

Alan Schneider named as first Quinn Martin Professor of Drama

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Alan Schneider, professor of drama at the University of California, San Diego and one of America's foremost directors, has been named as the first Quinn Martin Professor of Drama at UC San Diego.

A former head of the Juilliard Theatre Center in New York, Schneider joined the UC San Diego drama faculty in 1979 as head of the directing program. He is the first person to be appointed to an endowed chair on the San Diego campus.

"Alan Schneider is one of the major figures in the American theater," said Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson. "We are privileged to have him on our faculty and I am pleased that he has been chosen as the first holder of the Quinn Martin chair. His tenure in the Quinn Martin chair will establish an admirable standard of quality for the future."

The chair was endowed in November of 1981 with \$250,000 from Quinn Martin, award-winning television and film producer whose credits include "The Fugitive" and "The FBI." The endowment provides funds for research, travel, special projects, graduate fellowships and other scholarly support services.

Schneider was born in Kharkov, Russia, on December 12, 1917, during the Russian Revolution. The Schneider family emigrated to the United States in 1923. Schneider earned his B.A. at the University of Wisconsin in 1939 and his M.A. from Cornell University in 1941. In addition to UC San Diego and Juilliard, he has taught theater at Boston University and the Catholic University of America.

As a director Schneider has worked on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in major regional theaters and in Europe. The only director to win both a Tony and an Obie award in the same year, he is most noted for his work with plays by Samuel Beckett, Edward Albee and Harold Pinter.

"Alan Schneider has made an indelible mark on world theater," said Michael Addison, drama department chairman. "To have a director of his international stature on our faculty greatly enriches the education of all of our theater students. In our view, Alan Schneider's appointment to the Quinn Martin chair gives due recognition to his superior achievements as an American Theatre artist."

Some of Schneider's noteworthy stage successes include the American premiere of Beckett's "Waiting For Godot" and the Broadway premiere of Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" Schneider plans to stay involved in both teaching and professional directing. Recently he directed another Beckett world premiere, "Rockaby," in New York.

"As my friend, director George Devine - founder of the English Stage Company at the Royal Court Theatre - used to say, 'In the theater, after one gets through satisfying one's ego, all that is basically left is to improve conditions for the next generation,'" said Schneider. "I hope that holding the Quinn Martin chair at UC San Diego will endow me with an even greater opportunity to do just that."

For more information contact: Henry J. DeVries, 452-3120 or Lori Carlson, 452-3793

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