

dren. But after a few rehearsals, they said, the age differences seemed to melt away. "Some of the little kids are so funny," said Sandi Dorman, 16, who plays Marty, a member of the "Pink Ladies" gang. During an early rehearsal, four little boys were told to dance "with someone," she said. Embarrassed, the boys danced together and "wouldn't dance with a girl until we made them."

Working on a play during the summer allows the cast to think about their roles without the distractions of classes, said Jean diFrancesco, 18, who plays Frenchie, one of the principal characters. "You can just concentrate on the show without the extra pressure of school work and the SATs."

Each cast member is also responsible for raising \$30 in ticket sales. The theater is supported through the sales and through donations from local businesses and individuals.

Many of the teenagers also help construct the set. Ron Meadows doesn't discriminate in handing out the work, either, O'Connor said. "He's the first one to hand a girl a saw and tell her, 'Build a door and don't tell me you can't do it.'"

Jenny Hall, 13, helped him build the "car" used in "Grease," and the young chorus member said she enjoyed the work. "He could call me any time and I'd come to help," she said. "I just love doing it." /■