

## "The Great American Quiz Show Scandal" to premiere at UCSD

**October 30, 1979**

The world premiere of "The Great American Quiz Show Scandal," a comedy by Louis Phillips, will be presented by the University of California, San Diego Department of Drama Nov. 8-11 and 14-17 in the UCSD Theatre. Curtain time is 8 p.m.

The play is based on the television quiz show scandals of the 1950s. The shows were tremendously popular until it was revealed that contestants who had won thousands of dollars for giving the correct answers had been briefed ahead of time.

"At the time, the quiz shows were an extraordinary national fever," explained Alan Schneider, professor of drama at UC San Diego and director of the play.

"We had put these people on pedestals because they knew so many facts, and when we found out the truth, the disillusionment on the part of the public was enormous," he said.

The play's central character is Marion, an innocent young man who becomes a quiz show winner. He gradually realizes that his knowledge is being manipulated to further the interests of the show's promoters.

As Marion becomes aware of the corruption around him, he begins to understand the difference between knowledge and wisdom. The play follows his personal discovery of the truth and of himself and his own limitations.

"The play is done very imaginatively," Schneider said. "It's a theatrical play, and it uses the elements of the theater openly and frankly in a way which we hope pleases and entertains the audience. It's a funny, charming play."

The play is Schneider's directorial debut at UC San Diego. He joined the faculty this fall after serving as head of the Theater Center at the Juilliard School.

Schneider is considered to be one of the country's foremost directors. He has directed the premieres of most of Edward Albee's plays, including "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?", for which Schneider received a Tony. He also has introduced many of the works of Beckett and Pinter to American audiences, and he will direct Albee's newest play, "Lady from Dubuque," on Broadway this January.

Tickets to "The Great American Quiz Show Scandal" cost \$4.50, general admission, and \$3.25 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the UCSD Theatre Ticket Office, 452-4574.

For more information contact: Leslie Franz, 452-3120

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