

After six hectic weeks, teens to open 'Oliver!'

Port Play Troupe's Teen Summer Theater will return for four evenings to the Schreiber High School stage next Friday, Aug. 13, with its fifth annual production, Lionel Bart's "Oliver!"

Most productions given by people of this age group require several months of rehearsal. This show will have been completed within a rigorous six week period which included raising funds, selling and delivering tickets, making costumes, painting scenery, designing posters and programs, and constructing sets, most of which was done by the young performers themselves.

The mixture of age groups is probably the most unique aspect of the summer program. Performers ranging in age up to graduated seniors work side by side with new seventh graders and Play Troupe adults.

Led by producer Ron Meadows and director Pam Meadows, Play Troupers Bob Klein, stage manager; Geoff Hickson, lighting designer; Manu Klein, costume coordinator; Andra Kustin,

scenic designer; Norman Cohen, lighting crew chief; Judy Hickson, makeup designer; and Dick Doll, program coordinator, all lend their talents and advice to the success of the production.

In addition, several "graduates" of the program have returned to assist this year's show. David Barnett, who has provided musical direction for all the previous shows, has returned for his fifth year, although he will be a junior at Yale in the fall. His orchestra includes several returning performers as well as new recruits.

Mary Ellen Macina, last summer's Sara Brown, is this summer's vocal director for the children's chorus. Tim Nissen, who played Nathan Detroit in "Guys and Dolls," is serving as assistant producer and, with Ron Meadows, designed a reproduction of the Broadway set, after which he went on to lead in its construction.

Reproducing this award-winning set was a production

within itself. It consists of a 20-foot diameter, multi-level, revolving platform joined from either side of the stage by high and low level ramps. Behind it looms the 19th century London skyline dominated by the dome of St. Paul's.

The Teen Summer Theater was begun four years ago by Pam and Ron Meadows and a group of highly motivated teenagers who presented "Anything Goes" at the Sousa Band Shell.

After two more years of outdoor productions—"Bye, Bye Birdie" and "Red, Hot and Blue"—the program moved to the Schreiber stage in association with the Adult Education Department's Community Education Program, where they presented last summer's "Guys and Dolls." This year's program includes 75 junior and senior high school students from the Port Washington and Manhasset area public and private schools.

Tickets are available from cast members and at the door at \$1 each.