

The presentation of Aristophanes' comedy "The Birds". The production is an adaptation done by Michael Addison, provost of Warren College and drama professor

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Aristophanes' comedy "The Birds" will be presented by drama students of the University of California, San Diego, nightly at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 4 through Sunday, March 6 in UCSD's Mandeville Center Recital Hall.

This production is the premiere of an adaptation of the classic play by Michael Addison, provost of Warren College and drama professor.

"The Birds," one of the greatest of comic fantasies, was first performed in Greece about 414 B.C. It follows the adventures of two war-weary Athenians who convince the local bird population to help them build a utopia, dubbed "Cloud-Cuckoo Land," a strategy designed to make the two men lords of both heaven and earth.

Michael Addison will direct "The Birds." Graduate student Peter Ward has written an original musical score for the production, and undergraduate Roger Costello has designed the costumes, "a bizarre amalgamation of contemporary and ancient clothing, from clown costumes to punk rock outfits, plus more feathers than have ever been in one place at one time," according to Addison.

The cast includes Liza Bobo, Carol Mellen, Wendy Wilson, Maria Porter, Chrysanne Lowe, Jeff Klein, Scott Haven and Bryant Bradshaw.

After its UCSD appearance, the cast will perform at UC Irvine and then will travel to England. There it will perform "The Birds" at the University of Exeter, the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough (Alan Ayckbourn, Artistic Director), and at the Fine Arts Center in York. In exchange, drama students from North Riding College will perform at UCSD next year.

The production is funded by an Instructional Improvement Grant from the University of California, which is given for the purpose of enhancing undergraduate education. Addison explained that this production will provide an intensive theater experience for the student cast members, giving them first-hand knowledge of theater touring and all aspects of the theater arts. There is no crew for the production, so the cast must manage its own lights, props and costumes from one English stage to the next.

Tickets for "The Birds" are \$3, and they will be available only at the door of the Mandeville Center Recital Hall on nights of performance. For more information phone 452-4574 between 4:30-6:30 p.m. weekdays.

For more information contact: Jan Seagrave, 452-3120

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