

CENTER  
THEATRE GROUP  
MARK TAPER  
FORUM

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DAVIDSON SETS 'SAVAGES'  
FOR AMERICAN PREMIERE  
DURING TAPER'S NEW SEASON

"Savages", the controversial London hit play by the celebrated young author Christopher Hampton, will have its American premiere on the stage of the Mark Taper Forum as a fourth major event set by Taper Artistic Director Gordon Davidson for the 1974-75 Center Theatre Group subscription season at the Music Center. Specific production dates and the director are yet to be disclosed.

The latest work by a writer who was first introduced to American audiences with the 1971 Broadway production of his play "The Philanthropist" can be described as a non-polemical yet a highly political play which "attains a Shavian level of lucidity and daring." With cumulative power, Hampton tells a tragic tale of a political kidnapping of a British diplomat in South America. The kidnapping sets up the rarely-told contemporary story of that Latin American nation torn by a complex triangle of widely disparate cultures...primitive Indian natives of a remote and highly undeveloped jungle world, volatile guerilla terrorists, and the commercial and colonial interests of a powerful industrial Empire. As one critic pointed out, it is about both the Amazonian Indians and the British, who are "threatened with extinction by an advancing industrial civilization with which they seem unable to cope."

The causes of calculating revolutionary guerillas and primitive Brazilian Indian tribes are fought out over the chessboard in a game of incisive international intrigue. While pleading a cause, the play is well

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balanced with its insights into the tragic ineffectiveness of political remedies. The play moves swiftly from the modern diplomatic drawing room to the political prison to the ritualistic Indian jungleland of a vanishing race.

Previously announced for the 1974-75 Taper Season are Shakespeare's "Hamlet" with Stacy Keach in the title role (March 14 thru April 28), the World premiere of Derek Walcott's "The Charlatan", and the American premiere of John Hirsch's new adaptation of S. Ansky's "The Dybbuk." The announcement of an important and exciting fifth major season event is pending final negotiations.

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