

Student stars as princess

By STEVE METSCH

Herald & Review Lifestyle Writer

Angela Snead looks forward to playing a princess.

The Decatur woman is a senior at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

She has the lead role in "Once Upon A Mattress," a musical comedy which opens Friday night in the Doudna Fine Arts Center Theatre on the Eastern campus.

"This role is perfect for someone like me," she explains. "There are a lot of songs in my range. The character I play is a girl that's trying to get into the kingdom. She's flamboyant, loud and obnoxious. Yet, she's interesting."

"Once Upon A Mattress" is based on the fairy tale "The Princess and the Pea."

In that story, a suitable bride for the kingdom's prince was the woman whose sleep was bothered by a tiny pea stuck beneath a mattress.

In the musical version, the prince's mother is eager to see her son get married. She's so eager, jousting equipment is placed beneath the mattress to ensure Snead's character — the 13th candidate — a sleepless night.

It's not the first lead role at

Eastern for Snead. She played Aunt Abby in "Arsenic and Old Lace" last year. She also had the lead in "Philadelphia, Here I Come," which was nominated into the American College Theatre Festival.

Snead is a theater major who hopes to become a professional actress. She plans to attend graduate school after receiving her bachelor's degree in the spring.

Although she's from Decatur, she has never performed with the city's community acting company, Theatre 7. She has, however, worked with the Charleston Community Theatre.

She played Joan, "a loud-mouth, gum-chewing type of person," in a musical called "Dames

at Sea" in Charleston last year. She won a Charley Award, Charleston's version of Theatre 7's Jay-Jay acting award, for the role.

"They gave me the award for best performance by an actress," Snead says. "I still can't believe it."

Times for "Once Upon A Mattress" are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Oct. 8 and 8 p.m. Oct. 10-14. Tickets are \$6 adults, \$5 senior citizens and children, \$4 for Eastern students. Group rates are available. Call 581-3110.



Snead
EIU senior

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