

Eastside theater groups perform

Original plays by local playwrights will be featured in the Seventh Annual Cincinnati Theater Festival the first two weekends of September at the Thompson Shelterhouse Theater in Eden Park.

Ten theater companies will present plays Sept. 5-7 and Sept. 11-14. There will also be a Children's Theater Festival Sept. 6-7 and Sept. 13-14.

Beechmont Players is in its third year of festival participation. The players rehearse at Mt. Washington Methodist Church and at First National Bank, Mariemont. The company will perform "Grandma Duck is Dead," by Larry Shue. The play is a comedy about the coming-of-age of three college-age friends in the Vietnam War era.

Jeff Zink, Newtown, who teaches theater arts at New Richmond High School, plays Ben Davidson.

TRIA THOMPSON of Milford performs with Fountain Square Fools, a professional company organized through the Episcopal diocese. The Rev. J. Michael Sparough, artistic director, describes the group's mission as "portable theater, proclaiming good news." The troupe's festival entry is a combination of drama, mime, music and juggling designed to look at various images of God.

Friends of the Groom, a theater company from Milford with a rehearsal home at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Terrace Park, will present "The Reader's Digest Bible." The play is a combination of two other works, "The Complete History of the Old Testament in 20 Minutes," which uses puns, poems and short scenes to cover everything from Adam to Bethlehem, and "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Jericho," a unique treatment of the Good Samaritan parable.

All festival performances are sponsored by the Cincinnati

Commission on the Arts. Children's theater productions begin at 2 p.m. Curtain for all other plays is at 8 p.m.

SERIES I, Sept. 5-7, includes:

- Sept. 5, "The Appointment," by Cincinnati playwright Joe Ballou, performed by the Arts Consortium Studio Theater; and "Grandma Duck is Dead," by Larry Shue, performed by Beechmont Players.

- Sept. 6, "Clear Liquor and Coal Black Nights," by Cincinnati playwright Thomas M. Atkinson, performed by Stable Players.

- Sept. 7, "Fools gold and Rainbows (or the Show's Not Over 'Till the Fat Lady Sings)," by Cincinnati lyricist/composer Scott MacLarty and playwright Linda Lange, performed by PJ Productions.

SERIES II, Sept. 11-14, includes:

- Sept. 11, "When Morning Comes Slowly," by Cincinnati playwrights Debbie Clark and Sean Stumpf, performed by Rivertown Players, Lawrenceburg, Ind.; and "After Magritte," by Tom Stoppard, performed by Mariemont Players.

- Sept. 12, "Tripartee," a Vaudeville revue including magic, comedy and juggling performed by My Nose Turns Red Theater Company.

- Sept. 13, "My Bomb's Bigger Than Your Bomb," a cooperatively-written play presented and performed by the Women's Theater of Cincinnati.

- Sept. 14, "The Holy Gospel of the Not-So-Holy Fools," by Cincinnati playwright J. Michael Sparough, performed by The Fountain Square Fools; and "The Reader's Digest Bible," by Cincinnati playwright Tom S. Long, performed by The Friends of the Groom.