

"Lateral Zig-Zags," will be presented at UCSD

February 24, 1975

"Lateral Zig-Zags," a theatre program featuring three contemporary one-act plays will be presented March 7 through 9 and 12 through 16 by the Drama Department of the University of California, San Diego.

Performances of Megan Terry's "Pro-Game" and "Calm Down Mother" and Sam Shepard's "The Unseen Hand" will be given at 8 p.m. in the UCSD Theatre on the Matthews campus.

Howard Poyourow, visiting lecturer in drama at UCSD, will direct the productions which are part of a campus arts festival March 6 through 16 celebrating the opening of UCSD's new Mandeville Center for the Arts.

Shepard and Terry are young American playwrights who became prominent in the underground theatre movement of the 1960s. Their works don't have traditional plots, but are usually based on fantasy or improvisation.

According to Poyourow, "The plays in 'Lateral Zig-Zags' suggest that in the 1970s we are subjected to pinball-like changes from one life pattern to another."

"Pro-Game" is a zany story about a mother and her three sons watching a professional football game on television. Their actions are almost burlesque as they vicariously experience the game.

Mom played tackle on a high school team and she loves football. She loves her boys, too, and always sees that they get what they want.

"Pro-Game," says Poyourow, "deals with 'mom and apple pie,' football and violence. And the family epitomizes the consumption-oriented values of society that are connected with those ideas."

"Calm Down Mother" is a series of hilarious and dramatic vignettes about women in a male-dominated society. A variety of characters are played by three actresses throughout the play. In each vignette, the women question whether their bodies determine the roles they play in life.

Situations include the meeting of a young girl and two elderly women in a delicatessen, the confrontation between a mother and her daughter about the new morality and the dilemma of a woman who's subordinate to a husband who drinks.

In "The Unseen Hand," a 120-year-old cowboy named Blue Morphan is living in a 1951 Chevrolet on the outskirts of Azusa, California, Blue and his late brothers were the "Morphan gang" in the days of the Wild West.

Willie the Space Freak, a person from a planet two galaxies away, visits Blue and says he needs the cowboy to help overcome the high commissioners who have enslaved the people of his planet, Nogoland, Willie brings back Blue's brothers from the grave so the Morphan gang can go to Nogoland and shoot it out with the commissioners.

The Kid, a high school cheerleader from Azusa, overhears the group and thinks they're going to take over Azusa. He tries to talk them out of it with an "apple pie and mom" speech about his wonderful home town.

Director Poyourow says, "The play contrasts the directness of the gang of the old days with the 'unseen hands' of bureaucracies and computer cards that dehumanize modern society."

"Pro-Game" premiered in New York last October. Terry's "Calm Down Mother" first played in 1965 and was one of the earliest plays in American theatre on the subject of women's consciousness. "The Unseen Hand" opened in 1970.

Cast members of "Calm Down Mother" are Kristin Caruso, Surrah Goss and Judy Montague who also have roles in "Pro-Game" along with Donn Pepler. UCSD drama students in the cast of "The Unseen Hand" are Paul Baccus, Jerry Lafond, C. Craig Zehas, Gary Guidinger and Leo DeJohn.

Scene designer for all three productions is Rick Anderson, senior drama major. Costume design is by Deborah Dryden, Resident Designer for the UCSD Theatre.

Tickets at \$1.50 for students and \$3 for general admission. They may be purchased at the UCSD Theatre box office front 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday in Building 203 in the Matthews campus.

For further information contact: Joan Rasmusser, 452-3120

(2/24/75)