

**E**xperimentation in college doesn't happen just in the science labs and agricultural fields. The Experimental Theatre Company has been challenging its student members to experiment with theatrical productions since the organization was founded in the late 1960s.

Students in E.T.C. have met the challenge. Their student-run performances of classic, contemporary, and original works supplement the Theatre Arts Department's main productions and earn high marks with audiences.

E.T.C.'s inaugural season included Harold Pinter's *The Homecoming* and a rendition of Marty Crowley's 1967 off-Broadway hit *The Boys in the Band*. The off-Broadway version was critically acclaimed for its "tasteful" portrayal of a homosexual theme in a time when homosexuality was considered to be neurosis, according to reviewer Otis L. Guernsey Jr.

While the times, students and the university have changed, much of E.T.C. has remained the same. Each semester's group has experienced its own share of triumphs and errors. Every company has also continued to challenge itself, never taking the easy route in a play's production, but learning with each experience.

"For newcomers, E.T.C. is a good place to learn," says Skip Longfellow, student director for the Fall 1992 production of *The Physicists*. "And it's a good way for them to get their foot in the door for future Theatre Arts productions."

Members also earn unit credit by enrolling in either Drama 89 or Drama 189, but students don't have to be theatre arts majors to enroll.

"E.T.C. is open to all students — theatre arts majors and non-theatre arts majors," says Kathleen McKinley, E.T.C.'s faculty adviser. "Anyone who wants to be involved, can be involved."



Ellen Horn  
portrays  
Fraulein Doktor  
Mathilde Von  
Zahnd in  
*The Physicists*.



**"You realize it is not only 'experimental' in terms of the work they've produced but also in their production approach."**

Ronald Johnson,  
Theatre Arts  
Department chair



Set design and construction are a crucial aspect of the production, handled by cast and crew who take time on a Saturday to complete the task.