

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Courier-Journal

Impact Theater opening night

□ Short skits of drama, comedy and music



Annmarie Irace is shown as she lights candles during preparation of the Park and Club Rooms for Impact Theater opening night.

(photo by Beth Hoard)

By Beth Hoard

Courier-Journal correspondent

PALMYRA—The Park and Club Rooms at 149 E. Main St. underwent a "serious" change of appearance on Friday evening, March 30. The large, open and rather personality-less room had been transformed to a darkened "off-Broadway" style theater complete with a stage, spotlight, miniature candlelit tables and seating for fifty.

All of the preparations were made for the opening performance of the Impact Theater presented by the "In Your Face" Players. This is a non-church affiliated group of Christian artists who perform together under director/coordinator Frank Irace who said that he felt "there were many talented individuals in the Christian community who if given the chance would love to use those talents outside of church walls." Those individuals who participated in last Friday's performance were Chris and Tracy Stupin, Jason Merrill, Dave and Debbie Honnes, and Colleen O'Dell as well as Irace. The behind-the-scenes crew consisted of Annmarie Irace, Nicole Merrill and Jena Fuller. In addition Annmarie Irace, who has a degree in Communications, was the organizer and was responsible for publicity.

Frank Irace, who has worked at Xerox for twenty years and is the Mod-

er Manager, said that his interest in the theater dates back to his growing-up years in New York City. A friend's father, who painted sets for the Schubert organization, would give the tickets that he earned to the youngsters so they could attend the various theater productions. Irace's musical and writing talents were developed through his "hanging out on street corners in New York" where he acted and sang a cappella with a group of friends. Part of those early presentations included skits and songs that he had written. He said that his dream of a theater is now coming to fruition here in Palmyra.

Friday evening's performance consisted of several short skits that presented the problems of real life in dramatic, comedic and musical formats. The program ran from 7 to 9 p.m. and included an intermission with free refreshments. Irace said they charge no admission but donations are appreciated. Although they are operating

on a very limited budget, the hope is that over time they can begin to purchase items that will enhance their performances.

The next presentation is scheduled for April 20 at 6:45 p.m. and will feature the music of *Enter In*. The group consists of Harry Merrill of Macedon who plays guitar and drummer Dave Klingler from Newark. They have been playing together for about two years and use the words "worship music" to describe their style.

The Impact Theater opened with a full house at the first performance. That audience consisted of people of all ages, many of whom were teenagers. Annmarie Irace said that seating is limited to fifty persons, so reservations are strongly suggested for anyone interested in attending future performances.

Admission is free, and reservations and calls for information are being taken at 597-3553. □

Poverty in Palmyra?

□ Still searching for answers

By Jean Dyer

Courier-Journal editor

PALMYRA—The final two panelists from the Poverty in Palmyra meeting held at St. Anne's Church in early March shared the following:

Richard LeBlanc, Supervisor of Family Services & Case Workers at the Dept. of Social Services in Lyons said, "80-90% of the people we serve are in the poverty level. It is rare we have someone over the poverty level. The United States has a

poverty level," he said. What do we need to improve? "We need housing for low income families and individuals and we need transportation to assist people to get where they need to be." Most of these people use what little money they have for rent, which means no food...then if they do get a job, they make minimum wage with part-time work. Seems they are always behind. "We have an extreme need in Palmyra for help," LeBlanc concluded.

Finally, Billie Ray Walker, homeless