

on the
Verge
of the WEEKEND

The Long, *HOT* SummerFest Season

By Mario A. Leto II
Staff writer

The stage is set for the Eastern Illinois University Summerfest Theater.

The summer company, in its sixth season with a professional theater guild, is confident that this will be the best season thus far.

"The summer theater company has been lots of fun," said Therese Supple Kincade, one of the many hired actresses with the company. "We are extremely fortunate to have a very talented cast and crew."

Kincade, along with the other members of the theater company, has been putting in ten- to twelve-hour days, seven days a week, in order to prepare for the summer shows.

Ettore Guidotti, chairman of the theater department and organizer of the Eastern summer company, is pleased to see the company in its sixth season as an official member of a professional theater guild.

"Our audience has taught us well," said Guidotti. "Each summer we attempt to achieve higher levels of performance from the previous year, and this year is no different."

"These past eight weeks have been extremely intense, but it all pays off in the end," he said. "The higher levels of performance that we reach, the more entertainment that we can give to our audiences, the better we feel by closing night."

Members of the company are found through tryouts that take place all across the Midwest, from St. Louis to Chicago to Indianapolis. Cast and crew, if chosen to work for the Eastern summer company, are given a stipend, including room, board and health benefits.

"The days are long and the work is hard, but it's the experience that counts," said J. Sain, producer and company manager. "It's more than a full-time job."

Much like last summer, the Eastern Theater Company has lined up three mainstage musicals, accompanied by a children's play, to highlight the summer events.

Dames at Sea, the theater company's first musical, went on stage last weekend. Future performance dates will be July 29 and 30, and July 1, 28 and 29. Matinee shows will be July 2 and 30.

Nonsense, a musical highlighted by a hilarious talent show staged by the Little Sisters of Hoboken nunnery to raise funds to bury their dearly departed, hits the stage this weekend, June 22-24.

Additional night performances will be July 13-15 and Aug. 3-4 with matinees running June 25 and July 16.

Tintypes, a musical set at the turn of the century, tells the story of an immigrant in search of the American dream. This will be on the mainstage the first full weekend of July and will run until Aug. 6.

The summer company will be putting on Goldilocks and the Three Bears for the children July 14-Aug. 5.

Night performances begin at 8 p.m. Matinees begin at 2 p.m.

Ticket and reservation information can be attained by calling the theater department at 581-3110.

