**Paper Mache for 8-29-25 by David Read**

When I first arrived in Yuba-Sutter back in 2009, I scouted out the local arts and culture scene. I was still a regular business traveler, but between out-of-town jaunts, I managed to see David Wheeler’s last production at Yuba College, *Othello*. I volunteered to usher at Joaquina Calvo Johnson’s last opera at the Burrows Center for the Arts, *The Marriage of Figaro*. And the first show I saw at The Acting Company might have been *A Christmas Story*, *Hello Dolly*, or *Forever Plaid*. I can’t remember, but they were all great.

Across the decades, The Acting Company has become a cherished fixture in Yuba‑Sutter’s cultural landscape. It continues to deliver a wide range of theatrical offerings—from musicals and classic dramas to original plays and youth productions—all powered by a committed volunteer base. Since its founding in the mid-80s, the Acting Company of Yuba City has grown from a gleam in the eyes of local theater lovers into a vibrant cornerstone of the Yuba-Sutter cultural scene. Founded by a passionate group of local arts advocates, including Curt Schroeder and Pat Hill, Curt served as its first president, and contributed as actor, playwright, and director—winning multiple Elly Awards for his creative efforts. Co-founder, Pat Hill, brought her rich experience in children's theater from Prune Festival productions in the late '80s to directing and acting in over 50 shows while also earning Elly Awards and the prestigious Don Award for community theater excellence. The now defunct Sacramento Area Regional Theatre Alliance’s Elly Awards for many years honored outstanding community and professional theater productions, recognizing excellence in acting, directing, design, and technical achievement across the greater Sacramento region.

The company has built a rich tradition of community-driven, volunteer-powered theater. Their board—composed of local professionals and theater artists—ensures the arts remain accessible, inspiring, and sustainable. The Acting Company has staged plays and musicals including favorites like *On Golden Pond*, spirited adaptations like *Pride and Prejudice*, imaginative offbeat pieces such as *Happy Birthday, Mr. Shakespeare!*, and legendary musicals like *Matilda*. Their 2025 season has included lighthearted comedies like *Run for Your Wife* and exciting upcoming productions like *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Miracle on 34th Street* for the holiday season. Through thoughtful leadership, an engaged volunteer base, and a diverse repertoire, The Acting Company continues to deliver the magic of live theater to Yuba City—and no doubt will for many more decades to come.

The Acting Company’s new and progressive leadership includes President Diane Lee Haas, an environmental scientist by day, with a long history in local theater and Secretary Megan Shearer, who brings media, marketing, and engagement expertise to bolster The Acting Company’s community presence. Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture has nurtured a new and collaborative marketing effort between both organizations whereby we share resources to cross market to both of our constituents and the entire region in the hopes of building an even larger theater-engaged following in the community.

The Acting Company’s upcoming fall gala fundraiser is the My Way Rat Pack Revival which will be held at the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts on September 6, 2025. It’s a vintage-themed variety performance that promises to transport you to the golden age of Las Vegas for a night to remember. The Rat Pack Revival celebrates vintage Vegas vibes while raising funds to support The Acting Company and its mission to continue bringing live theater to our community. The event will feature performances by some great vocalists and musicians, signature cocktails, exquisite hors d’oeuvres, and a vintage Vegas costume contest. So, order your tickets now at actingcompany.org and maybe even plan to attend one of their shows later this year.