

"Rancho Hollywood" to open at John Muir Theatre

February 4, 1982

"Rancho Hollywood," a comedy about how the movie industry has shaped people's perception of California history, will open at 8 p.m. Thursday, February 25 in the John Muir Theatre at the University of California, San Diego.

The play will be presented nightly February 25-28 and March 3-6. Admission is 99 cents at the door. The John Muir Theatre is located in room 2250 of the Humanities and Social Sciences Building on Muir campus.

A fanciful journey which flows back and forth through time, the play looks at early California on the eve of the Gold Rush and what the state has become today. The tale centers around Jedediah Goldbanger Smith, a yankee-trader/movie mogul whose apocalyptic visions too soon become reality.

"The play is a comedy that deals with the Hollywoodization of California and its founding families," said director Jorge Huerta, an associate professor of drama at UC San Diego. "It's thought provoking as well as entertaining. I think it's enough fun that people will go away laughing as well as thinking."

"Rancho California" is a collaborative work by Carlos Morton and the John Muir Theatre Ensemble. The original concept was developed by Morton as his MFA thesis at UC San Diego. Morton is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Texas.

"It is a new play and we have freely adapted it, employing improvisation to build on Morton's original concept and add our own vision on how Hollywood has shaped our perceptions of ourselves and those around us," said Huerta.

"It is important for the university to produce classics, revivals, and especially new plays," added Huerta. "I think that one of our responsibilities is to help develop new playwrights to refine their craft."

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