Nancy Gurwin

Actress, producer keeps expanding vistas

By SHIRLEE IDEN

When she wakes up each morning, Nancy Gurwin begins her day as a homernaker, wife and mother of four. But three nights a week, she winds up the day as a fairy tale princes, black and blue from a pea under her 20

maltresses. Mrs. Gurwin is starring in a dinner theater version of "Once Upon a Mat-tress," the musical comedy that cata-pulted Carol Burnett to Broadway

for 'Guys and Dolls' at the Jewish Community Center and since then I've

for 'Gays' and Dolls' at the Jewish Community Center and since then I've rever stopped. "I got into dimer theater and going through that experience I thought I could do it better and two years ago I formed Nancy Gurwin Productions." The fielding company doi '1 do, I do'' which ran eight months, 'Lasi of the Red Hot Lovers' and ''The Odd Couple'' before its current version of 'Once Upon a Mattress." "Mattress." opened about a month ago at the Bum Steer in Royal Oak and is now beginning to fill the house on Friday, Stant day even nings. It's a lively show with dance, song and comic elements, Mars, Gur-win enjoys I because it's appropriate framily view fao. cell out the bouse "I day more than the house "The day marks" and the thouse "The day marks" and the bouse "The day marks" and the thouse "I day marks" and the day and the day and the day and the day and the state and though the two bouse "The day marks" show it is used

lenge is the room you have to work in. For "Mattress' we need a very high calling because we have to pile up all the second second second second second "Wo had to take out the routine certi-ing for just four inches to get the mat-resses in, "She said. "We only used 11 thin ones though the fairy story calls or 20 and the secing the method second second for 20 and the secing the method second producer is really a coordinator and the one who makes sure things come ugether and run smoothy." There to make sure that the product is good in all phases. We re trying to be the most professional group around."

al group around." ans call not only for doing

things well but for doing them bigger and better. She is currently con-templating offering a Saturday mati-nee of 'Mattress' so children can see the show too, perhaps with a bag lunch instead of a full meal.

"I KNOW my kids are my very best critics." she said. "They've seen every show we've done."

Her children are Joanna 10. Mat-thew, 9. Sam, 8, and Danny, 5.

"Danny knows all the scores of the four shows we've done and Joanna wants to be a dancer," she said. "They

all like the idea of Mommy being an actress,"

"That's good, because what started out as a hobby with me is now becom-ing a growing business. When we're in rehearsal it takes a lot of time. But I spend my days with the kids and my husband takes over in the evenings.

"He wants me to do my own thing." she said. "And he even handles some of the business end of things."

Mrs. Gurwin said the three shows her company produced previously have all been packaged into a "will travel" offering and have entertained for various groups.

FIREPLACE DEPT.

"The organizations provide the half and the meal, and we just move the show to where they are." she said. On her agenda is a possible produc-tion of "The Seven Year Itch" and a probable move to another restaurant in September. "We're coordinated enough to expand and Iged excellent cooperation from my staff." she said. "We've ome up with some exceptional talent and I love my new role as producer. I don't miss the personal applause at all.

Her aim, she says, is for her com-pany to "just remain exceptional."

n s quuce a reat to sell out the house in mid-summer," she said. "I did this show in college and thought it would be fun to produce and star in it also." She added she doubts she will con-tinue to star in her own productions because producing is an all-consuming responsibility. AMERICAN HARDWARE "BUT I DO love the legitimate thea-"BUT I DO love the legitimate thea-ter. I play to the audience and I love the faces. You can just feel the love when you walk out there and people are waiting for you to do something." So far, audiences and critics alike have liked what the cast is doing and raved over Mrs. Gurwin's own per-formance as the moat-swimming prin-RAG GΔ raved over Mrs. Gurwin's own per-formance as the moatswimming prin-cess faced with a test before she can claim her prince. As a producer she says all the final decisions are hers as to what plays to do, how to cast them and dozens of other vital details. "We've made mistakes but we've readile it them in time, mostly," she said. "With dimer theater, the chal-First Come, First Served Prices good thru 8-28-78





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