

LIBERTY CALL



Cast members help each other out ensuring their costumes are ready for action.

If you are looking for a Las Vegas style review featuring some of Hawaii's most talented performers in an all volunteer cast, the Pearl Harbor Performing Arts Associations (PHPAA) has created something made to order — Mardi Gras Follies 2000.

Tonight is opening night at The Banyans on board Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

"Singing, dancing, showgirls in incredible costume... Mardi Gras Follies has it all," says Barbara Tracy, a retired Navy Commander, and President of PHPAA.

According to Tracy, PHPAA is a non-profit, all-hands organization whose business is to enhance the quality of life of all military and their families stationed in Hawaii by providing top-quality entertainment. Over 51 percent of the cast and crew are military affiliated, both active duty and retired.

Tracy said the Follies have been a part of Pearl Harbor since 1955. Originally a Mardi Gras costume ball through 1959, the Mardi Gras Follies have since evolved into the Las Vegas style extravaganza it is today.

All proceeds from all shows are donated to both military and civilian charities in Hawaii. According to Tracy, PHPAA donated over \$18,000 to 27 organizations in 1999, including the American Red Cross, Armed Services YMCA and Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

"The show is a lot of fun and the cast becomes close, like a family," Tracy said. "From the director each individual cast member, everyone is a volunteer with one main objective. We are all here to help our military and local civilian community, which is my primary reason for doing this."

Director Jack Cione promises patrons an incredible show.

"We will send people away at the end of the night tapping their feet with a wonderful experience," said Cione, who has been with the Follies for 14 years. "You will get a great dinner and fantastic entertainment. We have worked hard since October to make this our best show yet."

But the highlight of the show is the finale, Cione promises.

"Each year we do a red, white and blue finale, a salute to all the Armed Forces," he said. "There will be lots of flag waving."

Additional show dates are March 3-5, 10-11, 17-19, 24-25, and 31. The final night will be April 1. March 5 and 19 are matinees only.

The show includes a lunch or dinner buffet. Matinee lunch begins at 12:30 p.m. on March 5 and 19, with show time at 1:30 p.m. For evening shows, dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. with the Follies starting at 7:45 p.m.

Tickets are on sale at the Banyans Box Office, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekdays. Tickets are \$35 and \$40.

The show is open to military and civilians. For more information, call the Box Office at 473-1703.

Tonight is opening night for Mardi Gras Follies 2000!



Circus of Stars is (above) an act that will knock your socks off with the Space Dancers out in front. Mardi Gras Follies 2000 is a singing and dancing extravaganza that promises to please and entertain.

Majken (left) busts a move as one of the Space Age Dancers.

Story and photos by
JOCS (SW)
Philip Eggman



Pearl Harbor Performing Arts Association President Barbara Tracy stays attached to the moon during dress rehearsal of Mardi Gras Follies 2000