

"Orestes, Orestes" to open

May 17, 1979

"Orestes, Orestes" (or "A New Theatre Event Based on an Old Tragedy") will open at 9 p.m. Friday, May 25, on the plaza of the Central University Library at the University of California, San Diego.

The outdoor production will be presented at 9 p.m. May 25-27 and May 29 through June 2. Admission is \$4 for the general public and \$3 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the UCSD Theatre Ticket Office.

"The play is based upon the 'Oresteia' by Aeschylus, the only Greek trilogy which still remains," explained Michael Addison, chairman of the UC San Diego Department of Drama and director of the play.

"The play describes the legend of Agamemnon's return from Troy; his slaughter at the hands of his wife, Clytemnestra; her murder by her avenging son, Orestes; his guilt, and Athena's eventual resolution of the problem," Addison said. "It shows the cultural transition from blind revenge to a legal system which deals with crimes of passion."

Addison has set the play on the plaza of the impressive Central University Library because the structure's design complements the epic play.

"As a presence, the building will lend a monumentality, a richness, a holiness to the play," Addison said. "It provides an environment of scale which we feel is apt."

Bob Israel, assistant professor of drama and designer for "Orestes, Orestes," is creating a setting that combines modern and classical imagery. Israel said the design will consist of visual elements and representations which will trigger recognizable images in the mind of the viewer.

"In presenting a classical play such as 'Orestes, Orestes,' we must find some way to deal with the myth from our cultural perspective," Addison said. "It's like an ancient vase. We see the shape, we see the intaglio, but pieces may be missing. In our minds, we construct the whole image, based on the fragments presented to us."

"It's our job to make the play live for people today, otherwise it becomes pedantic and boring," Israel added. "We must be faithful to the work, but we must be aware also of who we are and of the time we are living in."

The "Orestes, Orestes" cast includes Mark Browning as the Knower, Meredith Alexander as Clytemnestra, Mark Yavorsky as Agamemnon, Libby Dale as Cassandra, Mark McQuery as Aegisthus and Tarquin Cardona as the herald.

Daniel Osman plays Orestes, Don Wade plays Pylades, Elizabeth Ross plays Electra, Veronica Henson is the priestess, Kevin Bash plays Apollo, Jan Ross plays Athena and Karen Racanelli is the nurse.

The play is a Department of Drama production. For ticket information, phone 452-4574.

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