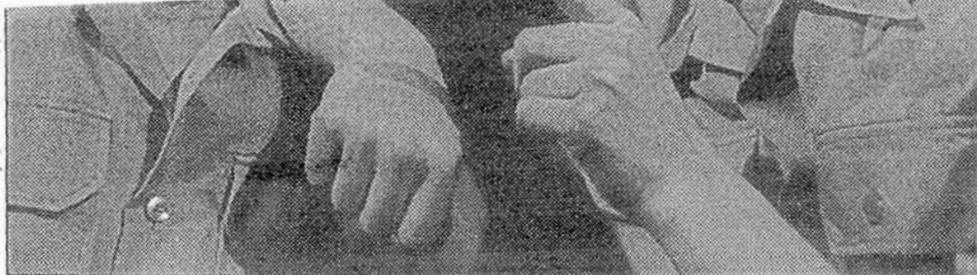


By JAMES SCARBOROUGH
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

WESTMINSTER—The Westminster Community Theatre's production of "Over Here!" proceeds in fits and starts. Sometimes it transcends the rambling—but more often it succumbs to the monotony—of a train ride. Actually, this musical does take place on a train—it's a seven-day trip to the East Coast for a group of newly inducted soldiers during World War II.

But seven days is about three days too long to resolve the complications raised by this simple plot.

The story itself is not uninteresting. The point of the musical is mom-and-apple-pie nostalgia for a simpler, more innocent time. Fair enough. One truly



KEN HIVELEY / Los Angeles Times

Roberta Kay, left, and Lanell Henson are Paulette and Pauline in "Over Here!"

marvels at how the men, in this pre-AIDS setting, are inoculated with the same needle; how Bill must marry June before they can consummate their relationship; how the only premonition of their uncertain fate is the presence of a bumbling Nazi spy.

For Reference

Not to be taken from this room

provides some entertaining impersonations, including Groucho Marx and James Stewart. "The Good Time Girl," sung by Paulette (Roberta Kay) and Pauline (Lanell Henson) and the Company, is a humorous polka about venereal disease.

June and Bill's "Wartime Wedding," again by Kay and Henson, is well done, albeit sans rice, because of wartime rationing. Finally, Andy Rose as Lucky

production is at times pleasant, but mo the beginning, th remembers of the ing and the musi memory, howev appear to have be

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(Reference Pamphlet File)

'OVER HERE!'

A Westminster Community Theatre production of the Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman musical. Book by Will Holt. Directed by Kent Johnson. With Tom Hardy, Bradley Miller, Harry Ratner, Cathy Garver, Don Lick, Jenn Farrelly, Margie Taylor, Barbra Tibbles, Nina DeRosa, Gardner, Joe Hollinshead, Andy Rose, Scott Ratner, Shari Heatherly, Eric J. Towler, Roberta Kay, Lanell Henson, Heather Marie Wierman. Producer: Teddy Harling. Co-producer: Brooks-Anne Crumley. Assistant director: John L. Moreno. Music director: Geoffrey Alch. Choreographer: Jennifer Simpson. Stage manager/chorus: Heather Marie Wierman. Plays Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m.; Sunday and April 7 at 2 p.m. Through April 13 at Westminster Community Theater, 7272 Maple St., Westminster. (714) 893-8626.

Playhouse Lands a Permanent Home in Library

■ **Theater:** After more than 27 years of moving from location to location, the Huntington Beach Playhouse has a place to call its own. It's expected to move in as soon as fall of 1992.

By JOHN PENNER
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

HUNTINGTON BEACH—After more than 27 years as a nomadic troupe, the Huntington Beach Playhouse has secured a permanent, plush home in the Huntington Beach Central Library on Golden West Street.

As part of an \$8.4-million library expansion approved by the City Council this

week, a 320-seat theater in the new wing will be designed to accommodate Playhouse performances as well as music and dance programs, lectures and other activities.

The Playhouse—which has staged productions in a shopping center, a barn and a school auditorium—is expected to move into the library as soon as fall of 1992. Construction is scheduled to begin within six months, according to Ron Hayden, city library director.

Noting that the library is expected to attract 3,000 patrons daily, Playhouse officials say they are hoping to draw larger audiences and, given a new and permanent base, to improve the quality of their five productions each season. Fund raising, and efforts to get volunteers involved in productions, also will be stepped up.

The troupe further plans to expand its scholarship program for theater students, said Bill Verhaegen, Playhouse business manager. Operating on an annual budget of about \$35,000, the troupe now awards \$1,500 in scholarships each year.

"Everyone connected with the Playhouse is ecstatic over this new home," Verhaegen said Wednesday. "We're anticipating a lot of fun the next year and half or so getting ready. We're all just dying to get in there."

The troupe's move to the new facility, in the works since last fall, came about through a financing package put together by library director Hayden. Under the plan, the city will purchase \$5.26 million in bonds, all of which will be repaid through income the library expects to generate with its new amenities.

For example, the city will draw \$110 from each playhouse ticket sold to help pay the bond costs. City and private funds have been earmarked to cover the balance of the expansion costs.

In addition to the theater, the new two-level wing will include a new children's resource center, an expanded computer and media center, two new meeting rooms and an improved lobby and gift shop.

The library is on Golden West Street at Talbert Avenue. That section of Talbert will be removed to accommodate the greater parking space needed because of the expansion. Most recently, the Playhouse has been operating at the otherwise closed Ernest H. Gisler Middle School on Strathmoor Lane.

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3/91

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