

'Summer' actors handle audience in professional manner

Tennessee William's play "Summer and Smoke" was presented in the Fine Arts Center Theatre Friday night and the title says not only a lot for the play itself but also is indicative of everything else in the play.

The warmth of the characters portrayed in the production seem to warm everyone in the house.

Alma Winemiller, portrayed professionally and convincingly by Anne Shapland, seems to be able to take the feelings of the audience and arrange them so that anything that she might do would seem to be the right thing to do, whether she was a prude or prostitute.

Alma is the tragic heroine of the story who begins life as a prudish daughter of a small town minister, lecturing her childhood sweetheart on his moral character.



**Jim
Dowling**

Randy Arney turns in a well-developed portrayal of Alma's sweetheart John Buchanan who is the lax-moraled medical student who thinks that the only thing there is to love is the act of copulation.

Together, Arney and Shapland carry the audience gracefully through a transition in their characters in which they completely reverse their philosophies on love and sex.

Added to the fine performances of Shapland and

Arney are comical portrayals by supporting players.

Karen Eubanks as Alma's demented mother adds comic relief during some of the more dramatic scenes.

Mrs. Bassett, portrayed by Katie Sullivan, plays the town gossip and busybody who delights in bringing people bad news and putting down members of her literary group.

Settings for the play were another added plus in an already great production.

Clarence Blanchette designed both a functional and appealing setting for the production consisting of a stage overlooked by an imposing stone angel which separated two other main staging areas for the play.

Summer and Smoke will be presented again at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday.