

Early 1900s paralleled in Interpreter's 'USA'

by Laura Ziebell

Eastern's Interpreters' Theater will present "U.S.A." this weekend as this semester's interpretation production, J. Sain of the theater department said.

"U.S.A." will be presented at 8 p.m., Feb. 22, 23 and 25 and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 24, in the Duodna Fine Arts Center.

"U.S.A." was adapted by Paul Shyre from the novel by John Dos Passos, and it first opened in New York in 1959.

The play scans the first 30 years of this century, centering around the life of J. Ward Morehouse.

Senior Peter Samuel portrays Morehouse, who was born July 4, 1901. Morehouse later falls in love with a beautiful rich girl, played by sophomore Donna Parrone, and the story of his achievement and failure on Wall Street parallels the success and decline of the stock market in the early 1900s, Sain said.

Interwoven in the play are news flashes, glimpses of vaudeville, comments on war and sketches of the era's colorful celebrities, including Henry Ford, Rudolph Valentino, Eugene Debs, the Wright brothers, Isadora Duncan and the Suffragettes.

Donna Shehorn of the theater arts department will direct the

presentation. Senior Julie Woolsley designed the costumes and graduate student Patricia Baucum designed the set and lights.

"U.S.A." supplies a variety of different characters through the six actors, Samuel, Parrone, junior David Ruff, senior Therese Supple, junior Kathy Lampen and freshman Dwight Parker.

Samuel is a "long-time veteran as "U.S.A." marks his 11th production here at Eastern," senior stage manager Gretchen Righter said.

Parrone, a theater major, recently portrayed Kate in Eastern's production of "The Taming of The Shrew." Both Parrone and Lampen have been in many productions, Righter said.

Ruff is a transfer from Lake Land College and is the only newcomer to Eastern's theater.

Parker, who played in both "Lysistrata" and the "The Taming of the Shrew" and Supple, who performed in "The Shadow Box" portray several important characters in "U.S.A.," Righter added.

Ticket prices will be \$3.50 for adults, \$2.50 for youths and senior citizens and \$2 for Eastern students.