

Follies reflect Rossland's history

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It may not be the Parisian Follies Bergeres, but Rossland's Gold Fever Follies are well worth a look.

A group of talented young people have put a lot of time and effort into this musical presentation of Rossland at the turn of the century. Based on a play written by Bev McEwan and adapted to music by Mary Howard, mannequins housed in the Rossland Museum come to life and tell their tale of the free-wheeling mining town.

Bank of Montreal clerk Frank, played by the violently red-headed Clint Kniss, tells how he came to town to look for gold but found it was better to get a job than to starve. McEwan based her play on a diary kept by Frank.

Kim Harris plays the prim and proper "good woman" Clara, highly critical of both stinky miners and dance hall floozies.

But the floozies are so much fun! Any man would be hard pressed not to share what gold they did discover with these dazzling damsels.

Tina Moore, with a beautifully clear soprano voice, is an import from Kamloops who came to the area especially to audition. The other can-can girls,

Christine McConnachie and Gina Turner, are well known locally and their dancing is divine.

Rounding out the cast are Daryl Jolly as a down and out miner and sometime Rossland mayor, Bill, when he sobers up enough, and Michael Honeyman, well-known for his previous roles in Oliver and Charlie Brown. He plays Lucky Joe, the gambling man with the lucky fingers.

Stage director Geoff McLellan also has a cameo role as the bumbling janitor in charge of cleaning up the museum. Heather McGrath is the accomplished pianist.

These talented young people are going to be putting in full work days during the summer. Between shows, they will make themselves available to tell tourists some of Rossland's history, lead them on a heritage walk, encourage them to visit the mine museum and, of course, stay another day in one of Rossland.

Ray Furlotte, manager and director of the follies, is pleased with his cast. Armed with a Challenge '87 federal grant, Furlotte got the City of Rossland to waive rental fees on the Miners Hall to cut down costs. If the follies goes over well this summer, he hopes to bring back an even

bigger show for the following year. "It's a great showcase for these kid's talents as well."

Shirley Mendoza has been responsible for making all the 1900-style costumes and was still hard at work Wednesday painting sets.

For the gala opening show Sunday night at 7:30 only advance tickets will be sold because of limited seating. They are available at Alpine Drug Mart. Light refreshments will be available and the Granite Gallery, located on the lodge level, will be showing a collection of arts and crafts by Rossland artisans.

The follies will continue Wednesday to Sunday with three shows daily at 1, 4 and 7 p.m. Admission is nominal and can be obtained at the door. Any senior citizens who would like a free season's pass, are invited to come to the Miner's Hall during the day before Saturday to pick one up. They can also watch the dress rehearsals.