

"Endgame" to open March 11 for five performances

February 26, 1975

Samuel Beckett's drama, "Endgame," will open Tuesday, March 11, at the University of California, San Diego for five performances in the Recital Hall of UCSD's new Mandeville Center for the Arts.

The production was first presented at UCSD last September and is being revived as part of the 11-day opening festival of the arts for the Mandeville Center (March 6 through 16).

"Endgame" will be presented at 8:30 p.m. March 11 and 13-15 and at noon March 12. Director of the play is Dr. Michael Addison, UCSD associate professor of drama.

The cast, which is the same as the original production, includes two UCSD students, Richard Revelli and Robyn Hunt, and two UC faculty members, Dr. Arthur Wagner, chairman of the UCSD Drama Department, and Dr. John D. Harrop, assistant professor of drama at UC Santa Barbara.

"Endgame" has two main characters, Hamm and Clove, who have a master-servant relationship. The play deals with man's painful, perplex, frantic and even comic confrontation with death.

"The play is usually treated as a somber philosophical exercise, full of dark broodings," according to Addison. "In our production we focus on the more immediate, but no less meaningful, human relationships. We are seeking meaning in behavior that might be found in such places as a prison, an asylum, a concentration camp or a terminal ward-- all the places where humans do, in fact, play out their endgames.

"Our production," he said, "has been influenced by the literary and philosophical richness of Beckett's art. But our sociological and psychological research also had an important impact on the final theatrical form."

The original UCSD production of "Endgame" was made possible by three grants which allowed the cast to devote a full month to rehearsal last summer.

Both Harrop and Wagner received University of California Creative Arts Institute grants and Addison received a grant from the Governor's Teaching Excellence Program that included funds for the students involved in the cast and production company.

"The grants gave us the time to fully explore the text of the play and the relationship to Beckett's other works and to supplementary material from psychological and critical sources," Addison said. "We were able to experiment with multiple possibilities in performance terms and didn't have to make snap judgments or lock into quick and obvious performance qualities."

Tickets for all performances are \$1.50 for students and \$3 for the general public. They may be purchased in the UCSD Theatre box office and the UCSD box office in the Student Center. For information call the UCSD Drama Department at 452-3791.

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