

"MÁGNÁS MISKA" Hungarian Operetta Performance **At the Woodside Priory Theater**

The Szoboszlai Sándor South Californian Theatre came to the Hungarian Catholic Mission's home, to the Woodside Priory, with this special performance on January 22, 2012.

We were so excited about it, because in America it is very difficult to see a Hungarian operetta. This new theater company was so brave to produce this special piece, which was introduced first to the audience on February 12, 1916 in Budapest, Hungary. It was a big success then, and now 96 years later, here in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The audience really enjoyed Albert Szirmai, Károly Bakonyi and Andor Gábor's "Mágnás Miska" Operetta with English subtitle. It was a nice story with a lot of humor and beautiful music. The guest actor was Péter Pankotay, a famous actor from Budapest, who played Baracs engineer. His love was Rolla (Lilla Horváth, who is an operasinger) with a beautiful voice. Her parents were Csaba Hrotkó and Timea Antal the Count couple. (Csaba was a student in the Woodside Priory's first class. Now he is a famous actor in Hollywood.) And of course Miska (Balázs Tóth), and Marcsa (Perjési Monika) were the audience's favorites because of their singing, dancing, and humor. They were the funny couple. Count Pixi (Pánczél Iván), and Count Mixi (Kass Pál) were the other humorous couple. Kinga Tóth was the grandmother, who knew everything that happened in the castle. The guests of the party Éva Mátté, Mihály Sándor, and Péter Fábrián Zomora did a very nice job also.

The Carpathian Folk Dancers delivered a colorful picture of different Hungarian dance pieces during the performance. The music was taped in Budapest by the Budapest Chamber Sinfonietta. The conductor was Csongor Veér.

András Maxim was not just the director of Magnas Miska, but also he played in the operetta with a lot of humor.

A Certificate of Achievement was given to Sándor Szoboszlai, producer on the day of the Mágnás Miska premiere in San Francisco thanking him of the hard work of keeping the Hungarian culture and heritage alive.

The audience enjoyed this special performance, and gave a standing ovation to the members of the Szoboszlai Sándor South Californian Theatre. They will be so welcomed next year with the other Hungarian Operetta Countess Marica.

After the performance a "Theater Dinner" was held in the Cafeteria with Hungarian Chicken Paprikas with dumplings, salad, and dessert. That night we enjoyed the Hungarian Culture not just in the Theatre, but also in the Cafeteria.

Ildiko Zentai