

## Graduate students to present "The 'Ah, Wilderness!' Project"

**May 2, 1979**

Graduate students in the University of California, San Diego Department of Drama will present "The 'Ah, Wilderness!' Project" at 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, May 9-12.

The play, based on Eugene O'Neill's "Ah, Wilderness!", will be presented in Building 409 on Warren campus at the university. Admission is free.

The play is the story of Richard Miller, a starry-eyed teenager who is suffering in the throes of first love. When his beloved writes to him telling him that she intends to break off their engagement, he goes to a bar, meets a hooker and gets very drunk for the first time in his young, innocent life. The story has a happy ending, with Richard returning - hung over but wiser - to his family and sweetheart.

The play will be presented with a slight twist. Traditionally, the play opens in the Miller household. The Miller family is introduced and Richard's story unfolds. The second act is set in the barroom to which Richard has fled.

The UC San Diego version will open in the barroom, with the barroom actors reading the roles of the Miller family, presenting the opening scenes in a rehearsal format.

Once the sequence of events in the Miller household has been presented, the actors will assume their roles and begin the barroom scene. After the barroom scene, the set will be altered and the actors and actresses portraying the Miller family will take the stage and present the play's conclusion.

"It will be a very theatrical evening," said Jerry Schwiebert, co-director of the play. The innovative format will allow the students to present a lengthy play that requires a large cast and scene changes, though the students have a small budget and limited casting resources, he said.

Schwiebert will direct the barroom scenes, with Sue Weinsoff as Belle, the hooker; Skip Rickert as the bartender; Goyo Flores as the salesman and Ken Starcevic as Richard.

Tom Humphrey will direct the scenes in the Miller household. The cast features Chris Graham as Nat, Laurie Lehman as Essie, Adrienne Bauer as Lily, Navarre Perry as Sid, Frank Bonadio as Arthur, Alison Jenks as Muriel, Cynthia Heller as Mildred and James Javalosa as Richard.

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