



George R. Kernodle, famed theatre historian, directs one of the cast members in the final theatre production of the summer, "Lady Precious Stream," to open at the Fine Arts Theatre Friday. Kernodle explained that the play "is over 700 years old, and was rewritten for the American Stage by S. I. Hsiung during this century."

## Chinese Drama To Open

by Phyllis Gibbs

The last production of the summer theatre series is a traditional Chinese drama, "Lady Precious Stream," to be presented at 8 p.m. on August 5, 6, and 8, and at 2 p.m. on August 7, in the Fine Arts Theatre.

Those who are unfamiliar with Chinese drama might find it an interesting medium. In setting, plot, and technique, the Chinese drama differs in many respects from the drama of Western countries.

The set of the traditional Chinese theatre is very elegant. In questioning John Kasarda, stage designer for the production, of his initial reactions to the form, he said: "To begin with, I was impressed with the similarity of the Chinese stage with that of the Elizabethan."

### SIMPLICITY

Imagination is brought into full-play in both these mediums. "I aimed for a combination of simplicity and elegance in attempts to give the set a 'fairy-tale' quality. Elegance is the significant factor all the way around."

There are strict conventions that color and style of costumes must correspond with the status of the person, the character he represents, and the occasion when he appears.

Douglas Koertge, costume designer for the show, commented that symbolism is most often reflected in the costumes themselves. For example, to separate heroism from villainy, a "softness and lucidity of the costume is contrasted against stiffness." Gloves are worn to depict "delicateness," as opposed to "indelicate," gloveless hands.

### SYMBOLIC

As reflected in the above picture, make-up will also attempt to authenticate Chinese theatre. Its use will be extremely stylized and symbolic.

The Chinese drama appeals not only to the senses, but seeks

often to comment on some aspect of life. "The story is a fairy-tale," states director and famed-historian, George Kernodle. "yet, beneath this fantasy the drama presents the problem of complex human relationships, and emphasize the simple dignity of man."

To the background music of flute, percussion, and string instruments, the following will appear in the form of Oriental characters: Harry Hendershot (Newman); David Dooley, Jan Story, Mike Drake, Madeleine Herman (Charleston);

Jeff Hendricks (Mattoon); Doris Crothers and Linda Hogg (Lawrenceville); Rita Van Zant, Jeanne Jones (Tuscola); Marilyn French (East Peoria) Jeff Martine (Highland Park); Joe Spoon (Champaign); Jerri Straka (Granite City); Richard Letts (Oak Lawn); Peg Johnson (Des Plaines); and Gordon Case, (Manhattan).