

Surface and Symbol

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Photos by Tonya Houg

Welcome to Toad Hall

Mr. Toad cavorts with other friendly creatures to delight children of all ages

A delightful tale of the animal kingdom begins a five-performance run December 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Robinson Theatre on campus. *Toad of Toad Hall* by A.A. Milne is the popular adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's lovable children's book *Wind in the Willows*.

Under the direction of Mimi Mace, U.T. Costume Designer, the play provides a glimpse into the world of the great Mr. Toad. His adventures and misadventures are complemented by his friends Rat, Mole and Badger and complicated by his adversaries the stoats and weasels.

A capable cast bring the many animal characters to life. A University senior, Dennis Dolan, most recently seen in U.T.'s *World of Carl Sandburg*, plays the proud and popular Toad. The wise Rat is portrayed by Richard Stretz. A graduate student at the University, Richard received his B.A. in theatre from Stephens College in Boonville, Missouri. This is his first performance in Eugene.

Rick Hansen, a graduate student from Seattle, plays the lovable and near-sighted Mole. Rick appeared in Carnival Theatre's production *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*. The sometimes grouchy Mr. Badger is played by a sophomore, Rick Harris. Rick played Young Marlow in last spring's *She Stoops to Conquer*.

With special make-up and costumes designed by Jerry Williams, UT Scenic designer, the 31 member cast are transformed into animals. Two of the performers, Nancy Julian as Marigold and Karen Springer as the Nurse appear in a brief induction as human characters. Later, they reappear as animal characters in the hilarious courtroom scene as a duck and a turkey, requiring a quick make-up and costume change. Other animals are a talking horse, a sneaky fox, a skunk, mice, a family of rabbits and many more.

The play's climax takes place in the wonderful Toad Hall with all the animals gathered for a Christmas party. The scene is complete with tree and carol singing.

Toad of Toad Hall is a Christmas treat to be enjoyed by the entire family. Tickets at \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children and University students are now on sale at the University Theatre box office. Reservations can be made by calling 686-4191.

Performances for the public are scheduled December 3, 4, 10, 11 with curtain each evening at 7 p.m. A 2:30 p.m. matinee will be performed on Saturday, Dec. 4. In addition to these performances, several special matinees have been scheduled for area elementary students.

