

PRESENT

TSA/UaDd 1979.2 P12

"THE INJUSTICE DONE TO TOU NGO"

AND

"DRAGON BEARD DITCH"THE PLAYS:-

Drama students have produced two plays which show an interpretation of the contrasting traditional and contemporary social-political-cultural life in China.

The theme of repression runs through each play. In the Yuan Dynasty play, THE INJUSTICE DONE TO TOU NGO, the rigid social code of ethics restricts the individual; whereas, in the contemporary play, DRAGON BEARD DITCH, it is the poverty and misery of the environment which suppresses the individual.

The Yuan play features a lively and varied line-up of traditional characters, ranging from the lecherous old man to the wise Confucian scholar - even a ghost! Supernatural forces are the harbingers of justice in the traditional play, whilst it is revolutionary liberation which frees the oppressed in DRAGON BEARD DITCH. The Ditch represents the degree of human degradation experienced by the individual in pre-revolutionary China. The government's concern for the masses is shown by the face-lift given to the Ditch.

THE PLAYWRIGHTS:-

THE INJUSTICE DONE TO TOU NGO was written by Kuan Han-Ching, (1241-1322), a prolific Chinese playwright, who is acknowledged as the "Father of Chinese Drama." Lao Sheh's (1898-1966) admiration of the government's concern for the oppressed inspired him to write DRAGON BEARD DITCH - consequently, he became the "People's Artist."

THE PRODUCTION:-

Christine Johnson, tutor in Drama, is the director of the traditional drama, which has an all-student cast. The contemporary play has a student director, Jules Davison, who has experimented with a new collective rehearsal technique. The Performing Arts Lecturer, Jim Vilé, is overall co-ordinator for the production and makes a cameo appearance as a villain!

Students are involved in every facet of production from design to make-up. A group of students has worked under the guidance of Jim Cowley, Union Artist-In-Residence, to design and construct the set. Others have arranged an original percussion score while the make-up group are working on the aging of the characters and making an ankle-length beard.

Other areas include sound, design and making of costumes, setting and operating lights, assembling props, arranging publicity, stage-management and organizing front-of-house.

PERFORMANCES:-

8 p.m. Wed., June 13 to Sat., 17
Wed., June 20 to Sat., 23.

VENUE:-

LITTLE THEATRE, University of Adelaide (Ground Floor, Union Building: entrance through Gate 9, Victoria Drive.)

ADMISSION:- \$3 (Adults) \$1 (Students, Pensioners, Unemployed)
For details: Drama Office, Adelaide University 223 4333, Ext 2829