

Music Department hosts Suzuki Company of Toga, who will present "Clytemnestra"

April 8, 1986

PACIFIC RING ARTS FESTIVAL RELEASE

UCSD MUSIC DEPARTMENT HOSTS THE

SUZUKI COMPANY OF TOGA ON MAY 8-9

The famed Suzuki Company of Toga (SCOT) will present "Clytemnestra," a drama in Japanese, based on Greek tragedy and composed and directed by the company's founder, Tadashi Suzuki. The production is part of the Pacific Ring Arts Festival, sponsored by the Department of Music at the University of California, San Diego.

The performance will take place at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, May 8-9, in the Mandell Weiss Center for the Performing Arts. SCOT made its San Diego debut last April at UCSD with its version of Euripides' drama, "The Trojan Women."

In "Clytemnestra," the last of Suzuki's adaptations of the Greek classics, the father, Agamemnon, devotes himself to war, acquires a mistress and neglects his family. The mother, Clytemnestra, takes a lover while her husband is off to war. When Agamemnon returns, Clytemnestra kills him. The son, Orestes, in conspiracy with Electra, his sister, murders the mother.

Suzuki rethinks this tragedy of the house of Atreus, giving birth to a completely new piece of drama. He says, "I have intended to present an internal view of contemporary man who is becoming more and more isolated because he cannot help but live in a spiritually chaotic state. I have shown this by examining the disintegration of the family, which is considered the fundamental constituent of society."

Suzuki's leading lady, Kayoko Shiraishi, reputed to be Japan's national dramatic treasure, will perform the lead role using the powerful vocal and physical style for which she is famous.

Drama writer Jack Clay has said, "Shiraishi is a torrent of power: small, commanding, ruthless, recalling Martha Graham at her peak. Her voice is unforgettable, anchored to the earth, a rich alto capable of astounding variations of timbre, range and dynamics."

Des McAnuff, artistic director of the La Jolla Playhouse, said: "Shiraishi is one of the great actresses of the world."

Suzuki's company has its headquarters in Waseda, Tokyo. In 1982, Suzuki started the Japan Performing Arts Center which presents an annual summer festival at Toga, a farm village located on a mountaintop in north-central Japan. There, Suzuki has built a theatre in which people from around the world come to witness his revolutionary approach to the physical expression of drama.

Suzuki's powerful acting techniques develop the actor's innate expressive abilities. Suzuki says his method trains the actor to speak powerfully and to gain a consciousness of the body's communication with the ground by emphasizing the movement of the feet.

In 1984, the Suzuki Company of Toga performed at the Los Angeles Olympic Arts Festival. At that time they changed their name to the acronym, SCOT.

Ticket prices are: general admission, \$20; students and seniors, \$10, and are available at the UCSD Box Office, TicketMaster and at the door. For information telephone 452-3229.

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