

Cinderella is in the House!

By Lee Borrowman

Fifty-five 4th and 5th grade actors and a tech crew of twelve. Two full casts. And two missing glass slippers!

Hot on the heels of Glorietta's glorious production of "Hello, Dolly!" OUSD's Ron Pickett and the students of Wagner Ranch will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" the first weekend in June. The performers have been rehearsing weekly since January for what promises to be a fairy tale success story!

Pickett says, "This is a long standing tradition at Wagner Ranch. 'Cinderella' was preceded by favorites like

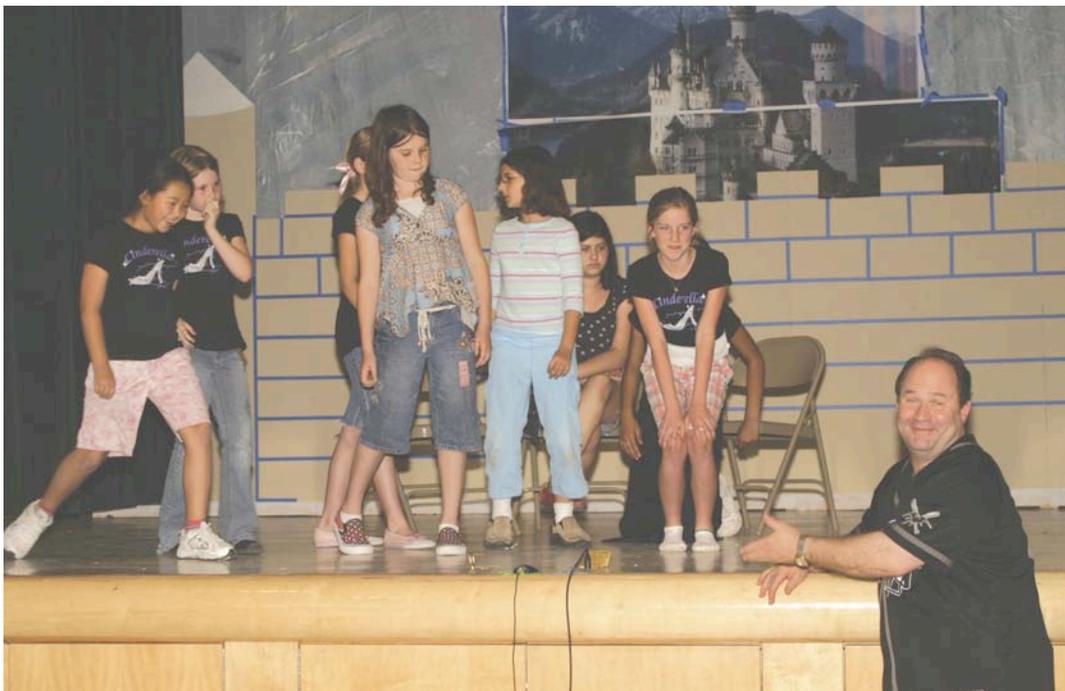
'The Wizard of Oz', 'Peter Pan', 'The Music Man', 'My Fair Lady,' 'The Sound of Music' and 'HONK!' We feel it is important to give the students the opportunity to experience 'the real process' of participating in a musical."

Putting on an elementary school play of such proportion can present challenges for the director, parent producers and many other volunteers, but there are valuable lessons young actors can learn during the production of a show. In addition to singing, acting and dancing, Pickett explains, "Children learn to work together as a team, set and meet goals, and articulate clearly.

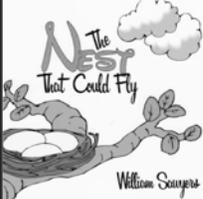
These are all qualities that will help them be successful." The children have a lot of fun, and performing has another benefit: "It nurtures a strong confidence in their abilities. Confidence brings that overall happy feeling!" says Pickett.

Shows are June 1, at 4:00 and 7:30, and June 2, at 3:00 and 7:00. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children and \$10 for reserved seats.

See the Wagner Ranch website for details: <http://www.orinda.k12.ca.us/wagner-ranch/Default.aspx?Page=Play>



Ron Pickett and friends in rehearsal



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