



Entertainment Section



OCEAN COUNTY ENTERTAINMENT

By Roberta Gold

"Camelot" Shines in Spring Lake

for those in need of the services offered by Dottie's house.

The strong leading cast wonderfully delivered the sometimes moving, sometimes-witty lyrics of Alan Jay Lerner and the memorable music of Frederick Loewe. It is easy to understand why this musical is enjoyable no matter how many times one has seen it with songs such as magical "Camelot," the sweet "If Ever I would Leave You," and light-hearted "What Do the Simple Folks Do?"

Michael Chartier as King Arthur returned to the Spring Lake stage after a 25-year absence. Much too long a wait. As Arthur, he wrestles with the conflict caused by the love for his wife, Guenevere, played by a sweet songbird named Marissa Caro and his friendship for Lancelot, portrayed by a debonair Bill Gaudelli in his Spring Lake Theatre debut. Attorney Doug Moore celebrated his golden, 50th appearance portraying a doubly well done Merlin and Pellinore. Peter Roccaforte, in his debut at the theatre,

SPRING LAKE THEATRE COMPANY

Dottie's House, a nonprofit organization, based in Brick Township, provides safe housing for women and their children through a program that empowers them to become self-sufficient and live free from violence. Eileen "Tink" Mannion serves not only on Dottie's Board of Directors, she also is the lighting designer and operator for the Spring Lake Theatre Company. She combined her two passions, resulting in a fundraiser for Dottie's House at the Spring Lake Community House/Thomas A. Crowley Theatre.

The show was Camelot, the legendary place of King Arthur's court. Camelot also is defined as a period of great happiness, perhaps a not-so-subtle wish

was villainous Mordred.

Producer Pat Barry outdid herself with an assist from Joni Doura and Theresa Condoluci in the lush costuming. It was worthy of King Arthur's court. A creative set, including transforming one of the stage balconies into a tree, enhanced the presentation.

All too it is difficult to understand the spoken and sung words. The gift this cast, and particularly Chartier and Caro, gave to the audience was wonderful diction. You understand what they are saying and because of that you are able to become more involved in the performance. It is easier to suspend reality when you aren't asking your companion, "What did he say?"

While Camelot has finished its run, you might want to catch the next show, "Stardust," a musical review beginning Oct. 12 featuring the beloved songs of composers such as Duke Ellington, Hoagy Carmichael, Benny Goodman and Harry White. You remember - songs you can hum - Deep Purple, Moonlight Serenade, and, of course, Stardust, to name a few of those you'll hear.

Not far from the business district, at 3rd and Madison Avenues, the company is housed in an elegant Tudor-styled community house. The theatre is intimate, seating 350 with 240 on the orchestra level and 120 in the balcony. There is no price difference in the seating, so the early birds get the best seats. Tickets usually run \$28, with a \$2 discount for those 65+ or students and children being \$20. The theatre is climate controlled and features state

of the art sound and lighting. They have just added a dramatic new fiber optic curtain.

Summer shows run for three weeks Monday through Saturday. The rest of the year they have shorter runs. Visit www.springlaketheatre.com for more information.

September is Ocean County's greatest month for wonderful festivals. Check out the calendar of events elsewhere in the Ocean County Gazette, then gather up the family and enjoy what is in your own backyard.



FOR A GOOD CAUSE - Eileen "Tink" Mannion, left, who serves on Dottie's Board of Directors and is the lighting designer and operator for the Spring Lake Theatre Company, combined her two interests to suggest a fund-raiser. She is pictured with Dottie's House Director Carol Wolfe at the resulting benefit, which featured, "Camelot." Dottie's House provides housing and support programs for abused women and children.



MAGIC KINGDOM CAST -- The Spring Lake Theatre Company cast of "Camelot" takes a well deserved bow. They are from left, Bill Gaudelli as Lancelot, Michael Chartier as King Arthur, Marissa Caro as Guenevere, Doug Moore in the dual roles of Merlin and Pellinore and Peter Roccaforte as Mordred. Upcoming performances at the theatre include "Stardust," "Scrooge," "Nonsense" and the world premiere of "William's Dark Lady"