

The A.S.A. Invites You To An


# African Night Dance Party



Riley Hall (East 11<sup>th</sup> Ave/Patterson St)  
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## Story

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"Wow, I have a story."  
He said the stories created help people break through the stereotypes about their backgrounds.  
"We see very little that's true about our experiences," he said.  
At one workshop, after the warm-ups, APASU member Sophanna Kuch was ready to rehearse his piece in front of the group.

*"I've started to trust a lot more. And a lot of my attitudes have changed. I'm more positive and I realize bad experiences can be good."*

**Sophanna Kuch**  
APASU member,  
workshop participant

Kuch didn't just read his lines standing still — he filled up the whole space he had, using his entire body to convey his experiences with racism, family and the role wrestling has played in his life. After he'd performed, Luu pointed out the layers in Kuch's piece.

Kuch said that Luu helped each student learn something new about themselves.

"I've started to trust a lot more," Kuch said. "And a lot of my attitudes have changed. I'm more positive and I realize bad experiences can be good." Luu helped APASU and VSA member Hai Do find the common



Thomas Patterson Emerald

'My Own Story' workshop member Jason K. Cummings rehearses his monologue, in which he recounts an abusive father and the effects it had on his family.

thread that "unifies" his piece — his aspiration to become a model.

His piece ties that aspiration with the stereotype of the "un-sexual Asian male," Do said. In movies, the black male and the white male always get the girl, he said.

Kuch and Do added that the workshops brought participants

closer together.

"We've all gotten to know each other on a deeper level in a short amount of time," Do said. "It would have taken years to know everything I've learned about them in the past five weeks."

E-mail reporter Diane Huber  
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