‘Loose Ends’ kicks off school’s theater season

By Caroline Leong

A new session of theatrical performances is under way with the newly selected cast for Michael Weller’s play, “Loose Ends.” The auditions were held in the Interim Performing Arts Center Aug. 28 and 29.

Both evenings drew a combined 40 students trying out for the 11 character play, said director Suzanne Dieckman.

Auditions refreshing

“Auditioning is a refreshing change from our everyday mundane life,” said Arts freshman Vickie Barbar. It’s similar to “playing dress-up when you’re a little girl.”

The auditions attracted current theater majors as well as non-theater majors.

“I like the interaction between people on stage,” said Arts sophomore John Muench-rath. “It’s a warm, magic feeling of being in tune with the crowd.”

Jesuit Scholastic student Dave Muma said that he enjoys the opportunity to be creative by expressing his feelings and emotions on stage.

Though most of the students have had some acting and auditioning experience before, they still felt a bit of nervousness and anxiety.

“No matter how many times you’ve been on stage before, you’ll have some degree of nervousness,” Arts junior Skip McGurk said.

As each individual is unique, so is the way each overcomes his nervousness when auditioning.

“I sit there and try to tell myself I’m the best one for the part I want,” Arts junior Steve Amirault said. ‘I don’t mean to be mean and put anyone down. It’s all in my attitude to kill my nervousness.”

Barbara said that she overcomes her nervousness by taking deep breaths before getting on stage and by “envisioning the audience in their underwear,” once she’s on stage.

Cast selection

Dieckman’s job of selecting a cast is not an easy one. She said that she’s auditioned for parts before and has experienced what it’s like to be “on the other side.”

She said that it’s “painful on the director’s position” to turn people away or to assign roles they don’t want. “I have to look how the whole show will work,” she said. “When people want to be involved in theater, it’s something they’ll have to learn to deal with.”

Because “Loose Ends” involves relationships, Dieckman selected her cast by the “look, sound and chemistry” of their characters blended together.

Other qualities

Other qualities she looks for during auditions are voice projection, movement on stage, sensitivity and character projection.

Arts senior Frank Kosmicki and Arts sophomore Jayne Vonnahme were given the leading roles as Paul and Susan, respectively. Arts sophomore Dawn Bender will play Janice and Arts junior Brian Stough will play Doug.

Dieckman described acting as a process of growth and development. She said that a good actor is one who is “willing to work on oneself and explore the nature of the human being.”

Arts junior Kathy Christal who’ll play Maraya, said “every role is a challenge and...