

Louis Phillips to be regents' lecturer in conjunction with his play, "The Great American Quiz Show Scandal"

October 30, 1979

Poet, novelist and playwright Louis Phillips will be a regents' lecturer at the University of California, San Diego in conjunction with the world premiere of his play, "The Great American Quiz Show Scandal," at UC San Diego.

The play will be presented at 8 p.m. Nov. 8-11 and 14-17 in the UCSD Theatre. Phillips will be a consultant on the production of the play, which is being directed by Alan Schneider, professor of drama. He also will meet with students in the Department of Drama and hold special seminars with graduate students in the playwrighting program.

Phillips, who lives in New York City, is no stranger to San Diego. His play, "The Last of the Marx Brothers Writers," received critical praise when it premiered at the Old Globe Theatre in 1977. The production starred Victor Buono.

His new play is a contemporary comedy based on the television quiz show scandals of the 1950s. The play is a commentary on the price we pay for success, he says, and he compares the implication of university professors in the scandal to the events surrounding the Watergate scandal of the 1970s.

Phillips commended the UC San Diego Department of Drama for producing the play.

"Not many colleges and universities are doing new plays," Phillips said. "It's a risk. It's difficult getting people to see new plays. It's a lot easier getting people to see Shakespeare than Phillips.

"Also, the play is a difficult one to do," he added. "Modern theater is becoming little more than conversation, but I believe theater should be more than conversation. It's using actors and a set to present spectacle and sweep. Theater should be more than warmed-over television."

Some of Phillips' other plays include "God Have Mercy on the June Bug" and "The Envoi Messages," both prize-winners in the State University of New York Playwrighting Contest, and "The Goalie," "Who Here Has Seen the Color of the Wind," "A Convention of Tuba Players Convenes in Fat City" and the book and lyrics to the opera, "Gulliver."

His poetry has been published in Mademoiselle, The Texas Quarterly, The Southern Poetry Review and The Centennial Review as well as in various anthologies. Chapbooks of his work have also been released. He also has written three children's books.

For more information contact: Leslie Franz, 452-3120

TO THE EDITOR: Mr. Phillips will be available for interviews after Nov. 1. Phone 452-3120 to set up appointments.

(October 30, 1979)