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## University Theatre Newsletter- December 2, 1992

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# NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY THEATRE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME TWO NUMBER THREE

DECEMBER 2, 1992

## SPIDER'S WEB REPLACES "NOONTIME AT NIGHT"

The University Theatre will present Agatha Christie's "Spider's Web", Dec. 9, 10, 11 and 12 at 7:30 P.M. in the Stage Center. The production will replace the previously announced "Noontime at Night" a collection of short plays.

"Spider's Web" is typical Agatha Christie. The audience can expect crime with a cackle, thrills and comedy with shocks, and laughs proportionally. The characters include the usual batch of eccentrics, all who are suspected of a murder which occurs in an English country house with a hidden passageway between the library and the drawing-room: a convenient place to hide a body.

The plot is complicated in that Clarissa (played by Betty Boduch), second wife of Henry (Raymond Wohl), is no novice in the art of deception. To enliven their lives in the country she is in the habit of inventing adventures for Pippa (Brianna Sloane), her stepdaughter, and their friends, including Hugo Birch (Mitchell Aronov), Sir Rowland (Allen Davis), and Jeremy Warrender (J. Carlos Panizo). When a murder takes place in her own home, Clarissa finds real live drama much more challenging, especially as the victim happens to be the man who broke up her husband's first marriage, and she suspects Pippa of being the murderer. The production under the direction of alumna Anita Chiarenza, should be a light and entertaining evening for all.

The Stage Center is located at Bryn Mawr and Central Park on the Campus of Northeastern Illinois University. Tickets are free for all N.E.I.U. students, staff and faculty; \$4.00 for general admission; and \$3.00 for seniors, students (other than N.E.I.U.) and alumni. Telephone (312) 794-6652.

## INSIDE ON AGATHA CHRISTIE

Agatha Christie, detective novelist, was born on Sept. 15, 1890 in Torquay, Devon. She was the daughter of wealthy parents: Frederick and Clarissa Miller, and grew up during World War Two. One of her first works, *The Mysterious Affairs of Styles* (1920),

was considered one of her best novels. It has been said that her early form of writing may have been a form of escapism from her unsuccessful marriage to Colonel Archibald Christie whom she divorced in 1928. In 1930, she married archeologist Max Mallowan and from then on, published one book or more each year.

Ms. Christie in her lifetime, has written 130-140 short stories, about 70 novels, several radio and stage plays, a travel book, several volumes of poetry AND an autobiography. The film, "Murder on the Orient Express," was based on her novel, "Murder on the Calais Coach." Her books are also translated in over a hundred languages and have sold hundreds of millions of copies. A common British publishing tradition was "A Christie for Christmas".

Several of her best works include: *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* (1926), *Death on the Nile* (1937), and *They came to Bagdad* (1951). She is by far, the most famous British female writer of her century.

Agatha died in January, 1978, in Wallingford, Oxfordshire. She is also known for writing under the names of Mary Westacott and Agatha Christie Mallowan.

## WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR, ANITA CHIARENZA

The director of *SPIDER'S WEB*, Anita M. Chiarenza is a native of Columbia, MD. As an alumni of U.N.I. she returns to the Stage Center for the 2nd time this year (you may remember her from *YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU*). In the past four years she has directed 4 plays, acted in several, and teched what seems like hundreds more; all in the love of theatre. She hopes someday to be paid.

## AUDITIONS!

For Alumni Productions, scheduled to show February 17 - 20.

They will be held at the Stage Center on December 4, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm and December 8, from 1:30 to 4:00 pm.