'The Bridge Of San Luis Rey' Opens Reader's Fall Season

"On Friday noon, July 20, 1714, the finest bridge in all Peru broke, and precipitated five travelers into the gulf below." A Spanish friar spent the rest of his life searching out the story of each victim in hopes of discovering the Divine reason for their death.

THUS, THE plot of the season's first Reader's Theatre production is molded.

"The Bridge Of San Luis Rey" will be presented at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Fine Arts Theatre. A 2 p.m. matinee performance will also be given Sunday.

Directed by R. J. Schneider, assistant professor of theatre arts, the Thornton Wilder novel features a strange little group:

Brother Juniper, a Spanish friar, played by Jeff Hendricks, a Mattoon theatre arts major; an old, eccentric Marquessa, played by Judy Mather from Charleston; her brave maid Pepita, played by Nancy Brinker from Olney;

THE CANNY actor-manager Uncle Pio, played by Jim Miller from Carmi; the little son of his actress-protégé, Perichole, played by Peggy Johnson from Des Plaines; and brooding Estandan whose twin brother Manuel — played by Mike Drake from Charleston — left him without hope;

Madre Maria, Abbess of the convent and hospital, played by Sara Golinveaux from Birmingham, Ala., believed that the true meaning of the disaster was the surviving bridge of love between those who were left and those who perished; Captain Alvarado, played by Edward Allen from Newman; and the Marquesa's haughty daughter, Dona Clara, played by Darlene Brewer from Midlothian.

The author of the Pulitzer prize book called the novel a (Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 1) question mark that puzzles every person over twelve.

"ALTHOUGH it has been turned into a television show and a motion picture," said Schneider, "The Bridge Of San Luis Rey" comes alive best as a Reader's Theatre experience. The intimacy and the language of the narrator are lost in every other dramatic form."

Tickets are one dollar for adults and 50 cents for high school students and their teachers. Eastern students will be admitted by showing their ID cards.

Three performances of "The Bridge Of San Luis Rey" will be presented this weekend by the Reader's Theatre. Five of the actors are shown above in one of the scenes from the play.

Eastern News

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