

USI THEATRE TO PRESENT
*TWO ROOMS, THE BALLAD
OF THE SAD CAFE*



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The timely *Two Rooms* by Lee Blessing, the story of a young woman's efforts to gain her husband's release as a terrorist hostage, and Edward Albee's *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe*, a study of love and violence in a small southern town, will be USI Theatre's fall productions.

Steven Williford, who recently became director of theatre for the University of Southern Indiana, will direct *Two Rooms*, which will be presented October 9-14. Williford also is artistic director for New Harmony Theatre and directed last season's *Driving Miss Daisy* and *Painting Churches*.

Blessing's play follows Lainie's struggle to obtain her husband's release from Shiite terrorists in Beirut. He has brought the enormity of an international crisis down to focus on the young married couple, revealing the gripping realities that surround this act of violence. Caught in a web of political power maneuvers, Lainie fights her own fear, the government, and apathetic public opinion in her effort to help her husband.

Two Rooms was written by the same author whose recent Broadway success with *A Walk in the Woods* brought him international critical acclaim. Blessing's poetic language and startling imagery combine to create a powerful theatre experience.

Sad Cafe, to be presented November 27-December 1, will be directed by W. L. "Rusty" Mundell, a USI theatre instructor who has directed *Young Abe Lincoln* the past two summers. The play, adapted by Albee from the novella by Carson McCullers, is an almost legendary tale of the Junoesque proprietor of the cafe, her jailbird husband, and her distant cousin, a hunchbacked dwarf. *The New York Daily News* called the play "absorbing, touching, exciting, and absolutely enthralling - a notable addition to the literature of our contemporary plays."

The plays will be presented at 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the USI Theatre, 3001 Igleheart Avenue. The next presentation, *Antigone* by Jean Anouilh, will be presented February 26-March 2. In addition, USI Theatre plans to offer an informal presentation next spring of scripts that are developed in a playwright class and will feature student playwrights, directors, designers, and actors.

- 30 -