

Drama chairman wins prestigious Maharam Award

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Richard V. Riddell, chairman of the Department of Drama at the University of California, San Diego, has won the Joseph Maharam Foundation Award for his lighting design in the New York City production of, "Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

Unlike the Tony award, which Riddell has also won for this work, and which is given only for Broadway productions, the Maharam Award includes all scenic, costume and lighting design done in New York City, including off-Broadway and "off-off" Broadway productions. This award is especially coveted because the panel of judges are, themselves, designers of the highest caliber.

The award was given also to the scenic and costume designers for "Big River," Heidi Landesman and Patricia McGourty, respectively.

Riddell is also the winner of the Knox College Alumni Achievement Award for 1986, in recognition of his achievements in the world of theatre. He is currently involved with the lighting design for the American Repertory Theatre's production of "The Changeling," in Cambridge, Mass., to premiere Nov. 27.

Riddell, an associate professor in drama, joined the UCSD faculty in 1978, coming directly from Stanford University, where he received his Ph.D. He has also designed for the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, the Houston Grand Opera, the La Jolla Playhouse and for several European productions.

The Maharam Award was presented in New York City on Oct. 24, at the American Theatre Wing's seminar at City University of New York.

(November 21, 1985) For more information contact: Alixandra Williams, 452-3120