



school of fine arts *eastern illinois university*

CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS 61920

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DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

START SEAT SALE FOR "SUMMER AND SMOKE" AT EIU THEATRE

Tickets will be placed on sale at the ticket office of the University Theatre Monday, November 10 for the presentation of "Summer and Smoke," which is scheduled for opening November 14 and continuing November 15, 21, and 22 at 8:00 pm and November 23 at 2:00 pm. Written by Pulitzer Prize playwright Tennessee Williams, author of "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "The Glass Menagerie," this is the story of the illfated love of a frustrated minister's daughter for a reckless young doctor.

Authorities of modern drama agree that, like the earlier Williams plays which catapulted him into the ranks of the few great dramatists of our times, "Summer and Smoke" is filled with passion and poignancy, with dialogue of real poetic richness, revealing again the author's soaring imagination and sensitive perception of human emotions -- indeed, a comprehension of a whole society's slow decay.

The play reveals how an affected, repressed young woman, with a staid minister as her father and a mentally unhinged woman as her mother, is impelled to try to win the affections of a libidinous young doctor she has loved since childhood. He follows his father's footsteps and becomes a brilliant physician, but he drinks too heavily, frequents gay casinos and takes up with a Mexican tramp. Outspokenly he badgers her for her affectations, her nervous mannerisms and her insistence on stressing only the spiritual quality of love. He finds no spot for the soul on his anatomy chart, resents the seeming physical frigidity of her type and gets engaged to one of her singing pupils.

Through a summer and winter, in a small Mississippi town, these two play out their fates in a smoky dimness, seeking to understand their own separate identities. While he finds himself and settles down to a completely fulfilled life, it is Alma's tragedy that she faces a future of spinsterhood and aimless drifting.

Reserved seat tickets can be purchased at the Fine Arts Ticket Office Monday through Friday 1-5 pm or by phoning 581-3110. Tickets are \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for youth and \$1.00 for EIU Students and Civil Service. Group rates are available to parties of 15 or more.