

## University Events Office to present the Negro Ensemble Company in the performance of "Ceremonies in Dark Old Men"

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The Negro Ensemble Company, America's preeminent professional black theatre group, will give a one-night performance of Lonne Elder III's "Ceremonies in Dark Old Men," at 8 p.m., Friday, Jan. 23, in the University of California, San Diego's Mandeville Center Auditorium.

The play is set in Harlem, in the 1950s. Russell Parker is an ex-vaudevillian who is immobilized with grief over the death of his wife. He distracts himself with his buddies, swapping tales and playing checkers--all the while looking on helplessly as his three children drift into the seamier life of the streets.

A riveting play, Marilyn Stasio of the New York Post calls it, "A stunning revival...funny and touching. It says something important to every generation of people of all colors. A classic!"

Since its beginnings, the Negro Ensemble Company has performed more than 200 plays. It became a touring company in 1975, and has performed its repertoire in such prestigious festivals as London's World Theatre Season, Premio Roma Festival, Bermuda Arts Festival, the Festival of Perth, the Dublin Theatre Festival and the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Arts Festival.

Among its most famous performances is the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, "A Soldier's Play," written by Charles Fuller. The play was later made into the motion picture, "A Soldier's Story," and nominated for an Academy Award. The NEC's award-winning stage play ran in New York City for 14 months, and later went on an extensive two-year national and international tour.

The NEC cast provided four of its "Soldier's Play" cast for the movie version, including lead actor Adolph Caesar, who was nominated for an Academy Award for his performance.

The NEC produces up to six plays each season for performance in New York City, its home base. The NEC has brought its productions to 100 cities in 34 states, and has visited 10 cities in eight foreign countries.

Since 1968, the company has won two Dramatists Guild Awards, a Eudora Welty Television Award, a New York Drama Critics Circle Award, an American Theatre Wing Award, 13 Obie Awards and many others. The company has won two Tony Awards for Broadway productions, and a special Obie Award for sustained excellence in ensemble acting.

Some of the outstanding plays in the NEC repertoire are, "Nevis Mountain Dew," and "Eden," by Steve Carter, "Home," by Samm-Art Williams, "The Dream of Monkey Mountain," by Derek Walcott and "Song of the Lusitanian Bogey," by Peter Weiss.

The Negro Ensemble Company is brought to UCSD by the University Events Office, the UCSD Department of Theatre, and the Contemporary Black Arts Program. Tickets are available from the UCSD Box Office and from TicketMaster. General admission is \$10, seniors, \$8 and students, \$6. For information call 534-4559.

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