

Jesse and the Bandit Queen

From thieves to heroes . . .



. . . come the West's myths

University Theatre begins winter term with "an adult western fantasy." Entitled *Jesse and the Bandit Queen*, the play is based on both the factual existence of two Western thieves and the heroic myths that have been built up around them. The play consists of two roles — that of the outlaw Jesse James and Belle Starr (who also doubled as a prostitute), another, although not as well known, Western outlaw. Tony Rust and Randi Ravitts portray the legendary figures through "American Wild West" mythology and into a personal treatment of their private lives and relationship.

Randi Ravitts, as Belle Starr, and Tony Rust, as Jesse James, interact in University Theatre's "Jesse and the Bandit Queen." The play, which can best be described as "an adult western fantasy," opens next Wednesday and runs through the end of the month.

Photos by Gregg Weed

Jesse and the Bandit Queen is the latest produced effort of David Freeman. His previous work includes *Creeps* and *Battering Ram*. A Canadian playwright, he has been awarded grants from both the Ontario and the Canada Councils for the Arts. His credentials also include (incidentally or not) a B.A. in political science.

The technical staff working on this play ranges in local experience and prestige from Barbara Dilaconi, who is current lighting designer for Eugene Opera; Marcia Dahlquist, who does costumes for many local groups and has done work for OEPBS; to director Betty Bernhard, whose more ambitious projects include Leonard

Bernstein's *MASS* (UT 1975) and to the scenic designer Stencil Campbell, whose work is new at the University, but has extensive experience with other collegiate productions.

Jesse and the Bandit Queen will be shown at the Arena Theatre, opening Wednesday at 8 p.m. This production will run through Jan. 21 and Jan. 25 through 28. General admission is \$2.50, and the tickets can be purchased from the University Theatre box office, on the west side of Villard Hall. For reservations call the box office at 686-4191 during the hours of noon to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or noon to 9 p.m. on production nights.

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