

heater Series

Only once before have we offered our most popular theater programs in one season: the classical skill and technical mastery of Actors from the London Stage, the amazing versatility of The Acting Company and the first-rate productions of The Guthrie Theater.

The Acting Company — the Kennedy Center's touring company, founded and guided by the venerable John Houseman — uncovers some truly American literary gems in *Five By Tenn*, a collection of Tennessee Williams' rarely staged one-act plays. Imbued with Williams' Southern sensibilities, *Five By Tenn* reveals a

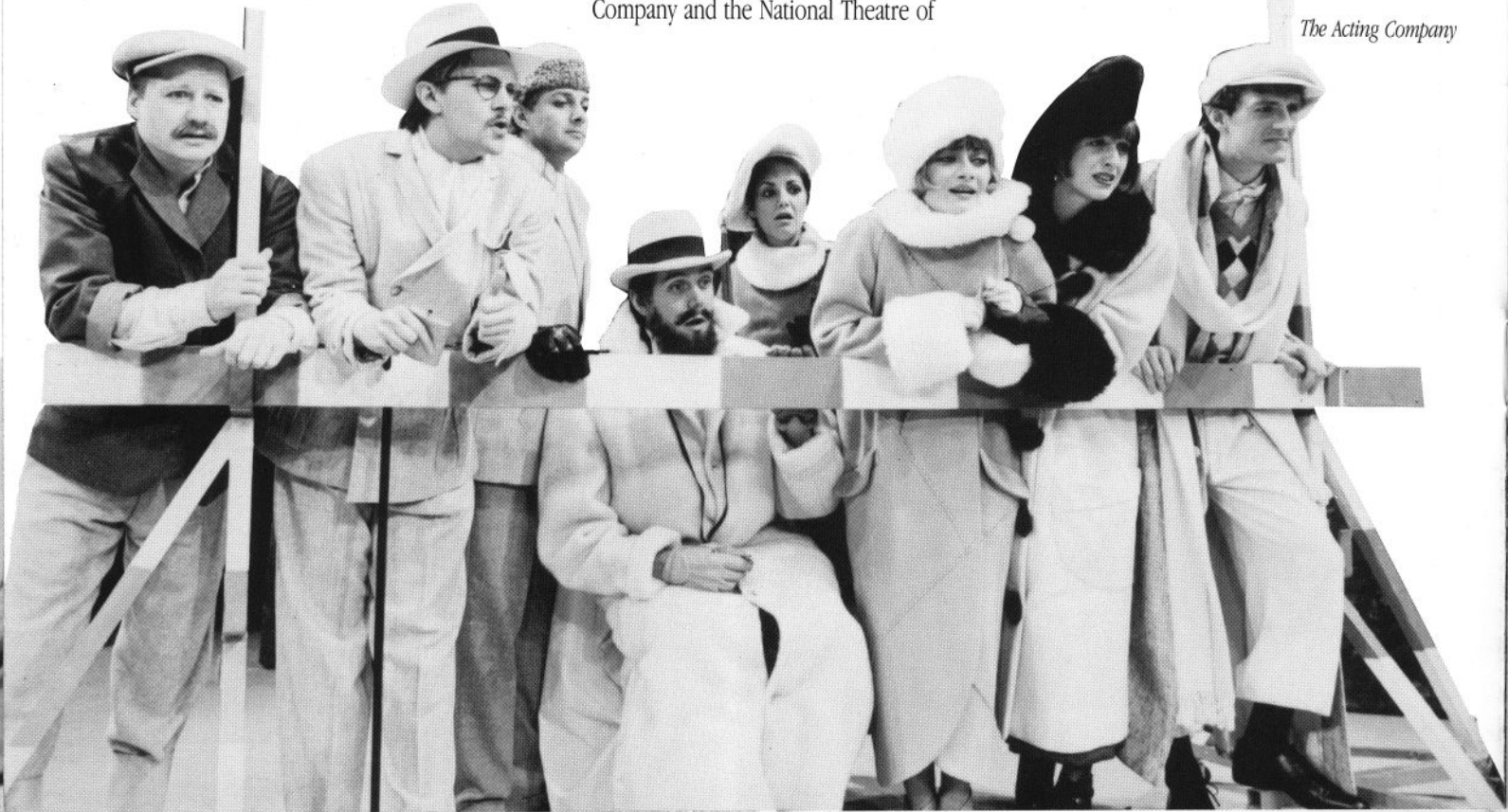
playwright beginning to explore his thematic obsessions.

The Acting Company takes a new look at Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, filtered through the Japanese aesthetics of Kabuki theater. Director-designer Shozo Sato uses visual and conceptual Kabuki devices — costumes, choreography, make-up, swordplay — to enhance the sense of balance and accent the dramatic impact of the story. *Kabuki Macbeth* transforms Shakespeare in the manner of Kurosawa's *Ran*, a film adaptation of *King Lear* that strips away cultural context to reveal universal themes and ideas.

Over the years we've hosted ensembles of actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre of

Great Britain, probably the two greatest English-speaking companies in the world. Four years ago Actors from the London Stage began experimenting with special full-length, five-actor versions of Shakespeare plays. As we saw in *Twelfth Night* and *Measure for Measure*, these actors travel equipped with all the dramatic tools needed to deliver the full impact of Shakespeare's remarkable texts. (The title of this year's Shakespeare play will be announced in December 1987.)

The Acting Company



The Guthrie Theater has in just two years of West Coast touring become a Santa Barbara favorite. With Dickens' *Great Expectations* and Shaw's *Candida*, the Guthrie has already displayed a wide and wonderful repertoire and a talent roster to meet the rep's demands. Now they return to UCSB with an arresting version of Mary Shelley's sensitive and haunting gothic tale *Frankenstein*, skillfully adapted for the stage by Barbara Field (who also adapted *Great Expectations*).

Continuing to bring back the best, A&L presents the Back Alley Theatre in a return engagement of *Are You Now or Have You Ever Been*, first performed here a decade ago, as a startling shot of realism in a series filled with stylized drama. *Are You Now ...* is playwright-critic Eric Bentley's well-crafted play about McCarthyism, with dialogue transcribed directly from the House Un-American Activities Committee sessions. With characters such as Paul Robeson, Elia Kazan, Jerome Robbins and Abe Burrows, Bentley has fashioned "far

more frightening a vision, for its being and having been fact, than any 1984 Orwellian fantasies" (*Los Angeles Reader*).

Theater Series: \$42/\$35/\$27
UCSB Students: \$35/\$27/\$20

Back Alley Theatre
 in *Are You Now or Have You Ever Been*

Saturday, October 17

"Are You Now ... should be performed once every 10 years — as a reminder." *Los Angeles Times*

The Acting Company
 in *Kabuki Macbeth*

Saturday, January 16

in *Five By Tenn*

Sunday, January 17

On *Five By Tenn*: "Taken together, they show a writer who was searching for a dramatic language but who always knew his themes."

New York Times

Actors from the London Stage
 in a Shakespeare play

Saturday, March 5 / 2 and 8 PM

"...in the best tradition of the Royal Shakespeare Company, with the arc of every speech as clear as an arrow." *Los Angeles Times*

The Guthrie Theater
 in *Frankenstein*

Saturday, April 30 / 8 PM

Sunday, May 1 / 2 PM and 8 PM

"Excitement, originality, inventiveness — where do you find them in the theater these days?... at the Guthrie Theater." *Newsweek*

Back Alley Theatre

