

Dr. Jonathan Miller to speak and hold informal discussion

April 5, 1982

Dr. Jonathan Miller, the affable writer/host of the PBS series "The Body in Question," will speak and hold an informal discussion at 8 p.m. Sunday, April 25, in the Mandeville Center Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

Miller is an actor, director, writer, editor, critic, producer, physician and one of the wittiest men in the English-speaking world. He refers to himself as a "flibbertigibbet," but others call him "a one-man festival of arts and sciences" and "the most entertaining man on earth for twenty minutes."

Originally produced for the BBC, Miller's "The Body in Question" is a very personal and highly unorthodox examination of the history of medicine and human physiology.

It is Miller's contention that the unprecedented advances in medicine in recent years are the result not of the rapid increase in heroic procedures and the discovery of "miracle" drugs, but of a newly accurate understanding of what a healthy body is and how it survives and protects itself. Miller traces such discoveries from the beginning of the Renaissance to the present, showing how medical developments are related to events in politics and trends in culture as well as to industry and craftsmanship.

In 1980 and 1981 Miller directed and produced a BBC/PBS series on the plays of Shakespeare. Noted for an experimental approach to the classics, Miller had Sir Laurence Olivier play Shylock as a top-hatted Rothschild and cast Monty Python's John Cleese as Petruchio in his production of "The Taming of the Shrew."

Miller was born in London in 1934. From 1948 to 1953 he studied natural science at London's Saint Paul's University. In 1953 he won an open scholarship to Saint John's College at Cambridge University. At Cambridge he joined the elite Footlights revue, a group which nurtured the talents of Cleese, Graham Chapman and David Frost.

In 1959 he earned his license to practice medicine but was soon dissatisfied with the profession. In 1961 he joined talents with Peter Cook, Dudley Moore and Alan Bennet to write and produce a show called "Beyond the Fringe."

"Beyond the Fringe" was a smash hit and ran for 18 months in London. It moved to the U.S. where it toured Washington and New York and was awarded a special citation by the New York Drama Critics' Circle. In 1962 Miller gave up medicine for good.

While he was in America, he wrote for "The New Yorker" and "Partisan Review," and on his return to England he edited and presented the BBC arts program "Monitor." In 1973 he made his operatic directing debut and has directed more than a dozen operas to date.

At UC San Diego Miller will speak briefly and the rest of the program will be a dialogue with the audience.

General admission for the evening will be \$5 and UCSD student prices are \$4. The event is sponsored by the University Events Office and tickets are available at the UCSD University Events Box Office, 452-4559.

For more information contact: Henry J. DeVries, 452-3120

(April 5, 1982)