

# 'A Piece of My Heart' unites theater, ROTC

University Theatre is producing a play that requires assistance from the University ROTC program

BY BRITTNI MCCLENAHAN  
NEWS REPORTER

Actors in the University Theatre's production of "A Piece of My Heart" had a lot more than lines to study.

The play, which is set during the Vietnam War, required attention to detail in military drills and practices.

Reserve Officers' Training Corps 2nd Lt. Evan Hessel helped the cast maintain accuracy, training the cast on military marching, salutes and postures, along with proper exercise techniques and other military matters.

"Of course we were up to trying anything," said director Christina Allaback. "But when he taught us how to do sit-ups and push-ups properly, it was hard, but they got it. Theater majors don't usually take too well to that sort of thing."

The play, written by Shirley Lauro, is the true story of six women — five nurses serving in the Army, Navy and Red Cross, and a country singer — who traveled to Vietnam. The play shows each of the women before, during and after their tours of duty.

Hessel said he was impressed with how the actors picked up on the military techniques he taught.

"I went to rehearsals a couple of times a week and took notes," Hessel said. "I was really picky but they

were really great right from the start. They were enthusiastic and respectful and immediately welcomed me as a friend and a part of the process."

Allaback, who has no military experience, said she was thankful for all of the ROTC's assistance.

"Doing this, part of me really loved this play," Allaback said. "The other part of me saw this huge challenge it would be for me to do a play centered around the military. I was a bit frightened and thought, 'What am I going to do? How am I going to do this?' It was important to have some authenticity."

In spite of her initial anxieties about doing a military-based play, Allaback said that after rehearsing and collaborating with ROTC, the theater department has developed a good partnership with ROTC.

University student and cast member Jay Hash said wearing a military uniform commanded respect.

"It wasn't all that rough," Hash said. "It wasn't like we had to go to boot camp. We just wanted to get the play to a point where we were doing everything as right and proper as possible because we want to be as sensitive and respectful to our audience as possible and careful not to offend anyone. When I put on the uniform, I try to embody all military men. I make sure that I'm in



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

HASANG CHEON | FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER

that mode."

Hash said he was proud of how much he and other cast members learned and how well they adopted the attitude that comes with wearing a uniform.

"We may not get everything perfect — we're actors," Hash said.

"But the ROTC training helped make sure that we're as true to the source material as possible."

Performances run on Oct. 28-29, and Nov. 3-5. All performances will start at 8 p.m. and take place in the Arena Theatre, 104 Villard. Tickets are \$6 for the general public.

They are \$5 for senior citizens, University faculty, staff and non-university students, and \$4 for University students.

Contact the people, culture, faith reporter at [bmcclehan@dailymerald.com](mailto:bmcclehan@dailymerald.com)

## McKenzie: Rubber roof slated for expensive reconstruction in 2007

Continued from page 1

Associate Dean of Sciences Dietrich Belitz, who oversees physical issues for the college, said that they were aware of the problem, but a permanent solution was difficult.

"The way it works is that if you have a problem with the building, you let facilities go and they come and they fix it," Belitz said. "Just like with any building project sometimes it works right away and sometimes it doesn't work right away ... and I guess this was in the latter category."

Greg Haider, a Facilities Services maintenance team supervisor, said Measure 5, passed in 1991, and other budgets cuts have required the University to prioritize repairs and required Facilities Services to work with a smaller staff.

"Ever since Measure 5, we're in

the same boat as a lot of other institutions," said Haider. "We have a backlog of maintenance for hundreds of millions of dollars — not just the University, but total, all the university systems ... they've had to cut back on a lot of the dollars, and what tends to happen is that maintenance is cut first."

The University has more than 60 acres of rooftops, and Facility Services strives to re-roof 45,000 square feet of roofs per year — so that each roof is replaced at least every 20 years — but that doesn't help with immediate problems, Haider said.

"That doesn't take into account where you have to prioritize ... when we get to the end of the life of a lot of our buildings, that's when we have to try to get a little bit more life out of another one so we can replace it with one that's a higher

priority," he said.

Ron Bloom, operations manager for Facility Services, said Facility Services decides years in advance which roofs will be repaired, and McKenzie is not slated for a new roof until 2007.

"McKenzie was not on our radar when we allocated capital to repair them," he said.

He added that Klamath Hall is the only building slated for a new roof next year.

According to Haider, each roof is inspected at least twice a year.

"When you only have one person and all that roof to do, it's hard to get up there more than that, but we try to do it, especially at this time of year," he said.

Bloom said that McKenzie is a particularly difficult roof to maintain. It's weighted down with rocks

so that the wind doesn't lift the large rubber sheet, so all stones must be removed before any repairs can be made. Additionally, there are several protrusions, such as poles and ducts where cracks easily form.

Haider said that because Facility Services is responsible for maintaining heat, water, steam, electricity, mechanical functioning and landscaping for all academic buildings on campus, there are many problems that need attention besides roofs.

Facility Services lacks one of its two roofers, who is in New Orleans doing reconstruction work following Hurricane Katrina.

Garron Hale, assistant director of the lab, said he understood the school's motivation in not immediately replacing the roof.

"The school has to budget, and the roof is going to cost a tidy sum," he said. "They need to plan for a big expense, so maybe that's why they're planning it for 2007."

When asked about the tentative re-roofing, Leue said it's acceptable.

"I think if it gets done in 2007, I will be very happy," she said. "They've been patching and patching, and they are always very responsive, but I think in the end the roof has to go. That will solve the problem."

Hale agreed and added that he hopes re-roofing will end the problem.

"I just hope it's not another rubber roof," he said.


Contact the higher education reporter at [kbrown@dailymerald.com](mailto:kbrown@dailymerald.com)

MEN'S BASKETBALL TICKET RELEASE DATES '05 - '06	OPPONENT	RELEASE DATE	GAME DATE
	Southern Oregon	11/01/05	Nov. 9, 2005
	Oregon Tech	11/07/05	Nov. 15, 2005
	Savannah State	11/15/05	Nov. 20, 2005
	Bowie State	11/15/05	Nov. 21, 2005
	Pacific	11/15/05	Nov. 22, 2005
	Rice	11/21/05	Nov. 26, 2005
	Georgetown	11/28/05	Dec. 3, 2005
	Santa Clara	12/05/05	Dec. 13, 2005
	Howard	12/05/05	Dec. 20, 2005
	Portland State	12/05/05	Dec. 27, 2005
	Oregon State	12/02/05	Dec. 31, 2005


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