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The UD Players Present "Tartuffe"

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DAYTON, Ohio, January 31, 1972 --- "It was a fun show to do, and we think the audience will have fun watching it," was the opinion of Mr. Michael Pedretti, director of the University of Dayton Players upcoming production of the Seventeenth century classic, Tartuffe, by Moliere. Mr. Pedretti is directing a cast of twelve for the production which will play on February 3, 4, and 5, 1972, in the Kennedy Union's Boll Theater.

When the play opens at 8:00 p.m. each night, the curtain will rise on a stage decorated to look like a house of the 1660's, the time setting of the play. The costumes for the cast will be full period costumes, complete with bewigged men in long jackets, britches, and ruffs, and ladies in long, flowing, low-cut dresses. In the seventeenth century, sets for plays were merely backgrounds for the action. In the spirit of this tradition, the set designed by Dave Seigfried might have been prominent in the 1600's.

The author of the play, Moliere, is often considered to be one of the world's greatest comic writers, and certainly the father of a modern social-comment type humor. He dealt with universal human foibles, and in doing so allowed his plays to become relevant to all times, including ours. He tried to strip off the mask people wear, and undo the role-playing of society, by making the mask and the role-playing targets for his humor.

The play was translated by Richard Wilbur, one of America's finest living poets. In order to keep the flavor of Tartuffe intact, he broke with the tradition of translating French in prose and brought the work to English in rhymed couplets.

Tartuffe is a play about the gullibility of people. It presents an imposter, Tartuffe, who puts on a show of religious fanaticism in order to get money from the head of a wealthy family. Everyone in the theater knows Tartuffe is a fake except the head of the family, Orgon. Most of the action centers around the family trying to get Tartuffe to show his true hand.

Although religion plays a part in showing how easily people are duped, it is not religion Moliere seeks to change. It is the people who use religion for their own gain, and the people who fall for this hypocrisy.

The play, according to Mr. Pedretti, "is splashy and exciting. The people did not have the larger worries we have today, and so they could get upset over trifles."

The cast was chosen from members of the University of Dayton community. It includes Ken Mako as Orgon, Kathy Burns as Elmire, Jim Minarik as Tartuffe, Paula Kilian as Dorine, Cathy Cartwright as Mariane, Jeff Schwamberger as Valere, Bill Dolan as Damis, Joe DeFuria as Cleante, Betsy Heeney as Madame Pernelle, Mark Parr as Loyal, Joe Giglio as the Officer, and Sylvia Perryman as Flipote.

For ticket information contact the University of Dayton Players Office at 300 College Park Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45409, or call 229-2545.

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