

"why E is?" to be presented by the Theatre of the Disabled

June 14, 1979

An original theater production called "why E is?" will be presented by the Theatre of the Disabled at 8 p.m. June 22-24 and June 28-30 in the Mandeville Recital Hall at the University of California, San Diego.

Members of the theater group all are developmentally disabled young women and men. The play is based on the perceptions and experiences of the mentally handicapped and the attitudes they encounter.

The title of the play is taken from a poem written by Philip Conlon, set designer. The poem is incorporated into the play, which is the result of a collaborative effort between the actors and actresses, artistic director Penelope Andros and music director Jonathan Sacks.

Improvisational work played a large part in the development of the play, and the production retains a quality of spontaneity. Andros described the play as "ritualistic theater."

"It's sort of like contrapuntal music. The play shifts from theme to theme and back again," she said.

The performances are free, and donations will be accepted at the door. A translator will interpret the production for the deaf.

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