

One in a Vermillion

Meet Cinda Passick

By David Lias

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The Vermillion Community Theatre can't put on a theatrical performance without actors, and those actors can't put on a show without first putting on the proper costumes.

That's where Cinda Passick comes in.

She is serving as the VCT's "costumer" as rehearsals have begun for this year's production of "Robin Hood -- Spirit of the Greene."

Performances of this locally written and produced musical will be Friday, July 19, Saturday, July 20 and Monday, July 22 at 7 p.m. along with a matinee on Sunday, July 21 at 2:30 p.m. All performances will be at the Vermillion High School Performing Arts Center.

Cinda is best known in the community in her role as an educator. She worked for the Vermillion School District for 39 years. She taught second grade for 31 years, and remedial reading for six years before retiring last year.

"I jumped from retirement into theatre," she said.

Cinda first became involved in local theatre years ago when two of her kids became involved in summer theatre.

"I volunteered to do some sewing at that time, and I sewed for the next year's project as well, and then I just sort of faded away," she said.

Cinda renewed her involvement in the local community theatre last year as she became active in preparing the costumes



Cinda Passick makes sure Ben Burbach's vest fits properly as she prepares costumes for the upcoming Vermillion Community Theatre production of "Robin Hood -- Spirit of the Greene."

for the production of "Annie." She began chatting with the mother of one of her students, who had been involved in the VCT's production of "Oklahoma" a few years back.

"I mentioned that I used to do some sewing for the community theatre productions, and so she kept my name in mind and shared it last year," Cinda said. "Last year, I did a lot of sewing and a lot of creating with shirts and skirts and other things to make them into something new and different and appropriate. I'd take men's shirts and make them into smocks and aprons."

This year, she said her involvement in costume development is more

involved than ever. Some of the costumes are developed from sketches made by Sandy Dickenson, another active, behind the scenes organizer of the community theatre.

The costumes for this year are of the Renaissance era – best identified as what one would associate with the Knights of the Round Table.

"There's kind of a peasant look for the townsfolk, with long skirts, peasant blouses, vests," Cinda said. "We are lucky in that we've been able to rent some costumes from the University (of South Dakota) Theatre, and that has really helped out."

"But you just have to use your imagination.

We're going to be sewing a lot of things, like the monks' costumes. I just worked on that yesterday," she said.

Besides renting costumes from USD, Cinda is also able to work with the number of costumes VCT has developed thanks to more of a decade of recent theatrical performances. "Some of the things that we used last year will be used by the younger kids this year," she said. "We do recycle things, and that's kind of fun. You can change a jumper into a skirt, or shorten or lengthen a piece to make it work."

"We have found things we can use, and I'm also a good friend of the Civic Council, (as a clothing source)," she said. "We are

making a lot of things this year. Sandy and I went shopping last week, and bought more fabric than I've ever had the pleasure to buy."

This year's production has a cast of approximately 100.

"That means we're working with 100-plus costumes, because some have multiple costumes, and many of the costumes have three or four pieces, too," Cinda said.

Making sure that each character is clothed properly demands razor-sharp organization on her part. Along with needle and thread, her tools include a clipboard and spreadsheet.

"You need to make lists," she said. "I'm a list person, and I've got many lists to help me out and coordinate everything."

Cinda said one of the favorite parts of her role as costumer is to take a garment or piece of cloth and transform it into something different.

"It's really fun when everyone gets dressed up and you can whether everything comes together, and how things look as a whole," she said. "It's fun, and I've not had the experience, like I'm having this year, of doing so many. We do have some patterns that we're using, but also use our own ideas and incorporate them to get the entire outfit that we want to have."

"It's exciting, and fun," Cinda said. "It takes a lot of thought and planning to make sure that everything works out right, but it's great when you see everything come together."

1101 Announcements - Events

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The Luther Center at USD: Life at the corner of campus and faith. Located at Cherry & Plum Streets, Vermillion. We worship weekly on Wednesday evenings at 8:30pm and host service and fellowship events throughout the year. Visit us online at www.luthercenter.org or find us on facebook!

The United Church of Christ Congregational, Highway 12 Newcastle, NE. Worship: 7:00 p.m. Saturday. Pastor Gary Kimm. Come join us!

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OPEN HOUSE: Thursday June 27th 6-7PM
OPTION 1: This lodge has a large open area on the main floor, with hardwood floors. It has a full basement with kitchen and restroom. It is located on a 100' x 140' lot with city water & sewer.
Legal: Lots 4 & 5, Blk 1, Duryea's Addition to Centerville, Turner Co, South Dakota
OPTION 2: This consists of the West 25' of Lot 7, Lots 8 & 9 except the West 60' of Lot 9.. This is a 115' x 100' bare lot located just South of the Lodge.
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