

Art is ageless for annual Santa Cruz Follies

Even As
By EMILY NORD

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The Santa Cruz Follies are about to take center stage, and some have waited 50 years to do it.

The annual production by the Santa Cruz Follies, a group of performers over the age of 50 from the Market Street Senior Center, is set to begin Sept. 16 at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium with "That's Entertainment"

"This isn't just your grandma's show," said director and performer Jo Luttringer. "It's for everyone in the community. It will be colorful, upbeat and very funny."

"That's Entertainment" features 36 performers over the age

IF YOU GO

'THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT'

PRESENTED BY: Santa Cruz Follies

WHEN: 1 p.m. Sept. 16-19,
7:30 p.m. Sept. 18

WHERE: Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, 307 Church St., Santa Cruz

COST: \$18, children 12 and under free

DETAILS: www.santacruzfolliess.net,
423-6640 or e-mail
santacruzfolliess@att.net

of 50 — the oldest is 90 — who take classes, rehearse, build

props, make costumes, choreograph, direct, and volunteer for the showcase.

The show is a two-hour collection of songs and skits from Broadway shows and movies. Previous shows were "Hooray for Hollywood," "Broadway Bound," and "A Night of Gershwin."

Tickets for the show are \$18 and are available on the Follies' Web site.

This year's show will include an opening number with a circus theme.

"If you don't laugh during the show then you aren't able to laugh," said Ivan Dodson, who's been performing with the Follies for more than 20 years as well as

heading up sets and props.

Preparations for the show began in November of last year with tap classes once a week. Auditions began in February and rehearsals began in May after all parts had been selected. "It's a long process because we want everyone to have equal time in the show," said Kris Wheeler, musical director.

The Follies say that age has no bearing on the quality of the show.

"We're all very youthful," said outreach coordinator and dancer Lynn Knudsen. "It's hard to describe, there's an energy that we all plug into."

In years past, the weekend of

9-10-09
performance has drawn more than 4,000 people, including tour buses that travel to Santa Cruz for the show from all over California as well as Alaska, Nevada, and New York.

"We raise the bar every year and try to put together a show that is unique from all the others" said Dodson.

Wheeler said organizers tried to make this year's show especially upbeat in light of the economy. "The timing is perfect. With things the way they are people need something uplifting."

The show will operate with the support from sponsors from local businesses and the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County.