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The UD Players Present "The Adding Machine"

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DAYTON, Ohio, September 26, 1972 --- The supposedly dead issue of slavery comes to life in The Adding Machine, Elmer Rice's humorous and thought-provoking satire, to be presented by the UD Players October 12-14 at the University of Dayton's Boll Theatre.

First performed in 1923, The Adding Machine is considered an American classic in expressionistic drama. Confronting one of the major conflicts of this century, it offers a unique portrayal of man's enslavement by a mechanized society.

The story is seen through the eyes of Mr. Zero, an adding clerk with twenty-five years of service to the company. In place of a gold watch, however, an adding machine is brought in to replace him. Zero's fatal reaction and the subsequent fast-paced scenes advance the play in Rice's relentless manner. Society is exposed, and Zero is sent on a journey to the afterworlds. There, two options await: a lovely place where souls are free to do as they wish, and the "other" place, where souls are objects of subjection. Zero's choice and its ultimate consequence end the play on a provocative and ironic note.

"A nightmare of the worst results of the mechanized world," is how Mr. Michael Pedretti, director of the play, describes it. "The play seeks and provides understanding of the fine line between freedom and slavery," he explains. Pedretti also emphasizes the humor and compassion in the play. Zero's plight, both universal and inescapable, evokes spontaneous self-laughter and empathy.

The Adding Machine opens the '72-'73 season of the UD Players, which organization dates back to the 1920's. According to Mr. Larry Selka, director of the series, this year's program is "well balanced, well-rounded," and "quite interesting." As in the past, he commented, the series includes two classics (one American), an avant-garde, a musical, and a children's performance.

The Importance of Being Earnest, acknowledged as Oscar Wilde's best play, presents a high comedy romp of sophisticated witticisms, November 16-18. Nothing is mundane about its caricatures of "good, dull" Victorians.

Jean-Claude von Itallie's The Serpent provides a switch from the classic with its avant-garde and intriguing improvisations, relating modern experience to the Book of Genesis, February 8-10.

The spalshy new musical of George Haimshon and Robin Miller overflows the stage when Dames at Sea comes to dock March 30, 31, and April 5-7. A hometown girl becomes the star of Broadway and sweetheart of the US Navy--in just one day--amid the campy nostalgia of Hollywood's big musicals of the '30s.

Everybody gets into the act--including the donkey--in Eric Vos' The Dancing Donkey, May 21-26. The delightful and song-filled show is part of the Players tradition to provide appreciation and understanding of the theatre for children. "Kids" of all ages will find it very enjoyable.

All performances are given in the Kennedy Union, Boll Theatre, 8:00 P.M. For ticket information call UD Players Box Office at 229-2545.