

"Brazo Gitano" to play at UCSD's Warren Theatre

February 1, 1988

Contact: Lori Carlson, Department of Theatre, 534-3793 or Alixandra Williams, Public Information Office, 534-3120

"BRAZO GITANO," BY CARIDAD SVICH, TO PLAY AT UCSD'S WARREN THEATRE FEB. 17-21

Rites of passage, ceremony, faith, belief systems and the melding of cultures are the focal points of Caridad Svich's new play, "Brazo Gitano" (Gypsy's Arm), to play Feb. 17-21, at the University of California, San Diego's Warren Theatre. Curtain is at 8 p.m. every night except Sunday, when it is at 7 p.m.

The play takes place in the Cuban section of Miami, and centers on young people and their rituals: spiritual and physical. It also incorporates the belief system popular with their culture, Santeria--which has its roots in African/pagan ritualism, voodooism, and Catholicism.

Svich, of Cuban and Argentinean descent, explores her heritage with "Brazo Gitano," and shows us the struggles which Cuban youth experience, torn between the traditions and customs of their parents and the new American culture they are immersed in.

"Brazo Gitano" (Gypsy's Arm), is Svich's third year master's thesis. She is in her final year of the play writing program at UCSD's Department of Theatre. She completed her undergraduate work at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

The play is filled with fantasy and dance, music and poetic verse. Some portions of the script are performed in Spanish. Svich likens her work to Greek theatre, a Dionysian ritual, where "theatre blurred the distinction between spectator and actor...the participant became a spectator, an onlooker of events enacted."

Much of the cast, artistic and production staff is made up of UCSD Department of Theatre graduate students. The cast: Danny Burstein plays Arce, Giovanni Felicioni is Santoyo, Patrick Miller plays Henry, Regina Byrd Smith portrays Luishi, Sean Whitesell as Kevin, Karen June Sanchez plays Belkis, Michael Lopez is Rody, and the Three Women are played by Luzmaria Garcia, Michele Mosler and Morgan Forsey, respectively.

Patricia Pretzinger is the director. The sets and lighting are designed by J. Michael Griggs. Costume design is by Lori Catlin. Sound design is by Stephen P. Erb.

Adult subject matter is contained in the script and may not be appropriate for children.

Tickets for "Brazo Gitano" are on sale at the box office at UCSD Mandell Weiss Center for the Performing Arts (534-4574) from 4-7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, at the UCSD Box Office (534-4559), all TicketMaster outlets, and from ARTS TIX at the Spreckels Theatre. Tickets will be available at the Warren Theatre box office two hours prior to curtain time on performance nights. Ticket prices are: \$7, general admission, and \$5 for students. Seniors and active military are entitled to a \$1 discount from the general admission price on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

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