

## York Masquers our own theatre

By AGNES KRUCHIO

"York has no theatre worth mentioning" — so says the founder and director of the York Masquers, Richard Winnick.

"Burton is constantly either booked up with the Performing Arts Series or taken up by classes," he explained.

Feeling that many people in the York community would appreciate a chance to participate in theatre — and not everyone, after all, is prepared to dedicate his life to his high school hobby — he formed the York Masquers with Frank Giannotti. Its main aim was to offer anyone at York a chance to participate in a theatrical production on any level he wished.

"Some people may only want to spend an hour a week to get their feet wet, in little jobs like hammering sets," said Winnick.

But in theatre, you can only learn by doing, and the only other theatre company at the time was the Winters Company, which was more interested in experimental work than in practical work.

"We had to scrounge for everything for Black Comedy (their first play)," recalls Winnick with a chuckle.

They have scrounged enough over the years to purchase extensive sets, flats, costumes and even — believe it or not — a kitchen sink.

Their first production four years ago had an enthusiastic cast of eight, and a theatre that seated 70 persons. Their productions became more ambitious over the years, and included such biggies as *The Killing of Sister George*, Frank Marcus' play about lesbianism and the *Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*.

Euripides' *Bacchae* last year was

the largest and most ambitious of the lot.

"The response has been tremendous," said Winnick. "We are trying to make the company so self-sufficient that in the long run it will need people only to keep it up, not to organize it."

Towards this end they established a daughter company under the title Studio 112, a repertory company with a smaller, younger, more mobile cast, which will tour on and off-campus. They recently took a production of *Interview to Metro* high schools, and the reception was enthusiastic. At one point, the stage collapsed during a performance and the cast kept right on going; someone later asked, "What happens if the stage doesn't collapse?"

This year they presented Joe Orton's *What the Butler Saw* during orientation week, and a production of Bill Manoff's *The Owl and the Pussycat*, starring Gloria Luftspring and Art Shinukoff, is scheduled to run from Oct. 11 to Oct. 13 and from Oct. 18 to Oct. 20. Tickets for the show, an encounter between a conservative bookstore clerk and a call girl who insists she's a model, cost from \$1.50 in advance, available in Stong or Central Square.

Other productions this year will include Kurt Vonnegut's *Happy Birthday, Wanda June*, a kinky black comedy. Studio 112 will present one-acters including Joe Orton's *Funeral Games*.

The York Masquers hold one-hour workshops four times a week concerned with the upcoming production, and a general workshop Sundays between 2 and 5 p.m. in Room 112 Stong. They can be found hiding out in Room 351 Stong (667-3635).



Edward Simonette moves to embrace Alison Smith in the York Masquers' past production of the *Bacchae*.

### YORK STUDENT FEDERATION

# NOTICE OF BY-ELECTION

OCTOBER 18, 1973

A by-election to fill six vacancies on the Council of the York Student Federation (C.Y.S.F.) will be held on Thursday, October 18, in the following constituencies:

**CALUMET COLLEGE - ONE REPRESENTATIVE**

**FOUNDERS COLLEGE - TWO REPRESENTATIVES**

**STONG COLLEGE - TWO REPRESENTATIVES**

**VANIER COLLEGE - ONE REPRESENTATIVE**

Nominations open Thursday, October 4, closing Thursday, October 11, 4pm.

Polls only at—

— **CENTRAL SQUARE—CALUMET—VANIER RAMP—FOUNDERS—STONG**

Further information and nomination forms may be obtained from the C.Y.S.F. Offices, Room N111 Ross Building (667-2515).

**T. TROTTIER, Chief Returning Officer**