

Theater on horseback coming June 2,3

By Pat Kumpan

Theater productions come in all varieties, but riders at Jeremy's Ranch of Poway add something unique — well-choreographed moves on horseback to words and music for original skits.

Young riders will be presenting "Wind Beneath My Wings" at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3 at 14545 Cedar Ridge Court, off the eastern end of Poway Road. Tickets are \$12 each.

Not only will guests be able to sit high atop double-decker buses, but such seating allows people to swivel in different directions because some performances encompass the entire arena.

Riding club owner Stephe Kicinski likes going above and beyond the regular lessons that kids pay for by offering a voluntary program, which she simply calls equestrian theatre.

She wants to build their confidence in riding techniques, as well as their passion for the sport, she said.

Guests can watch a variety of vignettes, including one act called "War and Peace," when riders span out to make a huge peace sign.

Choral sounds plus a bit of drumming in between loud music on the speakers is something that the horses have to get used to, Kicinski said.

"I have to climatize them to noise and people," she added.

She provides quarter horses, Arabians and different kinds of ponies to match the riding abilities of her students, both during the show, and lessons, she said.

During the hour-and-a-half pro-



Shannon Hellmers and fellow cast members rehearse for the upcoming presentation of "Wind Beneath My Wings" at 2 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3 at Jeremy's Ranch in Poway.

Staff photos by Steve Spangler

duction, youngsters get to sing and show their talent on horseback.

One intricate move has two riders circle another rider who grasps a scarf from each while pivoting in the middle of the arena on her horse.

"It's a challenging move because the horses come so close to one another," Kicinski said. "But it also shows how well the riders know their horses."

That segment, "Never Let You Go" is performed by Sheena Hackney, Shannon Hellmers and Brittany Schwan, all exceptional riders, Kicinski said.

Danielle Kammann, a Poway High School student, sings several songs, including "All Around My Hat," "Reflection," and "Wind Beneath My Wings," while Andie Whisler sings "War and Peace."

Pouring about eight weeks into the



productions means plenty of practice, but it also means that the shows go off without a hitch.

Kicinski likes the show for its creative benefits as well as an alternative way to emphasize good horsemanship, she said.

Changing sets out in the open could be a problem, but riders and their horses take the opportunity to perform while crews work in the

Sheena Hackney and Brittany Schwan rehearse for the upcoming equestrian theater presentation.

background.

For more details about the show, call Kicinski at 858-679-1168.