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## Theater traditions no match for new play at University of Montana

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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# NEWS

## INFORMATION SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

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IMMEDIATELY

THEATER TRADITIONS  
NO MATCH FOR NEW PLAY  
AT UM OF MONTANA

sale/debourg/bw  
12/3/68  
local

MISSOULA--

An all-out attack on theater traditions will be launched by the University of Montana Department of Drama and the Montana Masquers this week with the presentation of the drama-masquers' second production of the season, "The Good Woman of Setzuan."

The play will be Thursday through Sunday (Dec. 5-8) beginning at 8:15 p.m. in the University Theater.

Alan Cook, an assistant professor of drama on the Missoula campus, is "Setzuan" director. Bertolt Brecht, The stage production was written by/a controversial German playwright. Linda Atkinson, Bill Shryock, George Cowan and Suzanne Cook play the lead roles.

Supporting roles in the large-cast show will be played by Joel Douglas, Carl Darchuk, Fred Booth, Dale Haines, Tod Briggs, Tom McLennon, Richard Russell, Bill Gillespie, Mark McKeon, Terri Doremus, Billie Marhenke, Barbara Wiltzen, Claudia Haigler, Kimberly Head, Pat Murphy, Toni Symons, Martyna Richard, Charley Martin, Ted Kramer and Peggy Dodson.

Labeled as a "parable" by Brecht, the play opens itself up for all the famous Brechtian devices of theater which have come to be the mainstay of contemporary experimental theater.

Director Cook notes that Brecht "has dominated the new movements in theater, his influence found everywhere, his dissonance has become the hallmark of the 1960's in theater, poetry and art. We intend to take advantage of it."

The play will combine the diverse ingredients of Chinese theater traditions, live music, bamboo, Oriental gods (one a buffoon, one a stutterer, one a fag), Vietnam, farce, tragedy, Oriental rain, Chinese firecrackers, Chinese firewheels, Saigonized prostitutes, masks, pratfalls, etc.

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The set is designed by Austin Gray, senior drama major. It features revolving bamboo towers, soft drink posters, a Wright brothers' dragon airplane that really flies, and a montage of Oriental-Occidental malfeasants that spill over the edge of the stage and into the audience.

Production costumes are by Abigail Arnt, costuming instructor, and they include grand and ragamuffin oriental creations worn with sneakers and combat boots.

The UM Theater Box Office opens at noon beginning today (Dec. 1) through next Sunday (Dec. 8). Reservations may be obtained by phoning 243-4581. Season tickets are available.

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