

Speaight Praises Versatility Of Theater's 'Thrust' Stage

Distinguished Lecturer Robert Speaight praised the stage used by the Baylor Theater at a Tuesday afternoon lecture to drama students in the Weston Studio of the theater.

Speaight said the Baylor "thrust stage" is so versatile that there are very few plays that cannot be performed here.

"This modified Elizabethan stage permits the easy, musical speaking so effective in such an intimate theater," he said.

He said the closeness of the stage to the audience has a psychological effect that requires less movement and careful voice inflection.

"Another great advantage," he said, "is that voices travel further and faster, which makes the stage particularly good for students."

Speaight described the London schools of drama for intensive classical training and said the English system has been "mercifully de-centralized."

Speaight worked with T. S. Eliot in the production of "Murder in the Cathedral" in which Speaight originated the part of Becket.

"Eliot was very quiet and sel-

dom spoke to anyone on the set," he said "Eliot seemed to know he was an amateur on the stage and placed himself in the hands of the director."

Speaight said the director helped Eliot with suggestions to improve the construction of the play for the stage.



ROBERT SPEAIGHT
Distinguished Actor Lectures