

'A Piece of My Heart' opens new season

The Vietnam War-era play explores the experiences of six women during the war, both on the battlefield and in the homeland

BY AMY LICHTY
PULSE EDITOR

When doctoral student Christina Allaback decided to propose a play to direct for the University Theatre's Second Season, which began last night, she knew she wanted to cover the horrifying effects of war without turning off any potential pro-war audience members. It was a difficult task to find such a play, but she found exactly what she was looking for in "A Piece of My Heart," a haunting tale of six women during the throes of the Vietnam War.

"For some reason, high school teachers or American society at large doesn't want to acknowledge this huge failure (of the Vietnam War), so that got me thinking," Allaback said. "When it came time to propose a play, I thought I'd really like to do something exploring war because we are at war. We should be doing art that expresses what we feel about war, how war affects us ... not only as individuals, but as a society as well."

"A Piece of My Heart," written by award-winning playwright Shirley Lauro, explores the true-life tales of six women — from nurses to an entertainer to an intelligence officer — who struggle with the effects of war abroad as well as at home. They each must deal with their own personal demons, as well as those

created by the war. But what makes this play so different from other Vietnam War artistic expressions is that it is solely about the women's roles and experiences in the war — something that had been overlooked for many years.

"(Women) were ignored," Michelle Rodrigue, who plays "Martha," said. "I like that you get a different side of a singer, a military brat, an officer, a black woman, an Asian woman — just a huge variety of women. But I like how they represent that we're all kind of one woman and that no matter who we were, we were all ignored and treated like crap when we came back (from Vietnam)."

Anna Metzger-Seig, who plays singer "Mary Jo," has high hopes that the audience will take something meaningful out of their performance.

"I hope that (the audience) opens their minds a little bit more," Metzger-Seig said. "What's so interesting about this show is that you actually get to delve into these women's lives, really delve into them, and see what happens before and after the war."

Jay Hash, the sole male in the play, sees this piece as a more balanced story than most of the tales that have come out of the Vietnam era.

PLAY, page 11



HASANG CHEON | FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER

Morgan McFadden, left, and Anna Metzger-Seig rehearse as Sissy and Mary Jo at the Arena Theater on Oct. 13.

EVENTS MOVIES BOOKS MUSIC



Today
Kate Clinton at McDonald Theatre
8 p.m., \$25 at door

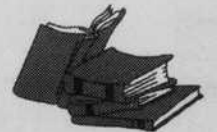
Friday
Amelia Luna
8 p.m., \$6

Saturday
Like...It's a Totally 80's Halloween Dance Party
John Henry's
10 p.m., \$3



TOP 5 MOVIES

- 1: "Doom" (\$15.4M)
- 2: "Dreamer" (\$11M)
- 3: "Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit" (\$8.7M)
- 4: "The Fog" (\$6.47M)
- 5: "North Country" (\$6.47M)



NYTIMES TOP 5 FICTION

- 1: Khaled Hosseini, "The Kite Runner"
- 2: Gregory Maguire, "Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West"
- 3: Mark Haddon, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time"
- 4: Phillip Roth, "The Plot Against America"
- 5: Carlos Ruiz Zafon, "The Shadow of the Wind"



ITUNES TOP 5

- 1: Kanye West (feat. Jamie Foxx), "Gold Digger"
- 2: Black Eyed Peas, "My Humps"
- 3: Madonna, "Hung Up" (Radio Edit)
- 4: Chris Brown (feat. Juelz Santana), "Run it!"
- 5: Nickleback, "Photograph"

In My Opinion



AMY LICHTY
POP ROCKS

It's easy to become famous on Halloween

Halloween is almost here. But if you're anything like me, you've waited until the last minute to put your costume together. Still have no idea how you're going to dress up? Well here are a few easy ways to look like your favorite celebrity on the scariest night of the year.

First things first. If you want to pull off any star's look, you need a few staple items. Of course, you must have a pair of ginormous sunglasses that take up way too much of your face. Make sure you keep these glasses on at all times; stars don't care if they're indoors or if it's nighttime. Hello, they're famous and normal rules about fashion don't apply. Having your cell phone attached to your ear is also a tell-tale sign that you're a famous celebrity. But if it's too tiring to hold your phone all the time, just text-message on your Sidekick as much as possible.

The easiest celebrity look to pull off is probably Mary-Kate "You-can-fit-me-in-your-pocket"

LICHTY, page 8

PULSEMUSIC PULSEMUSIC

Atmosphere, "You Can't Imagine How Much Fun We're Having": "I'm not really supposed to talk about this," Slug, the MC from Atmosphere, whispers at the beginning of the group's new album "You Can't Imagine How Much Fun We're Having." And with that statement, listeners are thrown once again into the innermost reaches of this indie rapper's thoughts on the fifth LP from the Minneapolis-based hip-hop duo.

Overall, the album is a strong release, though some have criticized its lack of novelty. Slug's lines are confessional as always, with more than one nod in the direction of his relationships with women. "Say Hey There" and "Pour Me Another" hit especially hard if you've ever loved someone so much you want to kill them, as seems to be the case with Slug and his girl Lucy. But novelty is not always a sign of quality and the rhymes are not bad by any stretch of the imagination.

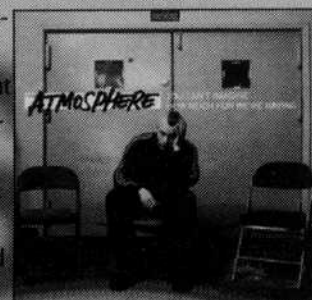
Some tracks, however, do breach new surfaces. "Get Fly," for instance, has a subliminally political bent, not to mention a catchy piano and blues riff at the end. And "Little Man," a track in which Slug sends candid messages to his son, his father and himself, is one of the more touching and memorable songs on the album.

Ant, Atmosphere's innovative DJ, lays down some catchy beats and works in some unexpected instrumental samples as well. A soulful electric guitar kicks Slug's verses right in the ass on "Smart Went Crazy" and a fiddle brings an eerie feel to the background of "Musical Chairs." Ant's vocal samples between songs also make tight transitions, which are almost unrecognizable at most points.

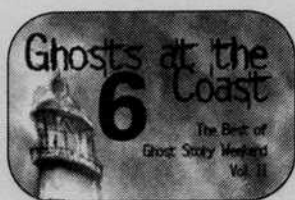
Some of the songs, unfortunately, fall prey to the so-indie-they're-esoteric problem that plagued many tracks on "Seven's Travels," the last Atmosphere release in 2003. The first few songs come off a little too hard, showcasing mosh-pit-style beats and rhymes.

Bottom line: Get ready for Slug and Ant's upcoming performance at the McDonald Theatre on Nov. 4. If this album is any indication, it's going to be an pretty amazing show.

—Kristen Gerhard



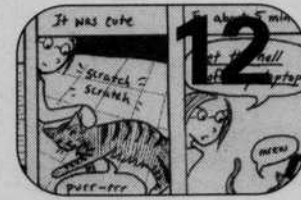
INSIDE PULSE



Ghost Stories



Halloween Calendar



Comics