

'Fair Lady' Opens Today In Theatre

With two "fair ladies" alternating in the prized role of Eliza Doolittle, "My Fair Lady" opens at 8 p.m. today in the Fine Arts Theatre.

What E. Glendon Gabbard, director, has called Eastern's "most ambitious production" has been so anticipated by the people in the vicinity that opening night was nearly sold out more than a week

ago and advance sales for the following six scheduled performances have been overwhelming.

Linda Stanley, junior music major from Louisville, will open as Eliza tonight and will then alternate performances with Kathy Oros, sophomore theatre arts major from Granite City.

Noel Watkins, junior theatre arts major from Casey, plays Henry Higgins. Other principal parts are played by Roger Lewis Hudson (Colonel Pickering), Donald A. Peterson (Freddy Eynsford-Hill), Douglas Koertge (Alfred P. Doolittle) and Loralee Coleman (Mrs. Pearce).

The entire cast of 52 wears designs of Ann E. Smith, costumer. Miss Smith designed the costumes of the early 1900's after considerable research into the customs and styles of the period.

OVERALL COST of the costumes is approximately \$1,000, not including the value of the time and skill of Miss Smith and her 12 student helpers in making the floor-sweeping gowns and accessories.

Costumes for the gentlemen of

"My Fair Lady" were rented from a New York company. The Cockney actors and the ladies wear costumes designed and made for the production or altered from those used in previous shows.

The multi-set, with six settings, was designed by John E. Bielenberg, assistant professor of theatre arts.

AS THE PLAY opens on a scene outside Covent Garden in London, the setting is provided by a painted backdrop. This is lifted for the following scene in a London tenement section. This setting, along with three others showing Higgins's study, his mother's conservatory and the front of his house, are constructed on two 21-foot-diameter revolving platforms.

Other settings, the ascot race track and street scenes, round out the sets for the production.

Tickets for "My Fair Lady" are on sale in the corridor of Fine Arts Theatre. Sales will continue through the run of the play, from 1 to 4 p.m., daily. The cost is \$1 for adults and 75 cents for children and high school students.