

## "The Great American Quiz Show Scandal" to open drama season

**September 17, 1979**

Two world premieres are among the plays lined up for the 1979-80 season of the University of California, San Diego Department of Drama.

The season also will bring five performances by the San Diego Ballet Company and the long-anticipated groundbreaking for the new theatre which is being built by the university and the Theatre and Arts Foundation of San Diego County.

"The Great American Quiz Show Scandal," a new play by poet, novelist and award-winning playwright Louis Phillips, will open the fall season with performances at 8 p.m. November 8-11 and 14-17 in the UCSD Theatre.

"The play is a contemporary comedy about the quiz show scandals of the '50s," said Michael Addison, professor of drama and chairman of the department. "The hero is a box boy with a phenomenal memory who gets sucked into a quiz show game. It represents the corruption and destruction of American innocence by commercial society."

The play will be the UC San Diego directorial debut of Alan Schneider, who joins the faculty in the fall as a professor of drama and head of the directing program. Schneider comes to UC San Diego from the Juilliard School in New York, where he was head of the drama division. He is recognized as one of the foremost directors of modern American theatre and he has introduced most of the works of Albee, Beckett and Pinter to American audiences.

Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" will be the department's major winter quarter production, to be performed at 8 p.m. February 7-10 and 13-17 in the UCSD Theatre. The play will be directed by Eric Christmas. In the spring, James Baldwin's "Amen Corner" will be directed by Floyd Gaffney and performed at 8 p.m. May 15-18 and 21-24 in the UCSD Theatre.

In addition, the department will present productions in the John Muir Theatre, described as the "lean theater" by Addison.

"In the John Muir Theatre we do productions of plays seeking to concentrate on the realization of the text through the actors with a minimum of scenic and costume elements," he said.

The fall quarter production will be "Woyzeck" by Georg Buchner, directed by Michael Addison. The play will be presented November 14-17 in room 2250 of the Humanities and Social Sciences Building on Muir campus.

"'Woyzeck' is a strange expressionist tragedy in which a young soldier with limited capacity is brutalized by his military superiors and the people of the village in which he lives," Addison said.

The winter quarter production in the John Muir Theatre will be "Rancho Hollywood," a new play by Carlos Morton. Morton, a graduate of the UC San Diego Master of Fine Arts program in drama, currently is playwright in residence with the San Francisco Mime Troupe. He was the recipient of a recent National Repertory Theatre fellowship which enabled him to attend the Eugene O'Neill and Midwest Playwrights conferences. He was called

"one of our most prolific Chicano playwrights" by Jorge Huerta, assistant professor of drama and director of the premiere.

The play, a comedy, is an "epic comment on Hollywood media stereotypes of Mexicans, blacks and Native Americans in California," Huerta said. The play opens with the days of the California gold rush and it follows the state's growth and transformation through history.

The spring quarter production will be a comedy, to be announced.

During the winter quarter, two plays will be presented in repertory by the Master of Fine Arts students. Scheduled for production are "Rivals" and "Fan Shen," the story of a Chinese village.

In February, the department is sponsoring a production of "Equus," presented by the UC Irvine Department of Drama. William Needles, a veteran of the Ontario Shakespeare Festival in Canada and a visiting professor at UC Irvine, will star in the production.

The department also is hosting the San Diego Ballet Company from January to June 1980. The professional company will present five ballets in the Mandeville Auditorium, and the company's artistic director and school director will teach dance courses during the 1979-80 academic year at the university.

Groundbreaking for the new university and Theatre and Arts Foundation theatre is planned for early 1980, Addison said. The facility, which will be built on three acres of university land at the northeastern corner of the intersection at La Jolla Village Drive and Torrey Pines Road, will have seating for more than 500 persons. It will be used by the Department of Drama during the academic year and by the community during the summer. Completion is expected by spring of 1981.

This year marks the first year that the department's three-year Master of Fine Arts program has been in full operation, with 36 students participating at all three levels. The students are involved either in the acting, directing or playwrighting phase of the program.

Graduate students in the drama program have been involved in a variety of projects during the summer months. Three students toured Australia for six weeks with Addison with a production of "The Changeling." Students participated in the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, the Santa Clara Theatre Festival, the Intiman Theatre in Seattle, the Southern California Black Repertory Theatre and the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts.

Membership fees from a group called Friends of the UCSD Theatre made many of the student summer internships possible. The group is an association of theater patrons who support the Department of Drama with contributions and by participating in theatre events throughout the year, including events arranged exclusively for the Friends.

Memberships, which are tax deductible and include two season subscriptions, cost \$27 for students, \$45 for general membership, \$100 for patron membership and \$500 for "Life Friend" memberships. For more information about Friends' memberships, phone 452-2062.

Single tickets for major productions cost \$4.50 for general admission and \$3.25 for students and tickets can be purchased at the UCSD Theatre Ticket Office, 203 Warren campus, 452-4574. Tickets to John Muir Theatre productions cost 99 cents at the door, and admission to graduate student productions varies with the event.

Season tickets for the three major productions plus either "Rivals," "Fan Shen" or "Equus" cost \$15 general admission and \$10 for students.

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