



PATRICK WEBB PHOTO

The cast of 'The Father,' left to right: Rhonda Alderman, Daric Moore, Emily Geddes, Bill Ham and Gigi Chadwick with Edward James as the lead character, Andre, in front. James co-directs the show with Susi Brown.

LOVE AND LUCIDITY

AAUW Scholarship Benefit-Dessert Theatre tackles dementia in 'The Father'

By **PATRICK WEBB**
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Actor-director Edward James believes the theater can educate as well as entertain.

He is about to put that lifelong belief into practice with a performance of a modern play about dementia.

A one-weekend production of "The

Father" is part of the efforts of the Astoria branch of the American Association of University Women to raise money for scholarships while broadening awareness of a serious subject that touches so many lives.

"The Father" will be performed as a staged reading at the Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Astoria, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 21 and

22. Friday night will offer rows of theater-style seating with light refreshments while Saturday night's audience will sit at tables and enjoy more substantial desserts.

The play features James in the lead role of Andre, a man suffering from dementia.

At the heart is the relationships between Andre and his daughter, played

IF YOU GO

AAUW Astoria annual scholarship benefit dessert theater

"The Father" by Florian Zeller. A staged reading.

When: 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21, (light refreshments, theater-row seating); and 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22 (table seating, desserts).

Where: Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 11th Street and Harrison Avenue, in Astoria.

Tickets: \$15, from AAUW members, secretary Jan Horning at 503-325-1832, or at the door.

The play is performed by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.