

UCSD graduate drama students to perform in recitals

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Wherever he has taught in the past, once during each academic year, University of California, San Diego professor of drama Arthur Wagner has instilled terror in the hearts of aspiring graduate drama students. They know that to qualify for their Master of Fine Arts in Acting, they must perform in the footlights for a straight 20 minutes. Alone.

Nine graduating MFA (Master of Fine Arts) acting students will show their thespian skills in individual performances on Thursday, Jan. 16 and Friday, Jan. 17, at 4:30 p.m. and again at 8 p.m., in UCSD's Warren Theatre.

Five students will perform in the first presentation (ensemble A), and four students will perform in the evening presentation (ensemble B). The ensembles will be reversed for the Jan. 17 presentations.

The graduate acting recitals give the students the opportunity to display their expertise in handling selections of their choice from contemporary and dramatic literature, including a selection from non-dramatic literature, according to Wagner.

"UCSD is the only member in the League of Professional Theatre Training Programs which has this grueling test for its students," he said.

The recitals will be "harder than any audition, because an audition is only two minutes long. They will be out there, on their own, for 20 minutes." Other schools in the league include Yale, Juilliard and Carnegie-Mellon.

The members of the graduating class are: Michael Barnhart, Jonathan Fried, Susan Gosdick, Eric Grischkat, Leah Maddrie, Reed Martin, D. B. Novak, Jeff Sugarman and David Turrentine.

In April, the actors will travel in a group to New York City where they will be presented before 200 theater directors, casting directors, agents and network television executives, with each student appearing in two prepared scenes. "This is one of the excellent features of the league," Wagner said. "The actors will also be trying out those potential scenes during the upcoming acting recitals."

For more information please call the UCSD Theatre Ticket Office at 452-4574.

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