

## The Acting Company to perform at the Mandeville Center Auditorium

**September 10, 1981**

"School is one thing, but then performance is the next step. And touring, traditionally, is the best way in the world to develop an actor. "

Margot Harley, co-founder of The Acting Company

The Acting Company, the official touring arm of New York's John F. Kennedy Center, will present a repertory of three plays at 8 p.m., October 16, 17 and 18 in the Mandeville Center Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

"The Country Wife," a restoration comedy by William Wycherly, will be presented on October 16. This will be followed on October 17 by "Il Campiello: A Venetian Comedy," a raucous comedy written in 1756 by Carlo Goldoni. Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" will be the concluding performance on October 18.

The Acting Company was founded in 1972 by John Houseman, producing artistic director, and Margot Harley, executive producer. The company started with Houseman's first graduating class of the drama division of The Julliard School.

"But clearly, a company of young actors cannot sit still in New York and hope to gain an audience on a continuing basis," says Harley. The Acting Company tours approximately 35 weeks every year performing three or four major works of theatrical literature.

One of the new plays added to the group's repertoire is "The Country Wife," a bawdy satire about marital jealousy and infidelity. A handsome rake, Mr. Horner, spreads the rumor he is impotent to gain easy access to as many wives as possible, including the comely Mrs. Margery Pinchwife.

"Il Campiello: A Venetian Comedy" is a chaotic look at a collection of ragtag characters who occupy an Italian slum. Set in a rundown piazza in 18th century Venice, the play takes place during Carnival season, a pre-Lenten festival which provides the poor a last chance to laugh before the harsh winter arrives.

"More than a century later, the theater would come up with the term 'slice of life' to describe this kind of sprawling, passion-filled canvas," writes David Richards in the Washington Star. "Goldoni was a man ahead of his time."

"Waiting for Godot" is a play filled with sad humor centering around two tramps who cannot reach a decision and simply wait for the unidentified Godot. First performed in Paris in 1952, the play is directed by UC San Diego Professor of Drama Alan Schneider, who directed the American premiere 25 years ago.

Mel Gussow of the New York Times calls the play "a youthful American version of this contemporary classic, a lively production that shows off The Acting Company to excellent advantage."

General admission for each performance is \$8; admission for students and UC San Diego faculty and staff is \$7; and UCSD student tickets cost \$6. Tickets are available at the UCSD Central Box Office, 452-4559.

For more information contact: Ruth Baily, 452-4090 or Henry J. DeVries, 452-3120

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