

\$500,000 drive launched for construction of repertory theater

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A final drive will be launched this week to raise approximately \$500,000 to assure construction of the \$3 million community repertory theater which is being sponsored by the University of California, San Diego, and the Theater and Arts Foundation.

A special committee of prominent business and civic leaders will conduct a county-wide campaign for the balance of funds needed to match a total of \$1.5 million pledged by the University of California Board of Regents.

Committee members include Malin Burnham, Ed Taylor, Sol Price, Robert O. Peterson, Morley Golden, Orville P. Huntley, William F. Black, and William E. Quirk.

More than 30 business and civic leaders attended a meeting with Chancellor John S. Galbraith at University House (Thursday, August 11) to map plans for the campaign.

"Our community has an unusual opportunity now to develop one of the world's finest repertory theaters, but we must enlist wider financial support to assure success," Galbraith said.

Michael Langham, one of the most illustrious figures in the English-speaking theater, has signed a contract to direct the theater.

He will move to San Diego in 1968 to begin formation of a company which will have 40 actors plus apprentices presenting plays in an annual season of about 26 weeks, extending from May to October.

The theater will be opened in 1969. About 1700 seats will be arranged in a semicircle around a thrust stage. Classical plays from every era and modern productions plus new works will be presented.

Galbraith said the theater, under Langham, will establish San Diego as a leading center of the arts. It will be built adjacent to the UCSD campus on land provided by the city and university.

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