

Play: Pro- and anti-war views represented

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"The interesting thing about this play is that it's more true-to-life than what you normally see about Vietnam," said Hash. "I mean, you take things like 'Platoon,' 'Apocalypse Now' or anything else that's traditionally considered a Vietnam War story, and you see all of the craziness and all of the drugged-out people — all the people who had just exited civilization entirely. And then you take the flip side, stories like 'We Were Soldiers,' which is kind of the more militaristic — 'We were doing a good thing and these were good guys that died.' But ('A Piece of My Heart') is more somewhere in the middle. You see the craziness that's starting to erupt after they finally see what's going on, and also the naïveté and the innocence before going into it."

Finding the balance between pro-war and anti-war was also important to director Allaback. She didn't want to show one side or the other, especially during a time when the United States is in the midst of another war. "One thing about this play, why I

chose it as opposed to other plays, is that it's not blatantly anti-war. It definitely shows, 'Look, look what war can do,' but it's not blatantly anti-war," Allaback said. "I don't want people to be turned off by a strong anti-war message, but rather be like, 'Yeah, right, this is too bad. I feel bad about what these people had to go through.' Also, the people that go and fight these wars are our friends, brothers, sisters, uncles, cousins. We should show them our support."

One of the most important things Allaback hopes the audience takes from this performance is a reminder that although the Vietnam War is over, the Iraq War is still causing great pains to those fighting and their families. Although the war isn't being fought on U.S. soil, Allaback feels that it is important to remember that the United States' troops still must deal with horrific images and situations every day.

"I would like people to be reminded that, yes, we are at war. Because the war isn't here in this country, we go to class and talk about stuff that is actu-

ally really trivial in the big scheme of things," Allaback said. "We go down the street and have a sandwich and a beer and smoke a cigarette and (the Iraq war) is not always there with us. So this is a way to say, 'Remember, this is happening. Look at what we're doing, look at what we've done in the past and look at what we're doing now.' Just remember."

"A Piece of My Heart" is now showing in the Arena Theatre, located in 104 Villard. Performances are tonight through Saturday and Nov. 3 through 5. All shows begin at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the UO Ticket Office, located on the main floor of the EMU. Prices are \$6 for the general public, \$5 for seniors, University faculty and staff as well as non-University students, and \$4 for University students. For all Thursday night performances, University students get two tickets for the price of one. Non-University students will also get a special discount and can purchase single tickets for \$4 for any Thursday night performance.

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