2-20-2015

A Piece of My Heart

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A PIECE OF MY HEART

BY SHIRLEY LAURO
Welcome to this production of *A Piece of My Heart*. It has been such a privilege to prepare this work for you. We are indebted to you and your willingness to spend this time with us, to think with us, to laugh and cry with us; while allowing our hearts to grow a little bigger.

*A Piece of My Heart* is a play about war, a play about women, a play about pain and a play about healing. It’s one of those that sinks us deeply into the rich pool of the liberal arts; history, psychology, philosophy, art, music, sociology, science...just to name a few. The level of engagement with the content allows us to be better humans because we took time to consider humanity in all of its complexity. It’s a hard play in many ways...war is vulgar, and there are places in the play that feel vulgar too. We continue to challenge ourselves to learn from the offense. We can’t sanitize the world or we belittle the Incarnation. We can’t fall into the reigning cultural notion that we should judge creative works on whether or not they’re respectful or the words are “right” or “wrong” according to our value system. Perhaps there is a purpose to our being offended. War should offend us.

It is important to note that the words you will hear in this performance are true. They are adapted from the book of the same title by Keith Walker. He interviewed 32 women and 26 of their stories are included in the book. From that source, Shirley Lauro created the six women you will get to know in this production. Their words are the words women who went to Vietnam really spoke. These are the stories of women who went to war. You will experience the strength they possess and the valiant tenacity it takes to live on after war...forever changed because of it. I’ve come to admire these women...I’ve come to care about them...I hope you do too.

We are at war now. We don’t really “do” war the same way, but we have men and women who are fighting now for all kinds of just and unjust reasons. As we sit here, they sit in jungles, deserts, tents, huts; in places all over the world. We shouldn’t forget them...we shouldn’t forget to pray for them, thank them, and welcome them home.

--Tracy Manning
*Terrance Volden - Technical Director

Terrance is in his third year at Taylor Theatre’s Technical Director. He graduated from Sterling College in Kansas in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and Theatre Arts. After graduation, he spent almost three years as a missionary outside of Chiclayo, Peru working for Latin American Children’s Fund as a teacher, pastor, and translator. In 2012, he obtained his education licenses in both Theatre and Vocal Music, also from Sterling. His theatre credits include three years as Scene Shop Supervisor at Sterling College and freelance scene design and construction across Kansas and Oklahoma. This is Terrance’s third year serving as Technical Director for the Taylor Theatre Department. His past work at Taylor includes scene designs for Waiting for Godot, Freud’s Last Session, The Cherry Orchard, and this season’s Wit, along with directing The Servant of Two Masters.

STAGE MANAGER & ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR

Daniel Ford - Stage Manager

Daniel is a sophomore Film Production major and Theatre minor. He is a missionary kid from Hungary, Kazakhstan, Canada, and the U.S. While at Taylor Daniel has been seen in Kiss Me Kate and The Cherry Orchard. He also served as assistant stage manager for The Cherry Orchard. He has really enjoyed serving the show as stage manager and would like to thank everybody who put so much time and effort into the show. He would also like to thank his friends who have to put up with him on a regular basis.

Claire Hadley - Dramaturge / Assistant to the Director

Claire, a senior Theatre major, loves the production side of shows. She has participated in many shows on Taylor’s stage, including, Romeo and Juliet, Freud’s Last Session, Godspell, The Cherry Orchard, The Miracle Worker, and Wit. This is the third time Claire has been Dramaturge at Taylor, and she enjoys learning new things about herself and theatre each time. Claire will pursue a Masters degree in Dramaturgy following graduation.
Kevin Gawley - Lighting Designer

Kevin is returning to design his 26th production at Taylor. As a freelance lighting/scenic designer, Kevin’s work has appeared on many Chicago stages, including Lifeline Theatre where he won the Jeff Citation for his design of Jane Eyre, the After Dark Award for his design of Strong Poison, and has been an ensemble member and resident designer since 2001. His work also appeared in numerous productions at the Bailiwick, Organic, Porchlight, OperaModa, Blindfaith, Theatre on the Lake, Metropolis, StoreFront, Loyola University Chicago, Revels Chicago, Midwest Jewish, and at the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival theatres. Kevin is currently the Lighting and Scenic Design professor at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire and has previously taught courses at Loyola University Chicago and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is also a resident designer at St. Scholastica Academy. Kevin holds an MFA and BFA in Lighting Design from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MBA in Finance from DePaul University. Kevin’s lighting/projection designs were featured summer 2009 at Lifeline Theatre’s productions of Crossing California and Gaudy Night.

*Cory Rodeheaver - Scenic Designer

Cory has been working as a freelance scenic designer for the past 15 years and is no stranger to Taylor Theatre. He has been involved with Taylor theatre for the past 19 years. Last season Cory designed Taylor’s productions of Kiss Me Kate and The Miracle Worker. Outside of Taylor, Cory has designed for the Champaign-Urbana Ballet Company, the Summer Studio Theatre Company at the University of Illinois, the Feltre Library Theatre in Chicago, Parkland College, and the University of Illinois Theatre department to name a few. Some other productions to his credit are: The Hobbit, La Traviata, Aloha Say the Pretty Girls, Tennessee Williams’ Spring Storm, Peter Pan, The Importance of Being Earnest, Tally’s Folley, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Urine Town the Musical, Into the Woods, Romeo & Juliet, and Proof. Currently, Cory is designing exhibits and themed environments across the country, employed as the Art Director for Taylor Studios Inc. based in Rantoul, Illinois. He lives with his wife Jennifer and three children, Ethan, Emmy, and Ella in Champaign, Illinois. Cory holds a MFA in Scenic Design from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
CAST

Martha..........................................................Deborah Barnett
MaryJo..........................................................*Leah Murphy
Sissy............................................................*Morgan Turner
Whitney..........................................................Jessica Schulte
Leeann...........................................................Rachel Erskine
Steele...........................................................Bianca Woodstock
Men......................................................................Joe Shea
    *Carter Perry
    Andrew Davis

Special Choral Piece..........................................Taylor Sounds

Setting
The six women characters in A Piece of My Heart are seen over a 20 year period, from the sixties to the dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial, November 13th, 1982.

Act 1
Scene 1: Outside, somewhere near The Wall in Washington, D.C.
Scene 2: August 1966 – Various parts of the United States
Scene 3: Cu Chi, Danang, Saigon - Vietnam
Scene 4: Mass casualty
Scene 5: The Men in Our Lives
Scene 6: Christmas on the Wards
Scene 7: The Vietnamese
Scene 8: The Tet Offensive - January 30th – February 1968
Scene 9: Going Home

Act II
Scene 1: American Soil
Scene 2: “I’m the only thing that’s different”
Scene 3: Broken Hearts, Broken Lives
Scene 4: Flashbacks – PTSD
Scene 5: The Road to Recovery
Scene 6: Life goes On
Scene 7: Outside, somewhere near The Wall in Washington, D.C.

*Denotes Alpha Psi Omega Membership, National Theatre Honor Society
Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a mental health condition that’s triggered by a terrifying event — either experiencing it or witnessing it. Symptoms may include flashbacks, nightmares and severe anxiety, as well as uncontrollable thoughts about the event.

Many people who go through traumatic events have difficulty adjusting and coping for a while, but they don’t have PTSD — with time and good self-care, they usually get better.

Getting effective treatment after PTSD symptoms develop can be critical to reduce symptoms and improve function.

PTSD symptoms may start within three months of a traumatic event, but sometimes symptoms may not appear until years after the event. PTSD symptoms include **Intrusive memories, Avoidance, Negative changes in thinking and mood, Changes in emotional reactions**

PTSD symptoms can vary in intensity over time. You may have more PTSD symptoms when you’re stressed in general, or when you run into reminders of what you went through.

If you have disturbing thoughts and feelings about a traumatic event for more than a month, if they’re severe, or if you feel you’re having trouble getting your life back under control, talk to your health care professional. Get treatment as soon as possible to help prevent PTSD symptoms from getting worse.

*Information from Mayo Clinic Website*
**ARVN**- The Army of the Republic of Viet Nam. Also known as the South Vietnamese Army (SVA).

**Billet**- a place where soldiers are lodged temporarily, often a civilian’s home or other nonmilitary facility.

**Boonie hat**- A wide-brimmed hat commonly used by military personnel.

**Charlie**- A nickname given to the Viet Cong, communist Vietnamese citizens.

**Conscientious objector**- a person who, for reasons of conscience, objects to serving, or fighting, in the armed forces.

**Corpsman**- a Hospital Corpsman was an enlisted medical specialist of the United States Military.

**DEROS day**- Day Eligible for Return from Overseas

**Doughnut Dollie**- single, female college graduates who were used primarily as morale boosters for U.S. combat troops in Vietnam. Many were motivated by JFK’s ‘call to duty’ ‘ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.”

**Gook**- a derogatory term for Asians, used predominantly by the US military during war time.

**Hooch**- military slang for a thatched hut.

**MACV**- U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam

**MOS**- Military Occupational Specialty

**Quonset Hut**- Semi-cylindrical military structure

**Sapper**- A sapper, also called pioneer or combat engineer, is a combatant or soldier who performs a variety of military engineering duties.

**Tracers**- bullets or cannon caliber projectiles that are built with a small pyrotechnic charge in their base

**Viet Cong or V.C.**- pro-Communist army in South Vietnam during the war, know for their guerrilla warfare.

**WAC**- a member of the Women’s Army Corps, which was the woman’s branch of the United States Army.

*Information gathered from Wikipedia site.*
1964: the Gulf of Tonkin incident; Congress passed the ‘Gulf of Tonkin Resolution’; America bombs targets in North Vietnam; NLF attacked US air bases

1965: ‘Operation Rolling Thunder’ started; first US combat troops were sent to Vietnam in March; by the end of the year there were 200,000 US troops there; first major conventional clash between USA and NVA at Ia Drang

1966: 400,000 US troops were in Vietnam

1967: 490,000 US troops in Vietnam; Nguyen Van Thieu became President of South Vietnam

1968: Tet Offensive; demonstrations against the war started in America; My Lai massacre; peace talks began in Paris; 540,000 US troops in Vietnam; anti-Vietnam War riots in Chicago (August)

1969: Nixon ordered the secret bombing of Cambodia; ‘Vietnamization’ started; Nixon announced the start of US troop withdrawals; Ho Chi Minh died; 480,000 US troops in Vietnam; My Lai massacre made public in November

1970: Four student demonstrators shot dead at Kent State University; 280,000 US troops in Vietnam; secret peace talks held in Paris; large scale anti-war demonstrations throughout USA

1971: 140,000 US troops in Vietnam; Lt. William Calley convicted of murder at My Lai and jailed

1972: Haiphong harbour mined (May); “Peace is at hand” – Dr Kissinger

1973: ceasefire signed in Paris; last US troops left Vietnam; US POW’s released

1975: Khmer Rouge took control of Cambodia; NLF captured Saigon

1982: Vietnam Veterans Memorial unveiled in Washington DC

MLA Citation/Reference

**Dr. Tom Jones- Associate Professor of History, Taylor University**

Dr. Jones provided the cast with clear insight into what Taylor University experienced during the war. Dr Jones led the cast through a cursory history lesson which included the factors which led up to the conflict in Vietnam, and ultimately the war.

**Dr. Hensley-Professor of Professional Writing- Chaplain’s Assistant**

Dr. Dennis Hensley served in Vietnam from 1971 to 1972 as a Chaplain’s Assistant. During his second stint he received injuries to his face and was served by the nurses in Vietnam. Dr. Hensley spoke of the responsibility he felt to join the war.

**Dr. Harry Hall- Director of Academic Planning & Evaluation, Indiana Wesleyan University - Huey Helicopter pilot –** served for 28 years, including two tours in Vietnam

Dr. Harry Hall gave the cast a detailed outline of a day-in-the-life of a vet during the war, including the changing situation between his tours in ‘64 and ’70, on each side of the Tet Offensive. As a professional soldier, Dr. Hall provided a great firsthand look into the training, activities, and interactions of a helicopter pilot. He attended the very first Bob Hope show, and loved the stars who came to entertain the troops.

**Dr. Winquist- Professor of History, Taylor University**

Dr. Alan Winquist gave the cast insight into the war from the other side of the war. The events and consequences to the Vietnamese people was the focus of our conversation with Dr. Winquist. Personally and politically Dr. Winquist gave the cast the anti-war perspective and helped the cast understand that point of view. He provided the cast with a strong understanding of the culture and history of both North and South Vietnam, which aided our avoidance of prejudice against or for either side.

**Dr. Rousselow- Professor of Communication, Taylor University**

Dr. Jessica Rousselow-Winquist provided for the cast a post war view of Vietnam through pictures and stories of her two trips to the region. As well, she gave the cast an update on the status of Vietnam in recent years, and its recovery from the war.

**Dorothy Loud- Pentagon**

Assigned as an intelligence officer to the pentagon, Dorothy Loud saw firsthand how the American government censored and redacted information from its own people. The need to serve her country turned into a weight and a guilt which remains with her to this day.
**Morgan Turner**
Morgan is a junior Theatre Arts major from Bunker Hill, Indiana. She has had roles in *Taylor’s Playback Theatre Company*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Godspell*, *Two Rooms*, *The Curious Savage*, and *The Miracle Worker* among others. Special thanks go to “two roommates who have to live with a Theatre major.”

**Deborah Barnett**
Deborah is from Peoria, Illinois. She is a junior majoring in Biology. She has had roles in *The Gondoliers*, *Antigone*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Deborah would like to thank “my amazing, loving family and dear, supportive friends.”

**Leah Murphy**
Leah is a Theatre major who has been involved in seven Taylor Theatre productions either onstage or as Production Staff. Make-Up. She is a member of Taylor’s Playback Theatre Company. “I am very grateful for the opportunity to explore an era of our history that still resonates today. Thank you to the veterans and guest speakers who enlightened us and helped prepare us for the work we did. Your vulnerable honesty made a powerful mark on this show. I want to thank my family for their endless encouragement, Nathan Pavey for his incredible patience while coaching and teaching me the guitar, and my God for His beautiful, perfect timing. Thank you to the men and women who serve in the U.S. military.”

**Morgan Turner**
Morgan is a junior Theatre Arts major from Bunker Hill, Indiana. She has had roles in *Taylor’s Playback Theatre Company*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Godspell*, *Two Rooms*, *The Curious Savage*, and *The Miracle Worker* among others. Special thanks go to “two roommates who have to live with a Theatre major.”

**Jessica Schulte**
Jessica is a sophomore Theatre Arts major from Brentwood, TN who plans to use her passion to shape the future of American Theatre. This pursuit has taken her as far as Anchorage, Alaska where she spent her summer working for TBA Theatre Inc as an Instructor and Stage Manager during their Summer Academy Program. While at Taylor Jessica has appeared in *Kiss Me Kate* and *The Miracle Worker*, Assistant Directed *Tartuffe* earlier this season, and is a member of Taylor’s Playback Theatre Company. This current production has captured Jessica’s heart, and she both honored and excited to share this piece of her heart with you.

**Rachel Erskine**
Bolingbrook, Illinois is home to Rachel. She is a sophomore English Literature and Communication major. This is her first show at Taylor. Rachel would like to thank Emily O’Daniels.
Andrew Davis
Andrew is a sophomore Film and Media Production major from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. While at Taylor he has had roles in *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and *The Miracle Worker*.

Carter Perry
Carter is a junior Theatre Arts major from La Porte, Indiana. He has been seen as Matt Friedman in *Talley’s Folly*, and Bill Calhoun/Lucentio in *Kiss Me Kate*. Other credits include *Tartuffe*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *A Servant of Two Masters*, and *Godspell*. Carter has also been seen at the Dunes Summer Theater in their 2014 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He would love to thank his director, Tracy Manning, for her guidance through the work. “She is a brilliant, beautiful person!” He would also love to thank his family for their love and support, and God for His unmatched miracles and never-ending presence.

Bianca Woodstock
Bianca is a sophomore Music Education major from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. *A Piece of My Heart* is her first performance at Taylor. Bianca would like to thank her mom.

Joe Shea
Milwaukee, Wisconsin is home to Joe. Before coming to Taylor he appeared in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*. Joe is a freshman Film and Media Production major. He would like to give thanks to his parents and to Tracy Manning.

Bianca Woodstock
Bianca is a sophomore Music Education major from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. *A Piece of My Heart* is her first performance at Taylor. Bianca would like to thank her mom.

Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of readiness to die.

~G K Chesterton
PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic Director.................................................................*Tracy Manning
Technical Director............................................................*Terrance Volden
Scenic Designer.................................................................*Cory Rodeheaver
Lighting Designer...............................................................Kevin Gawley
Stage Manager........................................................................Daniel Ford
Assistant Stage Manager....................................................Alexis Colón
Dramaturge / Assistant to the Director................................Claire Hadley
Master Carpenter......................................................................Erin Gautille
Charge Scenic Artist.............................................................Megan McKechnie
Scenic Artist.............................................................................Callie Haven
Projection Technician..........................................................Conner Reagan
Master Electrician......................................................................Wes Morgan
Makeup/Hair............................................................................Leah Murphy
Sound Technician......................................................................Nathan Pavey
Properties Master.....................................................................*Kacey Heinlein

Head Usher...............................................................................Grace Bolinger

*Denotes Alpha Psi Omega Membership, National Theatre Honor Society
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to the following:

Nate Aeilts
TU Archives
The Environmental Science Department
Michael Fletcher
Dr. Harry Hall
Greta Hamilton
Helping Hand
Dr. Dennis Hensley
Dr. Tom Jones
Evan Koons
Dorothy Loud
Dr. Vance Maloney
Dr. Mike Manning
Pastor Rob and Tammy Neel
Neil Perry and Third Center Wengatz
Dr. JoAnn Rediger
Dr. Joe Ricke
Dr. William Ringenberg
Dr. Patricia Robertson
Dr. Jessica Rousselow-Winquist
Patty Stigers and Jon Cavanagh
Jim Sprunger of AEP
Linda Taylor
Sheila Todd
Dr. Alan Winquist

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

~Mother Teresa
I Love A Piano
Music & Lyrics by Irving Berlin
April 24th - 26th & May 1st - 3rd

Student Directed Shows
Spring 2015

‘Night Mother
by Marsha Norman
March 13 & 14
directed by Claire Hadley

The Dining Room
by A.R. Gurney
March 20 & 21
directed by Haley Kurr