

## U Theater Presents Lavish 'Marco Millions'

By JOHN H. HARVEY

One of the most lavish and visually beautiful productions the University theater has presented opened Monday night in Scott Hall auditorium on the campus.

The play, Eugene O'Neill's "Marco Millions," was not intended as a memorial to the noted American dramatist since it was planned before his death.

It is not the best of all possible memorials to him either, since it is not one of his best plays, for it lacks clear and compelling dramatic focus, is over-written and is considerably longer than it need be.

But fortunately O'Neill provided ample opportunity for beautiful pageantry in scenes of Persia, India and the court of Kublai Khan and the University theater staff has made the most of it.

First of all there is the stunning, costuming by Robert Moulton. There also are Wendell Josal's sets—which evoke the atmosphere richly with imaginative simplicity; highly effective lighting by Tad Ware and some ingenious, neatly pointed music

by Lothar Klein interspersed with recordings of authentic Oriental music (though not always belonging to the specific locales).

Central figure of the play is Marco Polo, the noted Venetian merchant-traveler (1254?-1324). As presented here he is the epitome of Western materialism—the business go-getter, shrewd, aggressive, devoid of sensibility, a man who has converted Christianity into a cant glorifying his own aims and methods.

He begins his journey with

his uncles as a brash, naive and rather likeable stripling. But he learns quickly and soon makes his presence felt in the placid philosophical East. He is so absorbed in his own crass concerns he never notices the deep love borne him by the Great Khan's daughter, the only one who believes he has a soul.

The cast is able and the direction by Kenneth L. Graham, as close knit as possible under the circumstances. Standouts are Wayne Hartley as the grown-up Marco, Richard Halverson as

Kublai Khan and Kit Onsgard as the princess. Other fine jobs are done by Tad Ware as the old scholar Chu-Yin, Rex Gerlach and Robert Matzke as the Polo uncles, Audley M. Grossman Jr. and Robert Ohman as their Oriental competition, Lor-

raine Steiner as an Eastern siren and William Wendt as the young Marco.

"Marco Millions" will be presented nightly through Saturday and there will be a concluding performance at 4 p. m. Sunday.

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