1954

"The Man Who Came to Dinner"

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PERFECT VEISHEA FARE describes Iowa State Players Veishea presentation, "The Man Who Came to Dinner." It's a quick-moving, riotous comedy, chosen to fit with the general festivity of Iowa State's big spring weekend.

Like most other Veishea activities, Players starts work on its production weeks in advance. Casting for "The Man Who Came to Dinner" begins the last week of winter quarter; rehearsals, the first week of spring quarter. And the first Veishea presentation isn't until May 12.

Here too is a chance for any Iowa State student to contribute to Veishea. All students are eligible to try out for a major or a minor part. And there are many things to do besides acting. For instance, seven separate crews will be working backstage on this Veishea production. The program will list not just the cast, but members of costumes, make-up, properties, lighting, sound, set construction and publicity crews.

Create costumes

Committees offer an opportunity to put book learning to practice. Designing and making costumes is good experience for Textiles and Clothing majors. Players has built up an extensive wardrobe department, but beyond that, what they can't borrow or rent, they make. For a modern play like, "The Man Who Came to Dinner," little costume creating is involved, though alterations may become a big factor. The English pantomime, "The Private Life of Cinderella," involved designing and making costumes for the majority of the cast of 50. These ranged from ball dresses for Cinderella and her sisters to outfits for the roller skating ballet troupe.

Applied Art majors create completely new faces as they apply make-up to fit the part in each play. Actors of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" will all be of college age, yet many of the characters are to be at least middle-aged. So it's up to the make-up committee to age them quickly and effectively.

This aging is a transformation you can view at Veishea. For the make-up crew will be "on display" during Veishea Open House at the Theatre Workshop. Throughout the campus each Veishea Open House displays some unique facet of the year's activities. Players does this and prepares for its show at the same time.

Design backdrops

Other fields of Home Economics are easily drawn into Players, too. Applied Art students show their artistic flair in unique posters all over campus. Designing sets is another "arty project." Journalism majors can try out what they've learned in class by developing publicity in various communication media. Children's Theatre, a Players' project just 1-year-old, is a learning experience and a practical one, for both Child Development and Education majors.

Or for a student who wants to learn outside her major field, Players offers the opportunity to experiment in a new direction. You aren't limited to a committee related to your major.

Ready for Veishea

You'll have a chance to see "The Man Who Came to Dinner" any one of the 3 days of the Veishea weekend. Opening ceremonies, parade, canoe races, horse show, Vodvil, Stars Over Veishea, Open Houses and Players—it seems like a lot to crowd into one weekend. But Players has had a full house for every performance for many Veisheas. Backstage or out front, "The Man Who Came to Dinner" will be good Veishea fare.