

UCSD Department of Theatre to stage Master's Thesis Play "Subterranean Homesick Blues"

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UCSD DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE TO STAGE MASTER'S THESIS PLAY "SUBTERRANEAN HOMESICK BLUES" IN MARCH

Two college activists are brought together after a 20-year separation in "Subterranean Homesick Blues," a new play written by Richard Gale for the University of California, San Diego Department of Theatre Professional Theatre Training program.

The play will be staged March 2-6 in the UCSD Warren Theatre. Curtain time will be at 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

When Robert and Thomas first met in the 1960s they shared common interests and beliefs. But now each thinks the other has "bought into" a lifestyle that contradicts everything they used to care about, and both realize that something will have to change.

Thomas views Robert as an anachronism, a 40-year-old hippie whose lifestyle contrasts sharply with his work as a physicist, and Robert criticizes Thomas's conservatism and accuses him of selling out to the Establishment.

An unplanned reunion one weekend forces the two old friends to re-examine what they were and who they are going to be. This process also includes the women in their lives. Pamela, an engineer in her early 20s, works and lives with Robert. Lizzie, a health fanatic in her 30s has been with Thomas off and on for the past 10 years. Together, these four explore the tensions between comfort and commitment in their lives and the world around them.

In "Subterranean Homesick Blues," the playwright is asking whether abstract ideals can exist in a world of concrete aspirations. The play addresses the changes in attitudes and opinions which have occurred during the last two decades, and questions the effectiveness of political activism and the extent of political awareness in the 1980s.

Richard Gale is in his final year of the three-year UCSD Professional Theatre Training Program in Playwriting. The director is Jim Carmody, an assistant professor in the UCSD Theatre Program.

Matthew Wright plays the role of Thomas Dutton; Carolyn Sweeney portrays Lizzie Kelton; Mark Cherniack will appear as Robert Gaddis; Denelda Nollenberger will play the role of Pamela Barnett.

The set design is by Robert Brill, lighting design is by Randa Rai Slack, costume design is by Barbara Bandy and sound design is by Stephen P. Erb. Wendy K. Arons is the dramaturg.

Tickets for "Subterranean Homesick Blues" are \$5 for students and \$7 for the general public. Tickets are available in advance at the Mandell Weiss Center Ticket Office, 534-4574, the UCSD Student Center Box Office, ARTS TIX at the Speckles Theatre and from all TicketMaster outlets. On nights of performance tickets may be purchased at the Warren Theatre Ticket Office beginning two hours prior to curtain time.

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