Masquers open "Rose Tattoo"

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MASQUERS OPEN
"ROSE TATTOO"

"The Rose Tattoo," the third production in the Masquer Summer Theater series, begins a split run in the Masquer Theater Thursday (July 21) at 8:30 p.m., according to Richard H. James Jr., director of summer theater at the University of Montana. Performances will be given Thursday through Sunday, July 21-24 and July 28-31.

Hailed by the New York Herald Tribune in 1951 as "the finest new American play of the season" and called by the New York Times "the loveliest idyll written for the stage in some time," the play is one of Tennessee Williams' most successful efforts. Although it is an intensely dramatic work, the New York Daily News pointed out that "Its mood is comic, not tragic, and its humor is first-rate."

The Masquer production is directed by Tom Gruenewald, on campus for his fourth consecutive summer as distinguished visiting lecturer in drama.

Gruenewald belongs to the Directors' Wing of the American National Theatre and Academy and to Actors' Equity. He has directed or acted in theaters throughout the country, including the San Francisco Actors' Workshop and the White Oaks Theater in California and Equity Library, Phoenix and other off-Broadway houses. He has taught in New York and California and has served as a consultant to the New York State Council on the Arts.

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The cast includes Gloria Sykee, Chicago, Ill., as Rosa; Georgia Tree, Billings, as Serafina; Michelle Nassif, Washington, D. C., as Estelle; Dodie Norling, Missoula, as Strega, and Billie Marhenke, Powell, Wyo., as Giuseppina.

Other parts are taken by Marilyn Zschau, New York, N. Y., who sang the title role in the Masquer production of "The Bartered Bride"; Fred Norman, Phoenix, Ariz.; Roger DeBourg, Red Lodge, and Karol Kramer, Anabel Osborne, Jeanne Belangie, Laura Weatherly, Carol Knox, Duncan Crump, Todd Oleson, Samuel Joseph and Paul Weatherly, all of Missoula.

Judy Parker is assistant to director Gruenewald, and Al Terhune, Signe Anderson and Harry Trickey are assistants to designer James.

The Masquer box office is open from noon to curtain time on dates of performances and from noon to 5 p.m. on other days.