

"Fanshen" to be presented

February 25, 1980

"Fanshen," a compelling social drama about the modernization of a small Chinese village, will be presented at 8 p.m. March 5-8 in the UCSD Theatre at the University of California, San Diego.

Tickets to the San Diego premiere of the David Hare play cost \$4 for general admission and \$2.50 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Theatre Ticket Office, 452-4574.

The term "fanshen" literally means "to turn over." The play opens in the village of Long Bow during the 1948 revolution with the village residents rising up to overthrow the feudal system which has existed for more than 3,000 years. The peasants then must struggle to make the difficult transition from the traditional to a new political system.

"There are two stock varieties of revolutionary drama: Those that salute the glorious overthrow of the oppressors, and those that show the new regime going on to exceed the iniquities of the old," wrote Irving Waddle of The Times of London when the play opened in London. "'Fanshen' bypasses this futile circle and shows a community that does not collapse into cynicism and corruption."

The UC San Diego production of "Fanshen" is being directed by master of fine arts candidate Robert Johnson. Johnson has directed several other UC San Diego productions, including "Sexual Perversity in Chicago" and "The Cage," and he has worked with the Berkeley Stage Company, the Proposition Theatre in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the Titus Andronicus Memorial Repertory Acting Company in Estes Park.

For more information contact: Leslie Franz, 452-3120

(February 25, 1980)