

UCSD will host National Theatre Conference on Cultural Diversity in the Arts

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UCSD TO HOST NATIONAL THEATRE CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE ARTS, NOV. 8-11, 1990

A multi-cultural theatre arts conference titled "Cultural Diversity in the American Theatre: Moving Toward the Twenty-first Century" will take place at the University of California, San Diego from Nov. 8 through 11.

The conference includes a UCSD Edison Series Lecture, to be given by Luis Valdez, playwright, producer and artistic director of El Teatro Campesino, who created the films "Zoot Suit," and "La Bamba," at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8, in Ballroom B of the UCSD Price Center.

Lloyd Richards, the dean of Yale University's School of Drama, will speak at 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 10, in the Price Center Auditorium. Richards has directed the premier productions of August Wilson's plays at Yale Repertory Theatre since 1987, beginning with "Fences," followed by "Joe Turner's Come and Gone," and "The Piano Lesson."

The conference, sponsored by the UCSD Contemporary Black Arts Program in celebration of UCSD Third College's 20th Anniversary Celebration, will be one of the first of its kind to address the direction of theatre arts in this country as practiced by a culturally diverse population of artists, playwrights, directors and administrators. The artists primarily represent Hispanic-American, Asian-American, Native American and African-American cultural groups.

The three-day event will feature panelists who are major influences in North America's theatre scene. Together, they will examine the role of theatre arts in a cross-cultural society, and the position of culturally diverse theatre arts in "mainstream" theatre.

Seven panels will meet during Nov. 9-10, with summaries presented on Nov. 11. Panel topics are: Development of Cultural Specific Plays; The Cultural Transformation of Classical Texts; Effects of Mainstream Cultural Bias on Culturally Diverse Expression; Narrative Texts: African, Asian, Hispanic and Native American; Ritual and Music in New Theatre Forms; Physical Gesture as Narrative, and Struggling for the Dollars: Politics, Personality and Perseverance.

The panelists will include: Benny Ambush, associate artistic director, American Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco; Lee Breuer, artistic director, Mabou Mimes, New York; Bill Bushnell, managing producer, Los Angeles Theatre Center; Juan Manuel Carrillo, California Arts Council; Delores Cayou, chairman of the Department of Dance, San Francisco State University; Pearl Cleage, playwright, Just Us Theatre Company, Atlanta, Georgia; Miguel Delgado, choreographer and director, Los Angeles; Gus Edwards, playwright, University of Arizona; Phillip Esparza, administrative director, El Teatro Campesino, San Jaun Bautista, California; Don Evans, playwright, Trenton State University, Trenton, New Jersey.

Also, Ramon Flores, director, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Hanay Geiogamah, choreographer, American Indian Dance Theatre; Victoria Hamilton, executive director, San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture; Paul Carter Harrison, playwright, Columbia College, Chicago, Illinois; Eric Hiyashi, executive director, Asian American Theatre; C. Bernard Jackson, executive director, Inner City Cultural Center, Los Angeles; Betty Jean Jones, professor, department of communication and theatre, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, North Carolina.

Other panelists are Ken Larsen, associate director, California Confederation of the Arts, Los Angeles; Christine Lawson, dean of dance, California Institute of the Arts, Los Angeles; Genny Lim, playwright; Lisa Mayo, managing director, Spiderwoman Theatre, New York; Des McAnuff, artistic director, La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego; Marianne McDonald, adjunct associate professor, UCSD; Donald McKayle, department of dance, UC Irvine; Lane Nishikawa, director, Asian American Theatre, San Francisco; Josephine Ramirez, producer, Youth Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles; William S. Yellow Robe, Jr., playwright, Seattle Group Theatre, Washington; Jack Rueller, artistic director, Mixed Blood Theatre, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Jose Luis Valenzuela, director, Latino Lab, Los Angeles Theatre Center; Derek Walcott, playwright, Brookline, Massachusetts; Victor Leo Walter II, lecturer, UC Santa Barbara; Margaret Wilkerson, chairman, Afro-American studies, UC Berkeley; Jane Young, AT&T, San Diego, and Edith Villareal, playwright, department of theatre, UCLA.

The conference will include "Performances Four," by performance artists Marga Gomez, Lane Nishikawa, Anna DevereSmith and James Luna.

In conjunction with the conference, the UCSD Grove Gallery will present performance/textile artist Faith Ringgold's exhibition, "Celebrating Cultural Diversity in the American Theatre." The exhibition extends through Nov. 11. Ringgold is a professor of visual arts at UCSD; her work is internationally known. She currently is in France exhibiting, performing and lecturing.

Conference registration information may be obtained from the Contemporary Black Arts Program, UCSD, (619) 534-0670. Registration fees include admission to the opening reception on Nov. 8; panel sessions; featured lectures including the Edison Lecture by Luis Valdez; light refreshments, and campus parking permits.

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