



school of fine arts *eastern illinois university*

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DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

START REHEARSALS OF "SUMMER AND SMOKE," TENNESSEE WILLIAMS DRAMA
COMING TO EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

"Summer and Smoke," Tennessee Williams' poignant drama of a puritanical minister's daughter who "suffocates in smoke from something on fire inside her" will be placed in rehearsal this week. This is the Broadway success which the N.Y. Mirror's dramatic critic described as "eloquent, searching and moving and, by all odds, the best play from Tennessee Williams." The measure of this praise can be gauged by the fact that Williams, a Pulitzer Prize winner, is also the author of such epoch-making plays as "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "The Glass Menagerie."

In "Summer and Smoke" Williams again looks into the dark corners of the human heart, telling the vibrant story of a minister's daughter who makes a brittle stand against the carnal attractions of a young doctor she loves, only to find herself unwanted by him when she is at last reconciled to a balance between the spirit and the flesh.

All her life, Alma Winemiller has reached out after young Johnny Buchanan, but he pulls away. She is respectable, religious, pure-minded, and idealistic. He is wild and dissipated and believes as thoroughly in gratifying the flesh as she does in worshipping the spirit.

When the tables are turned during a summer and winter in Glorious Hill, Mississippi, Johnny comes around to Alma's way of thinking that somewhere in the anatomy chart there is a soul, and Alma comes to agree with him that love without the physical is one-dimensional and barren. By the time the frustrated young spinster calmly offers herself to him, the regenerated doctor is engaged to a pretty young girl in town, has started a new, noble life, and coldly turns away. Alma is left with no good outlet for her gifts of love and understanding.

Anne Shapland will portray the rueful virginal heroine in the University Theatre's presentation of "Summer and Smoke," while Randy Arney will be seen as the libidinous young doctor with whom she is enamored from a prissy distance.

Jim Kleckner will appear as Alma's fussy father, Karen Eubanks as her demented mother, Katie Sullivan as a cheerful gossip, Teri McClure as Alma's exuberant singing pupil who wins the doctor, and Linda Rosenthal as a tempestuous Mexican tramp. Other roles will be acted by Scott Stanley, Joan Allen, Frank Calo, Gerry Scog, and Barry Johnson, under the direction of Gerald Sullivan. Costumes are being designed by Cindy Russell and the play's elaborate setting is being designed by C.P. Blanchette.

Performances are scheduled for November 14, 15, 21, and 22 at 8:00 pm and November 23 at 2:00 pm in the Fine Arts Center Theatre.