

A Grand Opening at the



Morrie and Irma Jurkowitz

By Kerry Methner / CASA

WITH HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS RUNNING

HIGH, perhaps like at its original opening in 1925, the Granada Theatre spread wide its doors after years of construction to a sell-out crowd of flappers, women in gowns, and men in black-tie, along with over 200 assorted performers.

Outside well-wishers were greeted with live piano music by Gil Rosas and classic cars on a red carpet occupied by the Razzle Dazzle Dancers, all captured by paparazzi and a KEYT-3 camera crew.

Inside hors d'oeuvres were abundant and champagne and wine flowed in the new lobby replete with custom splendor as well as upstairs in the almost completed McCune Founders Room.

When the inner doors to the theatre itself opened, neither the decor or the performance



Sara Miller McCune

disappointed as waves of applause rose in the multi-tiered, yet intimate, space where the audience expressed its pleasure and excitement.

A space truly worthy of the sophistication, taste, and depth of the performing arts scene in Santa Barbara was reborn - perhaps even bringing that scene to a new level of quality by its very existence.

None of the groups took a back seat in the wide ranging and locally cultivated performances by the individuals and groups that will call the Granada home.

The Santa Barbara Symphony received ovation after ovation when they opened the night's performances with *Capriccio Espagnol* by Rimsky Korsakov, the first of many Spanish-flavored performances for the evening. Lead by Nir Kabaretti, the symphony promised great things

to come when they move into the theatre, designed with symphonic acoustics and requirements in mind.

Next Warren Jones



Léni Fé Bland

was introduced by Diva Denyce Graves, who was the Special Guest Host for the evening. Relaying grace and history, Graves invited the audience to relax into the historic evening.

Nina Bodnar who will be the resident violin instructor played three numbers beginning with a *Tango* by Elman.

One of the many high points of the evening were the opening strains of *Carmina Burana* by Orff, performed by the combined Santa Barbara Choral Society and Santa Barbara Symphony, lead by JoAnne Wasserman.

In the second act the Flamenco Ballet Pablo Pizano continued the Spanish theme with *Una Noche Granada*. They were followed in dance by the State Street Ballet performing



The conductors: Valery Ryvkin, Opera SB; Jo Anne Wasserman, SB Choral Society; Nir Kabaretti, SB Symphony



Dr. Joe and SB Mayor Marty Blum



Jo and Barry Berkus



Robert and Christine Emmons



Deborah and Peter Bertling



Michael Towbes, Mark Melchiori, and Anne Smith Towbes



Sarah Schlinger Chrisman with Richard and Susan Aberle



Suzanne and Duncan Mellichamp



Harriet Miller, President Granada Bd of Directors; Gillian Launie, President SB Symphony; Iya Falcone, SB City Council



Arlene Montesano; Ivan Reilman, Director; and Sarah Argyropoulos



Stephan and Carla Hahn with Dr. Gary Vantervinder

Granada Theatre

selections from Bizet's *Carmen*.

Opera Santa Barbara followed up with a *Carmen* of their own, with the lead role performed by Jeniece Golbourne.

The ten boxes were occupied by some of the night's supporters including the Melchioris (General Contractor for the Granada project and event sponsor), the Berkuses, the Granatellis.

Just how to get to those exclusive seats was a mystery for some guests until helpful and friendly ushers, finished with new maroon brocade vests, lead the way.

When the performance concluded, the night was just getting started for a lucky number - with tickets to the Gala Patron Party - designed as a supper club under a grand tent steps away at the Courthouse Sunken Gardens.

Elements Restaurant provided fabulous fare and patrons danced to the big band sound of West Coast Music.



Razzle Dazzle Dancers



Sharol Siemons; Peter Frisch, Executive Director Granada; Susan Miles Gulbransen; Joan Rutkowski; and Hal Conlkin



Heather and Mark Melchiori; Andy Granatelli; Steve Metsch, Phillips Metsch, Sweeney & Moore Architect; and Dolly Granatelli



George and Alice Krebb



Betty Stephens



Sarah Schlinger Chrisman



Hiroco Benco and Arlene Larson



Chris Lancashire and Patricia Gregory



Janet Garfulus and Roger Chrisman



Nir Kabaretti and Gaja Hubbard Kabaretti



Stan and Betty Hatch with Brooks Firestone



Gina and Salud Carbajal, County Supervisor



Jeniece Golbourne



The State Street Ballet



Geoffrey and Joan Rutkowski



Kerry Methner and Mark Whitehurst, CASA Magazine; Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree; John Robinson, Executive Director SB Symphony; and Gillian Launie, President SB Symphony



Carolina and Parker Montgomery with Susan and Joe Cole