

Aquila Productions of London puts its spin on the classics, April 14 in Mandeville Auditorium

March 21, 1995

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Aquila Productions, a theatre company specializing in presenting classical drama in a modern context, "without unnecessary textual compromise," will perform Aristophanes' "Wasps," at 8 p.m. Friday, April 14, in the Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

Ticket prices are \$16 for general admission, \$14 for seniors, and \$12 for students and may be purchased at the UCSD Price Center Box Office or from TicketMaster outlets.

Aquila Productions describes the ancient Greek comedy as one that "...celebrates the unbreakable spirit of the individual, set against a backdrop of political corruption and legal turmoil; this is a society where democracy is out of control, the people are being bamboozled by dishonest politicians, and the law courts are choked by a population addicted to litigation. Proclean, an old man and a father, has become obsessed with jury service and is an

unwitting servant to the political maneuvers of corrupt petty officials such as Cleon. The play charts the attempts of the son, Anticleon, to curb his father's addiction and to teach him to lead a life of genteel refinement involving dinner parties and rhetorical banter. In the Aristophanic tradition, it all goes wrong..."

Previous Aquila Productions that have been mounted in the United States include "Clouds," in 1990; "Beyond Belief," in 1990; "Frogs," in 1991; "Agamemnon," in 1991; "Ajax," in 1992, and "Coriolanus/Wasps," in 1993.

The producing director, Peter Meineck, has worked extensively in the professional theatre, concentrating on Greek classics. He has also lectured and staged workshops and exhibitions on Greek theatre.

Members of the company are Meineck, Robert Richmond, who trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama; and Dennis Conlon, who trained with a number of repertory companies, including the Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh; the Theatre Royal Stratford East, and the British Royal National Theatre.

This event is brought to San Diego by the UCSD University Events Office. For more information, all 534-4090.

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