

Even audience gets into the act

By ETHEL SIMMONS

There's more to dinner theater than just dinner and theater at the Georgian Inn in Roseville now featuring "The Royal Fool."

The show, a spoof about King Henry the Eighth, involves the audience by having some of them come up on stage to participate in the action.

"People beg to be involved," said John Bradt, who plays Henry the Eighth. Ron Merkin of West Bloomfield plays the king's fool.

Five girls are in the show, and they are called wenches. "These are singing, pincheable wenches," Bradt said. Among the girls are Barbara Kellman of Birmingham and Carol Rosenblum of Southfield.

Merkin, a recent University of Detroit graduate in theater, said he joined "The Royal Fool," a national touring show, when it came to the Detroit area.

THE COMPANY advertised for performers with singing and dancing ability, plus a juggler.

"At U-D we did 'Cry of Players' a year ago," Merkin said. "We had to learn how to juggle and do gymnastics."

Merkin said he has been typed into short, funny-man type of characters.



Henry VIII (John Bradt) flourished the royal foil.

"The Royal Fool" is a bawdy show, strictly 16th century, Bradt stressed. Performances are Thursdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. For reservations call 294-0405.

Bradt said, "We had one couple come back twice. They said it was the most fun they'd had in months. Twenty-five percent of the show is ad lib. The show changes from night to night.

The king's fool (Ron Merkin), (left) Kathy Fogel in the stocks and Tyson A. J. Group illustrate one of the play's gimmicks the audience gets into.

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