

## **"Wedding Band" to be performed**

**January 15, 1976**

A play focusing on the love between an interracial couple, the "Wedding Band" by Alice Childress is a powerful exploration of a submerged war between the races in 1918 in South Carolina. "Wedding Band" will be performed in the UCSD Theatre, University of California, San Diego at 8 p.m. on Jan. 30-31, Feb. 1 and Feb. 3-8.

This drama examines contemporary problems viewed from yesterday's perspective of interracial marriage, according to director Dr. Floyd Gaffney, professor of drama.

"The play is basically a love story between a white male southerner, two generations removed from his German heritage, and a black woman of slave stock," Dr. Gaffney stated. "In part, it portrays the psychological and emotional responses of blacks to socio-political and economic pressures of the early 1900s which, unfortunately have not altered drastically," he added.

The production will be performed on a "constructuristic" set with interiors and cut away walls of three houses in a backyard area in which the play is set. Julia, the female lead, is new to this neighborhood and through her interactions with various neighbors, the details of her ten-year 'marriage' to Herman, a white baker, unfold. Reactions to this love affairs vary among the neighbors, but they are willing to tolerate the situation, that is, until Herman's presence threatens their isolated backyard community. Social and family pressures bear heavily on the lovers, but it doesn't destroy their dream of moving north.

Cast members include both UCSD students and local community residents. Julia, who wants her lover's "name and protection," is played by Laurine Towler, a drama department masters candidate. Her lover, Herman, a weak man dominated by his mother, is played by Ralph Joyce of Cardiff. Mr. Joyce has an impressive list of acting credits including performances at New York City's "Circle in the Square" and the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis. The black soldier is played by James Avery, a senior in the Drama Dept. Other masters candidates involved in the production include assistant director Benny Ambush and players Joan Rosenfels, Susan Lewis and Gerry Edwards. The two children's parts are played by members of the San Diego Youth Theatre.

Tickets for the performances are \$1.50 for students and \$3 for general admission. Tickets can be obtained at the UCSD Theatre Box Office, 203 Matthews Campus, Monday through Friday from 12-4 p.m.

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