

## Anne Bogart directs "The Dispute"

**April 7, 1987**

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ANNE BOGART DIRECTS "THE DISPUTE" AT UCSD

New York director Anne Bogart, a guest artist in the University of California, San Diego's Department of Theatre, will stage an updated version of "The Dispute," a comedy about the war of the sexes by 18th century French playwright Pierre Marivaux, at the Mandell Weiss Center for the Performing Arts.

The play will run April 24-26 and April 29-May 2. Curtain time is 7 p.m. on Sunday and 8 p.m. all other performances.

During the 1985-86 season, Bogart was in residence at UCSD to direct "1951," her critically acclaimed award-winning new work about the McCarthy era "Hollywood inquisition." Applauded by audiences and critics alike, "1951" was nominated for four San Diego Critic Circle awards, including Best New Play. The award for Best Sound Design went to Michael S. Roth, "1951's" composer, who once again is joining forces with Bogart and composing the music for "The Dispute."

The wrangling of a young aristocratic couple over which sex has more guile and deceit and consequently is more likely to cheat on a lover provides the framework for "The Dispute." But the story doesn't dwell on this feisty twosome but on the subjects of an unusual social experiment set up 19 years earlier which the aristocrats are now observing. As infants, four young subjects had been removed from their parents' care and raised in isolation. As the play begins, they will be meeting one another for the very first time.

"As the first couple watches the experiment unfold, they are in a sense playing God watching Adam and Eve," Bogart said.

"Marivaux was obsessed with couples, relationships between the sexes, patterns in love. This is the general theme of almost all his plays. But they are very baroque. He writes plays the way Bach wrote music. Nothing is addressed directly. The action is convoluted," she explained.

Considered light entertainment, audiences flocked to Marivaux's plays during the 18th and 19th centuries. However, during a recent resurgence in Europe, new consideration has been given to a serious, even profound side of the playwright.

"I'm finding that the play is deceptively simple. It has layers and layers of significance and is full of refracted mirror images: couples watching couples watching couples. I believe that Marivaux was two centuries ahead of his time," Bogart said.

In Bogart's hands, Marivaux's stylized "play within a play" becomes a tapestry of interwoven scenes from the Age of Romanticism in Europe and 20th century America's pop culture. Bogart has built the originally short play into an 80-minute piece, weaving in portions of Marivaux's other plays, his letters, essays, and theoretical writings.

By adding the contemporary threads, she hopes to underscore the playwright's gentle commentary on society during his time.

For the musical element of "The Dispute," Roth plans to combine live violin music, performed by Linda Cummiskey, with taped medleys from various contemporary and classical sources. Roth, composer-in-residence for the La Jolla Playhouse since 1983, recently returned from Yale University where he composed music for Lee Blessing's "Walk in the Woods," scheduled to premier at the Playhouse this summer.

Bogart lives in New York City, but works in theatres all over the world. Since her residency at UCSD last year, she has worked with the Music Theatre Group/Lennox Arts Center in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, staging "Between Wind," a new play about the effects of Hiroshima on the Japanese psyche. Last fall she directed "Cleveland," by Mac Wellman, her collaborator on "1951." More recently, she staged "Danton's Death," a theatre piece on the French Revolution by Georg Buchner, at New York University. She currently is preparing a new work for Berlin's 750th Birthday Festival.

Designers for "The Dispute" are Victoria Petrovich, sets; Lori S. Catlin, costumes; Brenda Berry, lights; and Steven Erb, sound.

Primary roles will be played by Carolyn Sweeney, Deryl Caitlyn, Craig Green, Regina Byrd Smith, Theresa McCarthy, Matthew Wright, Monica Buckley, Giovanni Felicioni, Elizabeth Backenstow, and John Haydon Godfrey. The entourage will feature Pete Collison, David Gerry, Susan Goldman, Helene Goode, Andrea Harmon, Sheila MacDougall, Robert Owens, Reed Scudder, Michael A. Trippe, and Lisa Kim Welti. Ivan G'Vera will narrate.

Tickets for "The Dispute" are \$5 (student) and \$9 (other), available in advance at the Mandell Weiss Center Ticket Office, the UCSD Student Center Box Office, the ARTS TIX booth at the Spreckels Theatre, and all TicketMaster outlets. For information and reservations, call 534-4574.

UCSD Theatre presents: THE DISPUTE

By Pierre Marivaux

Directed by Anne Bogart

Music composed by Michael S. Roth

Scenic Design by Victoria Petrovich

Costume Design by Lori Catlin

Lighting Design by Brenda Berry

Dramaturg: Jonathan Field

Stage Manager: Linda Funsten

CAST:

DINA - Elizabeth Backenstow ADINE - Monica Buckley PRINCE - Deryl Caitlyn

MESRIN - Giovanni Felicioni

MESLIS - John Haydon Godfrey

MESROU - Craig Green

EGLE - Theresa McCarthy

CARISE - Regina Smith

HERMAINE - Carolyn Sweeney

AZOR - Matthew Wright

ENSEMBLE CHORUS:

Pete Collison David Gerry Susan Goldman Helene Goode Andrea Harmon

Sheila MacDougall Robert Owens Reed Scudder

Michael A. Trippe

Lisa Kim Welti

NARRATOR:

Ivan G'Vera

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