

'Doctor' returns

Students to present play at Milwaukee theatre fest

by Becky Lawson

For the sixth year, Eastern will give a repeat performance by performing Wednesday at the American College Theatre Festival in Milwaukee, Eastern theater instructor E.G. Gabbard said.

Eastern returns to the festival with "The Doctor In Spite of Himself" by Moliere after last year's successful production of "Seduced," which was performed by invitation at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

"Doctor" is directed by Gabbard, who also directed "Seduced," and will compete against five other productions by Midwestern universities. Gabbard said 20 plays were entered in the festival, but only six were invited to perform.

Gabbard said two of the play's outstanding characteristics are the style in which it was done and the students' addition of mimes and songs.

The songs in the play, which are all sung to the same tune, are original compositions by the student actors. Senior Lynn Lupo, who plays the antagonist Martine, created her song after familiarizing herself with her character.

Lupo said she believes part of the play's success is that it is very different from most of the plays available to audiences today.

She said the play is so unrealistic that the audience does not get caught up in worrying about what will happen to the two lovers. Instead, she said, the audience just enjoys the play and believes that everything will work out in the end.

Junior Marty Stanberry said the show was performed as Moliere would have done it in the 17th century, using no modern theatrics.

Lupo agreed, saying that even the costumes were authentic and thoroughly researched "right down to the underwear." She said her costume weighs about 30 pounds and that Eastern instructor and costume designer Nancy Paule did an exceptional job designing and coordinating the costumes.

Gabbard said Eastern is always well represented at the festival and looks well even against the bigger schools. Gabbard added, "It's a classic play and the kids are doing a fine job with it."



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