

## UCSD Department of Theatre receives new designation

**October 10, 1997**

Media Contact: Linda Shockley, (619) 534-0361; lshockley@ucsd.edu

### UCSD DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE RECEIVES NEW DESIGNATION

The Department of Theatre at the University of California, San Diego has received a new designation: The Department of Theatre and Dance.

"The new name provides a more accurate reflection of what we do and what we teach," explains Walt Jones, department chair. "In addition, it prepares us for the future of dance at UCSD, which may include a graduate program in dance.

"Having theatre and dance in the same department will have a positive effect on both programs," Jones adds. "On a very practical level, we are seeing more choreography and dance in our theatre productions, and a similar response can be viewed in the dance students' work as choreography has become more theatrical. It will also provide design and lighting students with more varied and additional work in designing sets, costumes, and lighting for dance."

The Dance Program was founded in 1975 as a component of Physical Education. In 1991, the program was given academic status, and moved from Physical Education to the Department of Theatre. In 1996, the Dance Program reached another milestone when it received its own major.

Pat Rincon, head of the Dance Program, says, "This designation comes as a terrific follow up to our receiving the new dance major last year. It will offer students wonderful opportunities for work in both fields, which will provide much broader opportunities for career exploration in the performing arts. It will also provide more chances for students to gain performance experience."

The Dance Program joins the acclaimed Department of Theatre, which placed third in the nation in a 1997 U.S. News and World Report reputational survey. The department was recognized for excellence in its professional theatre training program.

Additionally, faculty, staff and students of the Department of Theatre and Dance look forward to the January, 1998, grand opening of the new dance and theatre movement facility. Designed by Antoine Predock (who also designed the Weiss Forum and Studio), the three million-dollar facility offers three studios to support its ballet, modern, world dance, acting, directing, and theatre movement classes.

The department will soon announce its 1997/98 performance season of theatre and dance. For additional information on the 1997/98 Department of Theatre and Dance performance season, please contact Gisle Papan, 619/534-3793.

(October 10, 1997)