

# The shows go on

Santa Cruz Follies original 'Copacabana Finale' gets rolling Sept. 12

Events

By JUSTINE DACOSTA

features@santacruzsentinel.com

SANTA CRUZ — The year is 1968 and it's closing night at New York's famed Copacabana nightclub. Legends such as Frank Sinatra and Barbra Streisand are there, along with dancers ranging from tap pros to showgirls.

"The idea is to re-create the atmosphere of this amazing spot of entertainment," said Director Kathryn Adkins, describing the inspiration behind this year's Santa Cruz Follies show, "Copacabana Finale."

The production, which kicks off Sept. 12 at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, includes more than 30 performers, ranging in age from about 51 to 83 and bringing to life the sounds of everything from the Rat Pack and Motown to jazz and pop. The energy is high as they channel entertainers from the past to put on a nonstop show that includes singing,

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## IF YOU GO

SANTA CRUZ FOLLIES:  
'COPACABANA FINALE'

**WHAT:** The Santa Cruz Follies' original production 'Copacabana Finale'

**WHEN:** Shows are slated to run Sept. 12-15, with shows starting at 1 p.m. A special 7:30 p.m. performance will be held Sept. 14.

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

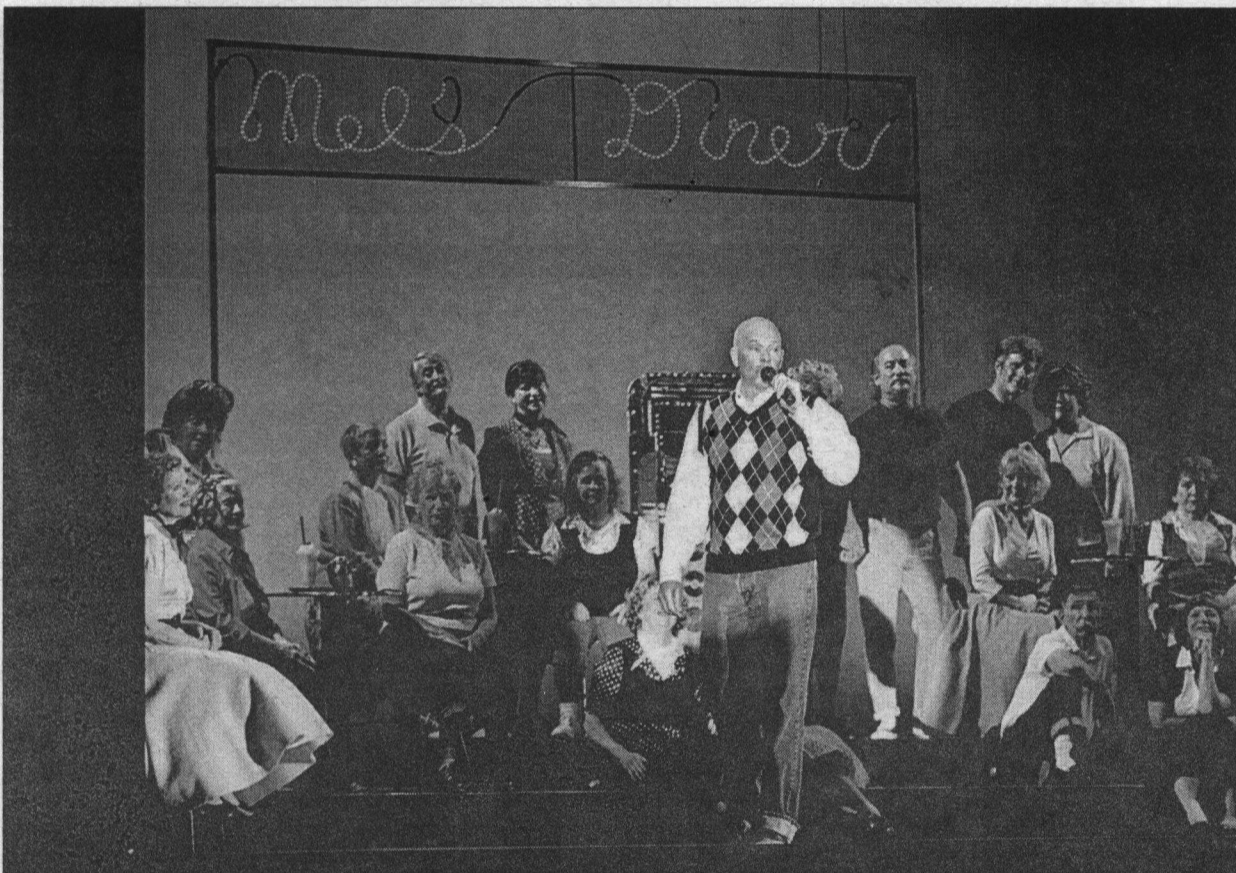
**PRICE:** Tickets are \$20, \$10 for children 10 and under, and can be purchased by calling 423-6640.

**DETAILS:** santacruzfollies.net



Members of the Santa Cruz Follies pose inside the Market Street Senior Center where they will be performing 'Copacabana Finale' starting Sept. 12.

JAMES TENSUAN/SENTINEL



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL FILE

Santa Cruz Follies cast members perform during the 2010 show. This is the Santa Cruz Follies' 57th year, and organizers expect more than 1,000 people will attend the shows.

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dancing and skits.

"I am amazed at the energy they bring to their work," Adkins said. "It's very inspiring."

An acting and voice instructor at Cabrillo College, Adkins has been directing for years, but this is her first time with the Follies.

"The senior community brings an understanding of what the end purpose is," she said. "The younger novice student doesn't always know that."

The show begins just before the doors open at the club, so the audience can get a flavor of what's going on behind the scenes. Adkins was able to get some real-life perspective from local Lynn Knudsen, who was a Copa girl in the 1960s. This allowed her to add dimension throughout the production, including depictions of how the characters interact with one another.

Richard Stockton will serve as emcee, which is a Follies first. Other

**'When I retired I went to see a Santa Cruz Follies show just because I could in the afternoon, and I found myself saying, "Gee, I'd like to be a part of that."'**

JO LUTTRINGER, president of Senior Citizen Opportunities, which houses the Follies

highlights include Steve Hendricks singing Frank Sinatra, Jim Dugger performing Dean Martin and Jo Luttringer singing a crowd favorite. "She does a marvelous rendition of 'Fever,'" Adkins said.

This is the 11th Follies show for Luttringer, who serves as president of SCO, which houses Market Street Theater and the Follies.

"When I retired I went to see a Santa Cruz Follies show just because I could in the afternoon, and I found myself saying, 'Gee, I'd like to be a part of that,'" she said.

The next year she auditioned and made the cut.

The Follies allows people to reconnect with the past and breathe life back into a part of them they might have thought was gone forever.

"People do what they want to do when they're young," she said. "Then they get married, they have babies and they have to go to work."

This is the Santa Cruz Follies' 57th year, and Luttringer expects more than 1,000 people will attend the shows. Come expecting a high-energy experience full of talented performers.

"This new show isn't your old grandma getting up there anymore," she said.

The production is a kind of testament to life, according to Adkins.

"Just like the Copacabana, which closed only to reopen and remake itself, so do we as people," she said. "It really truly is a dance of life."

The show concludes with a big dance number, performed to "Dancing in the Street." It's a suiting end for a show that honors the past by joyfully re-creating it.

"That's what life is about," Adkins said. "It should be a big dance."