

## "The Taking of Janie" to open here

**January 21, 1977**

"The Taking of Miss Janie" by Ed Bullins, which its director calls a "deeply human tragedy . . . an admission of the failure of the children of the 60s to take advantage of opportunities for a more unified society," will open at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, in the UCSD Theatre at the University of California, San Diego.

"Janie," says director Dr. Luther James, acting associate professor of drama, focuses attention on a crucial time in America's recent past when social directions were clearly outlined in a manner in which they are not today.

"The 60s with their overt battles," explains James, "clarified American possibilities regarding values and directions. That clarity has faded since the confrontations have stopped. Battle lines were more clearly drawn then. The play is about the failure of the characters to overcome their own subjective weaknesses in order to work for solidarity."

Miss Janie herself, whose "rape" by a black male friend of more than a decade rounds out the allegorical drama, is a symbol of the awkward, unintentionally patronizing white-liberal attitude toward blacks in the early 60s when a spirit of accommodation seemed to be manifesting itself.

"Her 'taking' or rape," says New York Daily News critic Douglas Watt, "is seen by Bullins as the natural outcome of the black need for self-reliance, symbolized by Bullins' familiar epic figure, the young man Monty. But the conclusion is sorrowful rather than militant."

"The white woman," says James, "represents Monty's vision of that which is difficult to attain in America, in the United States -- what is presented as desirable and really isn't. The 'rape' is not an admission of failure but, because Janie's 'taking' is Monty's pursuit, the act represents his failure."

The figure for the excesses and deceptions of the 60s is the incessant party through which the characters move over a decade fraught with changing partners, changing identities, changing attitudes and growing bitterness.

Appearing in the UC San Diego production are: Carol Davis, junior, Muir College, Janie; Christopher Wellington, junior, Muir College, Monty; Marcia Robinson, graduate student, Peggy; Dick Maynard, graduate student, Lonnie; James Avery, senior, Third College, Len; Susan Denaker, senior, Third College, Sharon; Monica Bracks, non-student, Flossy; John W. Houston, graduate student, Rick; Steve Hagberg, graduate student, Mort Silberstein.

Set designer is faculty member Steve Lavino. Lighting is by faculty member Amarante Lucero; costumes by Suzy Beronius; technical direction by faculty member David Kriebs; sound by students Larry Swerdlove and Jim Le Brecht, and choreography by student Etta Weathersby.

The play will also be performed at 8 p.m. Feb. 4-6 and 8-13 and at 2 P.M. Saturday, Feb. 12.

Tickets are \$3.50 for general admission and \$2 for all students. For ticket information or reservations, call 452-4574 or come to the UCSD Theatre ticket office on the Matthews campus Monday-Friday, noon-4 p.m. and evenings of performances at 7:15 p.m.

(January 21, 1977) For information contact:

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