

Three works selected for premier of new UCSD Theater

February 1, 1972

Three plays - a comedy, a farce, and a drama - have been selected for the premiere productions in the new 200-seat UCSD Theatre on the Matthews Campus of the University of California, San Diego.

"Lysistrata," a comedy by Aristophanes, and "The Comedy of Errors," a farce by William Shakespeare, to be presented on the same program, are scheduled to open Thursday, February 17, and continue February 19, 24, and 26 and March 2, 4, 9, and 11.

"The Bloodknot," a drama by South African Athol Fugard, is scheduled to open Friday, February 18, and continue February 20, 25, and 27 and March 3, 5, 10, and 12.

The UCSD Theatre began construction last summer on land adjacent to the campus Architects and Engineers Office and making use of some A and E office space and several cement test walls poured on the site several years ago. The theatre itself is essentially an empty two-story shell with a catwalk on three sides for use by lighting and sound technicians.

Risers have been built in an arc surrounding the stage on three sides and molded theatre-type seats have been installed. The actors can enter the playing area from behind the stage, from either side, or from in front through two ground-level isles.

The theatre is the first on the campus designed solely for drama, and not as a combination theatre/lecture hall/classroom. Its operation is under the direction of Eric Christmas, Acting Professor of Drama and Director of UCSD Theatres.

"Lysistrata" and "The Comedy of Errors" will be directed by Christmas. "The Bloodknot" will be directed by Floyd Gaffney, Acting Associate Professor of Drama at UCSD.

"These plays are being done in repertoire," Christmas said, "so that the whole program is the point of production. We want to try to get people to come both evenings. If they do, they will enjoy a full range of theatre in a very short span of time," Christmas said.

"Lysistrata," which was first performed at Athens in the year 411 B.C., deals with the cunning of woman. The UCSD production will be given a contemporary treatment - an updated treatment although it is still set in classical Greece.

"The Comedy of Errors, first presented in 1594, deals with the duplicity of man. It will be done loosely in the commedia dell'arte style.

"The Bloodknot," written and set in South Africa, reduces to the simplest terms the whole question of race relationships. The audience is treated to a drama absolutely opposed in style, pace, and production to that of the other two plays.

The casting of the productions will include students and, for the first time at UCSD, will reach beyond to include members of the faculty and staff. A total of 25 persons are included in the productions of "Lysistrata" and "The Comedy of Errors." "The Bloodknot" has a cast of only two.

Performances will begin at 8:00 p.m. each evening. Tickets are \$2.00 for general admission and \$1.00 for students and are available at the UCSD Theatre Office, Building 203, Matthews Campus; the box office in the lobby of Urey Hall, Revelle Campus; and at the door. Information on tickets may be had by calling 453-2000, extension 1391.

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