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1-20-1964

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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Larry Barsness to be visiting lecturer in the Montana State University Department of Drama" (1964). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 1354.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Larry Barsness, director of the Virginia City Players since 1948, will be a visiting lecturer in the Montana State University Department of Drama winter and spring quarters, Dr. Firman H. Brown Jr., department chairman, announced.

Barsness will teach the classes of Dr. Douglas Bankson, associate professor of drama, who is on leave. The visiting lecturer's first directing assignment at MSU will be the Masquer production of Shakespeare's "Much Ado ab out Nothing," to be staged in the University Theater Feb. 13, 14 and 15.

Brown noted that the Virginia City Players have won renown as a cultural attraction that draws Montanans and tourists in large numbers to the historic community where the players are based. They have also entertained audiences in Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Canada.

As director and manager of the company, Barsness exercises talents ranging from directing and costuming to balancing the books, Brown said. Writer as well as master of theatrical trades, Barsness is the author of "Gold Camp," a story of Virginia City in the 1860's, which was published in 1963.

After three years as a forestry student at MSU, Barsness switched schools and majors. He earned a B. S. degree in drama at the State University of Iowa in 1941 and an M. S. in drama at the University of Oregon in 1950.

Barsness was co-director and instructor in the MSU summer theater school at Virginia City from 1950 to 1954. He has taught drama and writing at Montana State College and high-school English, dramatics and speech in Oregon.

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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE, MISSOULA