

'Strange Snow' portrays Vietnam veteran's struggle to go on living

"Strange Snow," the second offering of the University Theatre's "Second Season," centers on the Vietnam War, but has universal meanings that apply to any era

Written by Steve Metcalfe, "Strange Snow" is the story of Megs, a middle-aged Vietnam War veteran, and David, his combat buddy who has never gotten over the horrors of the war. A romance develops between the exuberant Megs and David's sister, a spinster school teacher. Together they convince David to leave the war in the past and get on with living the kind of happy life they have found for themselves.

" 'Strange Snow' is a reckoning for the years gone by and a commitment to the years to come." says direc-tor Gray Eubank, a University graduate student. "These are people who are filled with anger, yet they have no one to turn it on," he says.

Cast as Megs is Kevin Warr, a junior theater arts nor from McMinnville. Martha is played by Ellen Jaffe, a student in interdisciplinary studies. Phil

Shapiro plays David and is also in interdisciplinary studies.

The scene designer is William Hewgley, a bachelor's degree candidate in theater arts; lighting design is by David Cautley of Eugene; and costume designs are by Dean Bourland, a graduate student in interdisciplinary studies.

Audiences are advised that "Strange Snow" contains language that may be objectionable to some people.

The opening performance is Thursday, Feb. 20, at the Arena Theatre in Villard Hall: Tickets can be ordered by calling the University Theatre's box office at 686-4191 from noon to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. All tickets are for general admission seating and are \$2.50 each.

Additional performance dates are Feb. 21-22 and 27-28, and March 1 and 6-8. Curtain time for all performances is 8 p.m.



Martha, played by Ellen Jaffe, tries to counsel her brother David, played by Phil Shapiro, who suffers from the effects of the Vietnam War.

McDonald discusses Doobie Brothers and solo career

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael McDonald doesn't think of himself as working in the fast lane.

"I look at myself as a turtle compared to a lot of hares around me." said the former lead vocalist, keyboardist and songwriter of the now defunct Doobie Brothers.

"If I've learned anything, it's to go ahead and take the pace that's best for me. I don't try to match other artists lick for lick."

McDonald and Kenny Loggins wrote the 1979 Grammy song of the year, "What a Fool Believes" and Loggins' hit "This Is It." With Carly Simon, he co-wrote her hit, "You Belong to Me." His

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first solo album, "If That's What It. Takes." came out in 1982, and his se-cond, "No Lookin" Back," was out in 1985. He's now working on a third.

Still, his solo career is almost reluctant. "With the Doobies, I knew I held one

niche and I was very comfortable," he said. "If the band were still going, that's exactly where I'd be now.

For the Doobie Brothers, which folded in 1982. McDonald wrote a legion of hits, including "Takin' it to the Streets." "Minute by Minute" and "Real Love." Why did the Doobie Brothers disband?

Said McDonald: "Nothing spectacular. We kind of accepted Patrick Simmons (guitarist-vocalist) as leader. Everybody got to chime in and feel a little bit of themselves in the end product. Then the last two albums were like things assembled around us. Patrick quit. It took us awhile to come to terms with the. idea that it was really over."

McDonald quit next. "I was caught. between knowing the other guys wanted to keep going and knowing this was my chance to finally take the initiative on my own solo career."

McDonald's first LP came out in 1982 just as the Doobie Brothers' farewell tour began, and he toured solo in 1983. Then I pretty much put performing

on the back burner." he said. He produc-

ed a record for Delta, for his sister, and one for his wife, Amy Holland. Producing made McDonald put a studio behind his house.

"More than anything, the studio helped me break out of some hing I was burning out in - writing pop music." he said.

"I had been writing pretty much the same way for 20 years ... Not until I rehearsed with the band or came into a studio did I start to arrange the music. Having the studio broke that bubble for me of going back and making an album the same way one more time and being frustrated by not knowing how to do it any other way."

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