Rice Players To Offer Poignant Drama

'Tea And Sympathy' Production Scheduled Monday and Tuesday

By HARRISON MARTIN
Thresher Staff

The Rice Players will present "Tea and Sympathy," by R. W. Anderson, at Hamman Hall on November 30 and December 1 at 8:15 p.m.

The play is the moving story of a school boy falsely accused of homosexuality. Against the web of hostilities spun by this scandal, Anderson paints a portrait of the characters, revealing their personalities through many subtleties of insight.

Suspected Youth

Tom Lee, portrayed by Syd Nathans, is the gentle, quiet boy in a New England private school who is suspected of homosexuality by the dean, the house-master, his fellow students, and even his father.

He is described by these "regular fellows" as being an "off-horse." All they needed was the slightest whiff of suspicion to make him a complete outcast.

Futile Defense

The housemaster's wife, played by Juliet Johnson, is herself an "off-horse" in these brutish surroundings. She understands Tom and attempts to defend him but is defeated utterly.

Finally, recognizing the school for what it is, she turns against it and in a poignant final scene, restores to Tom his self-respect.

Other Characters

The sanctimonious housemaster is portrayed by Arnold Victor, and Tom's bewildered father by Justin Kidd. Also in the play are Johnnie Lee Myrick as a gossipy master's wife, Ed Meador as Tom's roommate, and Glenn Howard as one of the instructors.

The half-educated 'outs' who are Tom's fellow students are played by Max Mintz, Louis Bell, and Mike Blocher.

Professional Director

Coupled with the sensitive acting exhibited by these artists is the professional directing of Mrs. Sue Pierce who has received her M.A. in Production Work from the University of Texas. Aiding in the presentation is Dr. Jack Connor, the Players' faculty sponsor.

On November 29 a special preview of the play will be given for representatives of the press and various Houston drama circles.