

The Alternative Theatre Ensemble to perform Stanislaw Witkiewicz's play, "The Madman and the Nun"

October 21, 1982

"The Madman and the Nun," a play by Stanislaw Witkiewicz, will be performed by the Alternative Theatre Ensemble at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, November 4, 5 and 6, in Mandeville Center Recital Hall on the campus of the University of California, San Diego.

"The Madman and the Nun" is set in the cell of a lunatic asylum. Inside, the mad poet Walpurg, tended by psychiatrists and nuns, tries to escape the imprisonment of society and the obsessions of his mind. The play reveals his struggles against the oppressions of science, religion and governments. Its ending is unpredictable and bizarre.

This performance is the first production of the Alternative Theatre Ensemble, a new dramatic group composed of UCSD students and actors from the San Diego area. UCSD students John Lymberg and Maruska Polak are the founders and directors of the ensemble.

Members of the cast and crew include Patricia M. Sipes, Steven Soden, Bryan McBurney, Gary Wilens, Mark Heckman, Erik Onaite, Michael Russo and Barbara Bleardon.

Stanislaw Witkiewicz, playwright, painter, novelist, and philosopher, was one of the major figures in modern avant-garde European theater. He was born in Warsaw in 1885 and, 54 years later, committed suicide when Poland was attacked by Hitler and the Russian army.

Witkiewicz's theater was strongly influenced by his painting. The Alternative Theatre Ensemble will use film sequences, slides and vivid sets to enhance the visual impact of its production.

The Alternative Theatre Ensemble is funded by the Student Center for Undergraduate Research and Innovation and by a President's Undergraduate Fellowship.

There is no admission charge for this production. NO tickets or reservations are required.

For more information contact: Jan Seagrave, 452-3120

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