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### 02/19/1982 - Theater Department Receives Highest Honor

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Charleston, Illinois

news

HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-2820

February 19, 1982  
L/A

FOR RELEASE FEB. 22 A.M.

CHARLESTON, IL--The highest honor that a university theatre production can receive has come to Eastern Illinois University--an invitation to present a play in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

"Seduced," a drama by Sam Shepard, won a regional competition at the University of Illinois' Krannert Center and is one of six plays from throughout the United States invited to Washington.

Three performances will be given on April 28-29 under the direction of E. Glendon Gabbard.

The drama was judged the best among six entries at the Krannert competition, sponsored by the American College Theatre Festival (ACFT). Other schools competing in the Wisconsin-Illinois Region were the U. of I., Northwestern, Illinois State, Western Illinois, and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

"Seduced," given at Eastern last November, "deals with an almost surreal Howard Hughes-like figure, a bearded recluse who is the richest man in the world, in his last straggle-haired, drug-ridden stages of decay..."

The play will be performed again at Eastern on March 5, 6 and 7 (Friday-Saturday-Sunday) at 8 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. Gabbard said "we want to give students, faculty, staff and townspeople the opportunity to see the play before we go to Washington."

The four principal characters are Jeff Bennett, Bloomingdale; Keven Kelly, Charleston; Nancy Slusser, Wauconda; and Karen Vogt, Waterloo.

Gabbard said four additional cast members would serve as "witnesses" in the play and would double as part of the prop and scenery crew. They are Frank Adducci, Merel Ray, Mark Highland, from Charleston; and Hideyo Yasuda, Japan.

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Also going to Washington will be C. P. Blanchette, scenic design; Nancy Paule, costume design; and production staff members Kevin Reed, Nancy Poloian, Anne Schluter, Lynn Lupo, Chuck Greenwood, and Clay Peterson.

Here is what a reviewer said of the production at the Krannert Center:

"Friday afternoon brought the high point of the festival, Eastern Illinois' production of Sam Shepard's 'Seduced.' Here was an easy number one, a near flawless presentation of collegiate talent from the direction to the excellent technical work of C. P. Blanchette. If there is any justice in the system, Eastern's 'Seduced' should go to the Kennedy Center for the national finals."

Gabbard said the performances will be videotaped for possible later television use. Scenery will be trucked to Washington and the cast and crew will fly. Gabbard said the Amoco Oil Company was underwriting expenses, including lodging, transportation and food.

The performance of the Eastern cast at Krannert resulted in another honor. "Seduced" will be given on April 2 in Stevens Point, Wis., as part of the Wisconsin Theatre Association's annual convention. Wisconsin delegates at the regional competition suggested that Eastern be invited.

Gabbard said "the invitation to the Kennedy Center is comparable to a football team being invited to the Rose Bowl."