

EIU to Present Award-Winning 'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern'

Charleston

A pair of formerly unmemorable nobodies move into the spotlight in the award-winning comedy "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead," to be presented during the next two weekends at the Eastern Illinois University Theatre in Charleston.

For nearly four centuries, R and G existed only as minor characters in Shakespeare's "Hamlet." But in 1967, British playwright Tom Stoppard dusted them off and made them the leading characters in his re-interpretation of the play.

Jim Davis and Kevin T. Kelly will portray R and G, two old school chums of Hamlet who are mysteriously summoned to Elsinore to cheer him up after his father's murder.

The two are confused by all that happens around them, standing on the fringe of events they don't understand.

They are especially rattled by some of the strange remarks Hamlet makes to them. When he informs them that he can "tell a hawk from a handsaw," one of them complains to the other that this sort of things keeps them "intrigued without ever quite being enlightened."

The melodramatic happenings of Shakespeare's play weave wildly in and out of their apprehension and eventually overwhelm them completely.

Accompanying them are the bedraggled strolling players

they first encounter on their way to Elsinore — the players who later are to "catch the conscience of the King."

Stephen D. Griffin will play the devilish leader of the troupe, who is exempt from danger because he knows enough to view any potential horror as just another piece of theatre.

E. G. Gabbard is directing "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead," with sets by C. P. Blanchette and costumes by Cindy Russell.

The play will be given Friday through Sunday and Oct. 13, 17, 18 and 19. Tickets are available daily from 1 to 5 p.m. at the EIU Fine Arts Ticket Office.



Gene Kelly

Kelly Directs Salute to Broadway

Champaign

"Gene Kelly's Salute to Broadway," a new stage production directed and choreographed by Gene Kelly will

Covered Bridge Fete Opens Friday

Rockville, Ind.

The 19th annual Covered Bridge Festival opens Friday in Parke County, Indiana, for 10 days of activities.

Four marked routes on county roads lead through Parke County's 36 covered bridges, which sit amid hardwoods ablaze in fall colors. Guided tours on buses are also available.

At the festival headquarters in Rockville are free maps and literature. In addition, a farmer's market and bazaar offers local produce, including squash corn, gourds, pumpkins, bittersweet, popcorn, persimmons and pawpaws.

A popular feature of the festival, called Early Activities, has Parke County residents in period costumes engaged in activities commonly carried on at home in the past.