*The cast of the Glue Factory kicking up their heels in rehearsal of "42nd Street."*

dedicated group of thespians.

"I have no theatre background but this is a lot of fun," said Murrie about his new vocation.

Like the Zlotziver's, many of the parents have children who attended Pioneer. Another Almaden resident, Leslie Hanlon has a daughter who graduated in 2003 and a son who is a senior. Now she's the assistant choreographer besides being in the chorus because, "I always liked to dance." And she also talked her husband Mike into joining. And now he can't get enough. This is his third production and he says he's "hooked."

Another Almaden resident participating in the production is Mike Rainville.

"I have one line in the play," said Rainville laughing. "If you're 10 seconds late, you'll miss it. I've been in several of the Glue Factory's shows. It's in my blood now."

The play "42nd Street" is an American classic. It's the story of a Broadway director who returns to produce his final show, "Pretty Lady." The lead star is injured and is replaced by an up-and-coming actress. Sort of the trials and tribulations of show business, one day you're on top and the next—replaced. Brimming with song standards "Are the Stars Out Tonight," "I only have Eyes for You," "We're in the Money," "Lullaby of Broadway" and "42nd Street," the play will have you tapping your feet as the Glue Factory chorus dances.



*Director and lead Steve Dini and Almaden residents Mike Hanlon and Diane Zlotziver rehearse lines of "42nd Street." Photos by Jeanne Carbone Lewis*

Bonnie Roberts is the costume director as well as in the chorus. She also volunteers her time at the Pioneer High School student drama productions. When asked where she finds the costumes for such period pieces as "42nd Street" which takes place in the 1930s, she says she hunts thrift stores and sews some of the costumes besides hunting through a collection of four bins full of clothing used for productions.

There are also the Pioneer instructors who lend a helping hand. Ken Roberts is the band teacher and Jeremy Harris is the choir teacher at Pioneer and both are instrumental in Glue Factory productions. And then there are the students who assist. Pioneer High juniors Anthony Manzano is in charge of sound and Patrick Hoge is responsible for lights.

"Mr. Dini got us involved," said Manzano and Hoge. "But once you get started you can't stop. And it's more fun to watch."

But don't tell that to Almaden resident Robin Beck. It's her seventh time as a player in a Glue Factory production.

"I watched Steve with my daughter in a production at Pioneer," said Beck. "He works us hard but its great fun."

And if the audience at rehearsal is any indication, opening night will be even more entertaining.

*The Glue Factory's production of "42nd Street" will be presented Oct. 27 through 29 at the Historic Hoover Theatre at Park and Naglee Avenue in San Jose. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$6 for students and seniors. To purchase a ticket call Leslie Hanlon at (408) 927-0637. All proceeds benefit Pioneer High School "BRING BACK THE PAC" fund.*

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