

Drama grad students to present Premiere Graduate Repertory Season

May 13, 1976

The first master of fine arts class of the University of California, San Diego Department of Drama will present the Premiere Graduate Repertory Season in the UCSD Theatre, Wednesday, May 19, through Saturday, May 29.

The group of young actors, directors and playwrights who have been honing their talents for two years to prepare to move out into the theatrical profession will function as a repertory company with acting students appearing in a variety of roles in three productions. The series includes two classics -- Nikolai Gogol's "The Inspector General" directed by John Ovrutsky and Luigi Pirandello's "Six Characters in Search of An Author" directed by Frank Condon -- and a staged reading of a new American play, "Little Turtle and Wells," written and directed by master's candidate Jeffrey Levy.

"The Inspector General" written in 1836 is a satirical farce about the Russian bureaucracy. Into a town somewhere in the middle of Russia arrives a man who is taken by the mayor and his cronies to be a government inspector. They wine and dine him and are careful to take him to the cleanest offices so that he does not have a chance to witness their negligence. In the midst of comic situations, we are encountered with the shadows of many people who may seem familiar to us.

Patrick DeSantis, one of UC San Diego's finalists in the national Theatre Communications Group student auditions, plays the mayor and Gary Guidinger is the man who happens to be in the right place at the right time. Director John Ovrutsky, before coming to San Diego, spent a year in London studying theater and art. This summer he will direct a touring melodrama and vaudeville show.

"Six Characters in Search of An Author" is Pirandello's probe into the nature of the theater itself. A rehearsal is interrupted by the appearance of a family who claim to be characters abandoned by their author before his play was completed. The director sets aside his work and attempts to bring their story to life.

Frank Condon, director of the Pirandello play, spent four years as a high school drama teacher after earning an M.A. in dramatic literature and history from UC Santa Barbara. He has directed several plays at the San Diego campus and several outdoor traveling productions on the style of the Commedia Dell'Arte which were performed throughout the San Diego area. This summer he will direct another Commedia and a production of Goldini's "Servant of Two Masters" for the San Diego Repertory Theatre.

Jeffrey Levy, MFA candidate in playwriting, received his bachelor and master's degrees in theater from the University of Michigan. He has had works produced in the United States and Canada and toured with the Human Mime Troupe, Inc. "Little Turtle and Wells" is also being produced in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in honor of the Bicentennial. Levy has recently been exploring new modes of staging and is opening an experimental production entitled "One Morning" at the Crystal Palace Theatre in Mission Beach this summer.

"The Inspector General" will be performed May 19, 21, 25, 27 and 29. "Six Characters" will be presented May 20, 22, 24, 26 and 28 and "Little Turtle and Wells" will be performed May 23 and May 29. All performances are at 8 p.m. except for a performance of "Little Turtle," May 29 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$2 for general admission and \$1 for all students for "Six Characters" and "The Inspector General" and \$1 for everyone for "Little Turtle and Wells." For information and reservations, call the drama department, 452-3791.

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