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Masquers to perform "Tartuffe" for the Montana Governor's Conference on the Arts

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Buoyed up by rave notices from national theatrical figures, the University of Montana Masquers will be in top form for their performance of Moliere's "Tartuffe" for the Montana Governor's Conference on the Arts Saturday (Nov. 19)

The play, directed by Dr. Firman H. Brown Jr., chairman of the UM Drama Department, will be presented at 8:15 p.m. at Butte High School.

The Masquer production scored a triumph with the discriminating audience of professionals who saw it at the recent Rocky Mountain Theater Conference in Bozeman judging from verbal comments and letters received by Dr. Brown.

Walter Abel, president of the American National Theater and Academy, said, "I have searched America for this kind of ensemble acting. It is simply splendid. This is the kind of theater we want at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. You have achieved it in this brilliant, lovely production. I will do all I can to see that people in New York know what you are doing out here."

George Skylar, also from New York, whose new play, "And People All Around," was staged at the conference, called the Masquer show "a truly professional evening in the theater."

One MSU faculty member commented on "the excellence of direction with its sensitivity to the spirit of Moliere, ... the simple and pleasing setting and lighting, the gorgeous costumes, and the fine talent of the cast."

Another called the play "probably the most brilliantly successful college production I've ever seen."
Great Falls reviewer Phyllis Graham said in print this week, "The Montana Masquers play Moliere as if they had invented him just for themselves." She had high praise for the cast, for the sets by Richard H. James Jr. and for the costumes by Beverly Thomas and said, "Brown's direction, his use of the set, all his ways of expressing Moliere's meaning, are brilliant."