

"The Great American Quiz Show Scandal" to be performed; season continues with other drama productions

October 23, 1979

"The Great American Quiz Show Scandal," an original play by award-winning playwright Louis Phillips, will open the 1979-80 season of the University of California, San Diego Department of Drama.

The world premiere, a play about the quiz show scandals of the 1950s, will open at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8, at the UCSD Theatre on Warren campus. Performances are scheduled Nov. 8-11 and 14-17.

"The play is about a young man who knows all the facts but doesn't know anything about life," said Phillips, a Regents' Lecturer at UC San Diego, "Although the play is set in the '50s, it's still relevant. It's about our attitude toward success and the price we pay for it."

The play is the local directorial debut of Alan Schneider, who joined the Department of Drama faculty this fall as a professor of drama and head of the directing program.

Schneider, former head of the drama division at the Juilliard School, is recognized as one of the foremost directors of modern American theater. He has received both a Tony and an Obie award as well as numerous other honors from critics and academic groups, and he has introduced most of the works of Albee, Pinter and Beckett to American audiences.

The season will continue with Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," directed by Eric Christmas, professor of drama. The classic comedy is a tale of confusion and romance, with Sir Toby Belch and Sir Andrew Aguecheek pitted against the pompous Malvolio while four lovers work through a web of disguises and mistaken identities.

"Twelfth Night" will be presented at 8 p.m. Feb 7-10 and 13-17 in the UCSD Theatre.

"Amen Corner," James Baldwin's powerful drama about a woman who retreats from her own bleak life by creating a church and becoming its leader, concludes the season with shows at 8 p.m. May 15-18 and 21-24 in the UCSD Theatre. Floyd Gaffney, professor of drama, will direct.

The play is set in a store-front church where Sister Margaret reviles against sin and corruption. In direct conflict with Sister Margaret is her son David, a constant reminder of the broken family from which she is trying to escape.

In addition to these three major productions, season subscribers can choose to attend one of three productions offered during the winter quarter,

William Hinton's book about the transformation of a small Chinese village during the Communist revolution inspired the play "Fanshen," to be performed March 5-8 under the direction of Robert Johnson.

"The Rivals" is a comedy of manners set in England's 18th century "high society." Outraged parents and country bumpkins clash as the famous Mrs. Mallaprop adds to the confusion in a production directed by Walter Schoen. Performances are scheduled March 12-15.

A special performance of "Equus" by the UC Irvine Department of Drama is scheduled Feb. 29 and March 1. The play is an intense psychological drama which probes the motives behind a shocking act of violence committed by a young boy. William Needles, formerly of the Stratford Festival Theatre, will star in the production.

Season tickets for the three major productions plus either "Rivals," "Fanshen" or "Equus" cost \$15 for general admission and \$10 for student admission. Subscriptions can be purchased at the UCSD Theatre Ticket Office on Warren campus. Phone 452-4574 or 452-3791 for more information.

Membership in the Friends of the UCSD Theatre support group is also available. Membership fees include two season subscriptions and participation in exclusive theater events throughout the year.

Funds generated from membership fees are used to create scholarships that enable drama students to work as interns at professional theaters. Phone 452-3791 for information.

For more information contact: Leslie Franz, 452-3120

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