

DULUTH--The investigation of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus Christ in Warner LeRoy's "Between Two Thieves", staged for UMD's Studio Theatre Thursday and Friday (Mar 1-2), does not pursue a parallel in costuming.

Everyone in the cast wears contemporary clothing in keeping with LeRoy's present-day adaptation of Diego Fabbri's "Processeo A Gesu".

Both Studio performances (Old Main, Rm 200) begin at 8:30 p.m. A special dress rehearsal for organizations affiliated with the UMD Religious Council will be held Wednesday (Feb. 28).

LeRoy heard of Fabbri's play after working for nearly two years on a play about the life of Jesus. LeRoy became fascinated with reports on it and he bought the American rights before reading a script.

Although LeRoy changed the play's emphasis considerably in rewriting, he did it only for his own satisfaction. He felt it was so pro-Catholic that it would be found objectionable by U.S. Protestant and Jewish audiences.

"Thieves" opened off-Broadway on February 11, 1960 in the York Playhouse. The critics treated it cordially and the play enjoyed a successful run through mid-June of that year.

The play opens with a former law professor explaining that he and his family are a troupe of strolling Jewish players, who have come to stage a mock trial to determine whether Jesus was innocent or guilty "according to the law" in Jerusalem at that time.

The players are trying to determine who was to blame for Jesus' death and why the Jews have been persecuted for 2,000 years in His name.