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DULUTH -- A contemporary recounting of the Old Testament story of The Flood has been chosen by the UMD Theater as its final production of the 1966-67 season.

The play, "Noah" by French dramatist Andre Obey, will be staged at 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday (May 25, 26 and 27) in Old Main Theater (23rd Ave. East & 5th St.) under the direction of Robert Rence, assistant professor of speech.

"Noah" is presented as a timeless fable and contains modern as well as ancient images and allusions and is a blend of comedy and drama," explained Rence.

"It is not biblical in nature and includes many modern references. At one point the actors appear in mod clothes and later dance such present-day steps as the 'Monkey' and the 'Watusi,' " said Rence.

"When Noah tells his family about the trip, he tries to break it as easily as he can, explaining 'that the sea air will be beneficial for everybody.' This sort of sets the tone for the play."

Anthony Auer, Silver Bay, has been cast as Noah with Patricia Town, Duluth, as his wife. Harry Johnson, Bovey, portrays Shem; Gregory Ham, Aitkin, is Ham; Joel Stottrup, Askov, is Japhet; Charlotte Bell, Excelsior, is Norma; Patricia Elder, Duluth, is Sella; Regina Seipka, Duluth, is Ada and William Quinn, St. Paul, is the Man.

Naturally, the cast includes animals. They include James Adams, Sandstone (Bear); Sharon Swanson, Blackduck (Lion); Mary Ann Kolar, Brainerd (Monkey); Peter Peterson, Duluth (Elephant); Mabel Persch, Duluth (Cow); Richard Carlson, Duluth (Tiger); Ann Marie Fallenious, Goteborg, Sweden (Crocodile); Linda Aus, Duluth (Giraffe).

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Rence's class in stage costuming and makeup are busy constructing animal heads for the production. The costume crew includes Synneva Beito, Virginia; Tim Ashmore, Wrenshall; Dan Drobnick, Marilyn Glazman, Julie Anderson, Dave Kunelius, Charles McClintic, Kay Sutton, all of Duluth; and Auer.

The UMD Theater's spring production is open to the public.