

'Theories Limit,' Says Director

by Lynda Hoover

If John Olon-Scrymgeour, the summer guest director in the theatre arts department, has any theory it is that he has no theories.

"Theories are too limiting," he said, "and can distort the text." Referring to the Stanislavsky method of acting, which harmonizes the intellectual and physical movements of the actor, he continued saying that he uses it, but that the method should not be considered a mystic.

THE GUEST director lets his actors "do what they think." Practice sessions usually become a period for improvisations and theatre games, he said.

Olon-Scrymgeour has been connected with the theatre for 12 years, and has had previous experience in educational theatre.

He has taught at Columbia, New York University, University of Wisconsin and was an assistant professor of drama at Bard College in New York, and the Dominican College of San Raphael.

COMMENTING ON the different types of problems he has with educational-theatre, the director said, "I have a terrible problem getting these kids to play an action before they emotionalize."

He continued saying that an

actor cannot play an emotion. He must play an action, think actively what he is doing, then emotionalize.

Olon-Scrymgeour believes also that the audience does not rule the actor. There are those in the theatre that listen for "cues"

from an audience, and in turn adapt their acting to this "audience communication."

THE GUEST director believes, conversely, in letting the actor do what he thinks, caring not what the audience thinks.

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Photo By Dan File

Olon-Scrymgeour, guest director, gives some hints to Bill Prescott (standing left), while Jeff Hendricks (right) and Ira Yarbrough (seated left) look on.