

## Adult puppet theatre comes to UCSD

**October 26, 1967**

"Knights Errant and Errant Nights," a program of adult puppet theater, will be given at 8:30 p.m., Saturday, November 4 at Sherwood Hall, La Jolla.

Two plays, produced and directed by Melvyn Helstien, and conducted by Jan Popper, director of the famed UCLA Workshop, will be presented. Tickets are on sale from the University of California, San Diego Committee for Arts and Lectures Office, at \$4.00 for the public and \$1.00 for UCSD students.

Professional singers and actors will talk and sing for the two-foot high puppets, which will dramatize several chapters from "Don Quixote" and an opera based on Federico Garcia Lorca's play "The Love of Don Perlimplin for Belisa in the Garden." The opera is a lace paper valentine concerning an old man's love for a young woman and his gift to her of a soul.

Helstien, who presently is teaching puppetry at UCLA Theater Arts Department, first became interested in the art as an undergraduate student at the University of Washington in 1940. He has carried the interest in puppetry through schooling, at the Yale School of Drama, where he received his Master of Fine Arts degree in 1948 and at the University of Minnesota, where he received his doctorate in 1962.

Helstien was the national chairman of the first National Conference of Puppeteers of America in 1957. He worked under a Chancellorial grant during his sabbatical in 1963 collecting puppets from both eastern and western Europe for the puppet collection at UCLA, of which he is curator. He was a consultant for a university in Bangkok, Thailand, where he assisted in the establishment of a department of Theater Arts.

Popper, a professor of Music at UCLA, came to the United States from Czechoslovakia as a symphonic and operatic conductor, director and concert pianist. A member of the Stanford faculty from 1939 to 1945, he founded and directed with his colleague F. Cowles Strickland the west coast's first opera workshop. Since 1945 Dr. Popper has become renowned throughout California as an operatic conductor at the Hollywood Bowl, with the San Francisco Opera Company, and on several visits to Japan, with the Tokyo Opera Company.

The program is sponsored by the UCSD Committee for Arts and Lectures, the UC Intercampus Cultural Exchanges Committee and the UC Institute for the Creative Arts.