

"Twelfth Night" performed by drama department

January 23, 1980

"Dost thou think because thou art virtuous,

there shall be no more cakes and ale?"

"Twelfth Night," act II, scene III

"Twelfth Night," Shakespeare's comic tale of confusion and romance, will be presented Feb. 7-10 and 13-17 by the University of California, San Diego Department of Drama.

Performances begin at 8 p.m. in the UCSD Theatre on Warren campus. General admission is \$4.50 and student tickets cost \$3.25. Tickets can be purchased at the UCSD Theatre Ticket Office, 452-4574.

"Twelfth Night" is a festive play of mistaken identities and misdirected love. In the conflict between Sir Toby Belch, Sir Andrew Aguecheek and the dour major-domo, Malvolio, Shakespeare presents an affirmation of mirth, good cheer and a person's right to enjoy "cakes and ale" and nature's other bounties.

Eric Christmas, professor of drama at UC San Diego and a renowned classical actor and director in his own right, will direct this production of "Twelfth Night." Stage designer Bob Israel is creating an unobtrusive setting for the production, in keeping with the tradition of Shakespeare's times.

"Shakespeare used little or no scenery. The production stood or fell on the text," said Christmas. "In the latter part of the last century, vast sums of money were spent on elaborate scenery, but that isn't necessary.

"The performance of Shakespeare is an extraordinary responsibility to communication between the actor and audience through the text," he added. "Shakespeare didn't have the support of technology. His primary route was through the imagination."

Christmas described "Twelfth Night" as Shakespeare's "most accessible comedy."

"It's a romantic play which deals with romantic indulgence," he said. "People are in love with themselves and in love with love. They are playing games, fantasizing and romanticizing their lives away. It's a most fulfilling comedy."

For more information contact: Leslie Franz, 452-3120

(January 23, 1980)