

## **The Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis to perform traditional African storytelling at UCSD**

**December 19, 1988**

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THE CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY OF MINNEAPOLIS TO PRESENT TWO AFRICAN TALES IN THE ORAL STORYTELLING TRADITION, ON JAN. 13

The African storytelling tradition will be brought to the University of California, San Diego on Jan. 13 when the renowned Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis enacts "Kalulu," an African folk tale, and a Swahili narrative version of "Rumplestiltskin," at 8 p.m. in the Mandeville Auditorium.

The two tales will be sung and spoken in Swahili by an American cast. A narrator will describe in English the action taking place and translate the dialog.

"Kalulu and his Money Farm," is a Shona folk tale from Zimbabwe. It tells about a greedy and boastful rabbit and how he attempts to fool his king.

Stories like "Kalulu" were told during celebrations, acted out and danced so that they would be remembered. They first were told in the narrative tradition of passing the story along from mother to daughter and from father to son while doing common daily tasks.

"Rumplestiltskin" is an adaptation of the familiar European fairy tale to the African vocal narrative tradition.

Derek Phillips will play the rabbit Kalulu in "Kalulu," and Father of the Kingdom in "Rumplestiltskin." While attending Carleton College in Minnesota, he co-founded and directed Ebony II, a black dance troupe. After graduation in 1977, he studied with the Choreogram Dance School and later with the Nancy Hauser Dance School, where he became a member.

The narrator is Lester Purry. The ensemble's national tour will be the venue for Purry's second engagement in "Two African Tales." Last year he played the part of the King in both "Kalulu" and "Rumplestiltskin." He has played summer stock in Minnesota, Texas and Georgia and has worked with the Illusion Theatre in St. Paul.

The two African tales are directed by Richard D. Thompson, who has been affiliated with The Children's Theatre for more than 20 years. He is currently the managing director of St. Paul's Penumbra Theatre.

Tickets for the performance are \$10 for general admission, \$8 for seniors and \$6 for students, and may be purchased at the UCSD Box Office and TicketMaster outlets. The Children's Theatre production is brought to San Diego by UCSD's University Events Office.

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