

No grumbling at 30th birthday party for Gryphons

CORNWALL—Thirty years ago, the Grumbling Gryphons began doing performances in New York City's Central Park. Among the tales the troupe told in their uniquely costumed folksy way was "The Myth of Persephone."

And three decades later, that tale remains a favorite number in the group's repertoire.

The troupe is now a fixture in Cornwall, which seems like an oxymoron for a group that calls itself a traveling theater. But, fit in among all the traveling, the troupe always remains in town for the children's summer theater camps, held at Cornwall Town Hall.

The tiny theater there overflowed Aug. 12 for the Gryphons' 30th birthday celebration. It was also a chance to support a cause: Haiti relief.

Artistic Director Leslie Elias was joined by Haitian minister Kens Celestine, now a Connecticut resident, and his three children. The camp children performed Elias' "La Sirene: A

Haitian Folktale," and they sang Haitian songs in Creole during the delightful stage spectacle.

Matica Circus performers warmed up the crowd with a unicycle-riding juggler and a stilt-walker in gossamer white. Guest artists included Sirius Coyote, and Gryphon co-founders Vanessa Roe and Nick Jacobs.

co-founders Karen Bartomioli and Nick Jacobs.

—Karen Bartomioli



PHOTOS BY KAREN BARTOMIOLI

A juggling unicyclist, above, and a stilt-walker, far right photo, were among entertainers at the 30th birthday party for the Grumbling Gryphons.



Campers Fangi Celestine of Waterbury and Abrina La-Rose, of New York City (above) and a young cast (below) performed "La Sirene."

