

## **"The Skin of Our Teeth" to be presented by Drama Dept.**

**October 26, 1973**

Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy, "The Skin of Our Teeth," will be presented by the Drama Department of the University of California, San Diego for seven performances beginning Friday, Nov. 9.

The three-act play will be directed by Arthur Wagner, Professor of Drama, and will be presented in the UCSD Theatre, Building 203, Matthews Campus.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Nov. 9 through 11 and Nov. 15 through 18. Admission is \$2.50 for the general public and \$1.25 for students. Tickets are available through the UCSD Drama Department at 453-2000, ext. 2491.

"The Skin of Our Teeth" is an allegorical play of man through the ages told as the adventures of the Antrobus family of Excelsior, New Jersey. The action takes man from the Ice Age through a great flood to the end of a great war.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for the best original American play of 1942, "The Skin of Our Teeth" caused great controversy when it opened in New York that year. Some critics accused Wilder of lifting portions from J. S. Joyce's novel, "Finnegans Wake." Others called the play an outstanding effort in bringing something new to theatre, both in subject and stage technique.

"The play expresses a cyclical theory of history in which man goes through crisis after crisis, each time surviving by the skin of his teeth," Wagner said. "Two levels of action carry this theme, the real time sequence of a normal family living from 1917 to 1945 and a larger time period covering the experiences of man which repeat themselves over thousands of years."

Wagner said, "Each act is a unit in itself, distinct in style. The first act represents the Ice Age and is almost a cartoon. Wilder is very theatrical in the second act which occurs just before a great flood. The final act takes place after a great war and is quite realistic."

"The individuality of each act and the two time periods covered by the play make the set design for the show the most ambitious undertaking ever done in UCSD's 200-seat thrust theatre," Wagner said.

Set and lighting design, by Dan Dryden, and costumes, by Deborah Dryden, have been related to a real time span from World War I through World War II. The multi-level set required for the production includes an inlaid floor simulating the boardwalk in Atlantic City, the location of the second act. Period furniture is also used to create the feeling of Atlantic City in its heyday.

Guest artist in the production is Lee Devin who plays the male lead, George Antrobus. Devin is in La Jolla this year on sabbatical from Swarthmore College where he is a Professor of Theatre.

All other parts in the comedy are played by UCSD students. Mindy Scott, a senior drama major in Muir College, portrays Maggie Antrobus, the wife. The Antrobus children, Henry and Gladys, are played by David Farkas, a junior drama major in Muir, and Pam Connolly, a freshman biology major in Revelle.

Other major roles are Sabina, the maid, played by Pam Pascoe, a sophomore drama major in Muir, and the fortune teller played by Robyn Hunt, a junior drama major in Muir.

"The Skin of Our Teeth" is the first production of the 1973-74 season at UCSD. Other plays will be "Blood Wedding" during winter quarter and "Tartuffe" and "No Place To Be Somebody" during spring quarter. Season tickets may be purchased through the UCSD Drama Department for \$7.50 general admission and \$3.75 for students.

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