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1976-77 UNIVERSITY THEATRICAL,
DANCE SEASON SCHEDULES ANNOUNCED

MISSOULA--

A variety of productions has been planned for theater-goers at the University of Montana in Missoula.

The UM Department of Drama/Dance, in announcing its 1976-77 season, said presentations will include two full-scale productions in the University Theater and four major productions in the Masquer Theater, as well as winter and spring dance concerts by the Montana Dance Company.

Opening the Montana Masquers' 72nd season is Jack Kirkland's "Tobacco Road," dramatized from the novel by Erskine Caldwell. Presented in the Masquer Theater for 10 performances, Nov. 3-13, it is the sometimes brutal, sometimes hilarious story of deep South dirt farmers--what happens when people desert the soil and as a result the soil deserts the people. It is directed by Kenneth Ott, graduate student from Yonkers, N.Y., in partial fulfillment of requirements for his master of fine arts degree.

To be presented in the Masquer Theater Feb. 9-18 is John Guare's "The House of Blue Leaves." It is a tragi-comedy dealing with an unfulfilled novelist, and an odd menage of relatives and friends who complicate his life on that day in New York when the Pope made his first visit to the U.S. It is directed by assistant professor David M. Cohen, playwright-in-residence and new faculty member.

The Masquer Theater's next production will be highly unusual: "The Autobiography of Benvenuto Cellini." It is a collective theater piece based on a concept by David Dannenbaum, the play's director. The play will be created by its cast and scripted by David M. Cohen. It deals with the adventures of the famous 16th century Italian poet, artisan, rakehell and mystic. It will be produced by a method developed by Jerzy Grotowski, noted director and author of "Towards a Poor Theater." The play will be presented March 2-12.

The fourth and final Masquer Theater production is Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey into Night," directed by assistant professor Nadia Mosher. The play, considered by many critics and scholars to be O'Neill's greatest work, is a frankly autobiographical account of the artist's youth in a multi-talented and constantly suffering family. The O'Neill play will be seen April 19-30.

The first production in the University Theater will be William Shakespeare's drama of political ambition, intrigue and assassination, "The Tragedy of Macbeth," directed by associate professor Rolland Meinholtz. The play is notable in that the action of the plot moves relentlessly in sequence toward its climax with a complete lack of subplots--an unusual feature in Shakespearean drama. It will be presented Nov. 30 through Dec. 5.

Johann Strauss' highly romantic and melodic operetta, "Die Fledermaus (The Bat)," is the University Theater's second major production. It will be produced in cooperation with the Department of Music, and sung in English. Meinholtz is stage director, and Esther England, assistant professor of music, is the musical director. The play will be seen May 26-28.

The student dance organization, Montana Dance Company, will present two concerts of dance works choreographed by students, Feb. 17-19 and May 5-8, in the University Theater. Faculty recitals in improvisational dance will be presented Feb. 25-26 by Juliette Crump, assistant professor and head of the Dance Division, and by Nancy Jean Brooks, assistant professor of dance, at a date to be announced later. These recitals will be in the Gallery of Visual Arts in Turner Hall on the UM campus.

In addition to major productions, the department will present student-directed plays in the Drama Workshops, Dec. 8-11, Feb. 10-11, Mar. 10-11 and May 11-14. A special program of student-directed original one-act plays will be shown June 1-4.

Ticket prices for all major University Theater and Masquer Theater productions and dance concerts have been established at \$2.50 for the general public and \$1.50 for students with current valid identification. Season tickets for the eight major drama and dance productions are also available at discounts of up to 20 percent. For further information or to order season tickets, contact David Dannenbaum, managing director, at 243-5892.