

The Great Game: Afghanistan

One act plays aim to give glimpse of history

By Lizzy Owoyemi
Newsriting Student

The Cameron University Theatre Arts Department will present a Theatre Production titled "The Great Game: Afghanistan," at 7:30 p.m. each evening from Nov. 17-Nov. 19 and at 2 p.m. on Nov. 20 at the CU studio theatre.

The production is a collection of one act plays and also the department's contribution to this year's CU Academic Festival, "Afghanistan: Its Complexities and Relevance."

According to Dr. Scott Richard Klein, the Theatre Arts Department Chair and director of the show, the play would give people an opportunity to learn more about the history of Afghanistan and the United States' involvement.

"The play would give people the opportunity to learn about the history of Afghanistan," Dr. Klein said. "It is based on real life events of how things were in modern days and how the United States was involved."

These plays will focus on the story of Afghanistan from the British occupation of the 1890's until the present day. It includes "Durand's Line" by Ron Hutchinson, "Miniskirts of Kabul" by David Greig, "Wood for the Fire" by Lee Blessing, "Canopy of Stars" by Simon Stephens and "No Such Cold Thing" by Naomi Wallace.

"Durand's Line" is the true story of British diplomat, Sir Henry Mortimer. Durant, who engages Amir Abdul Rahman in a stunning duel of wits as the former wants to subjugate the Afghan natives and the latter fights to protect his country's borders. This was when Afghanistan was defined as a country.

The second play is "Miniskirts of Kabul," which is about a female



Photo by Rashmi Thapaliya

Miniskirts of Kabul: Jay Dais plays President Mohammad Najibullah and Brandi Goldsmith plays a female Western journalist in the play "Miniskirts of Kabul." It is a part of "The Great Game: Afghanistan," which will be presented at the Cameron University studio theatre at 7:30 p.m. each evening from Nov.17-Nov.19 and at 2 p.m. on Nov.20.

Western journalist who uses her imagination to conjure up a meeting with former pro-communist, President Mohammad Najibullah, who is under house arrest in a United Nations compound. As the Taliban closes in on Kabul, their sometimes hilarious and often horrific conversation covers topics such as hemlines, the Soviet occupation, torture and more. It also includes the reign of President Najibullah and how women had more rights than they do now and referred to freedom women had in the 1980s.

"Wood for the Fire" investigates the alliance

between the CIA, the ISI (Pakistan's Intelligence agency) and the Mujahedeen, which was created to destabilize the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

"Canopy of Stars" is the story of two soldiers in a bunker guarding the Kajaki Dam. They talk of chips and gravy, football, women and whether the British should start to negotiate with the Taliban insurgents. The play is a searing insight into soldiers at war and what happens when they go home.

"No Such Cold Thing" explores the American war in Afghanistan in human terms through the story of two Afghan teenage sisters

divided by conflict and the U.S. serviceman who finds an intimately human connection to their tragedy.

According to Alex Huff, a sophomore and Theatre Arts major, it is interesting to step back in time to shape how things happen now. These plays paint the picture of what happened and allows the audience to draw conclusions from what they see.

"It is interesting to step back in time to shape how things happen now," Huff said. "It is incredible playing the role of the characters and feel the way they actually felt."

According to Jay Dias, a senior Theatre Arts major, it

is a political process of what countries go through with each other compared to what they get out of each other. It gives a sense of war and how people in the military live.

"For the military, it would be a good military experience," Dais said. "It will open people's eyes to see a lot of things they don't know about going to war."

The actors in these plays are CU students, mostly Theatre Arts majors.

The show is free for CU students with student ID, \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens, military and non-CU students.

Multimedia Design Club continues to serve the community



Photo Courtesy of Multimedia Design Club

Learning through workshop: Community members learn webpage building during the workshop held by the Multimedia Design Club. The club hosts free workshops every semester to share the knowledge about the field of Multimedia.

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By Rashmi Thapaliya
A&E Editor

Cameron University Associate Professor of Computing and Technology Dr. Linda Wright-Smith is the adviser to the Multimedia Design Club, which she said has been on campus for 12 years.

According to Dr. Wright-Smith, the club is mainly a service club with a membership of 45 students.

"The purpose of the Multimedia Design Club is to take part in community service and share knowledge about the field of Multimedia," Dr. Wright-Smith said. "The club takes part in different activities to serve the community."

The club offers free workshops to the Lawton/Fort Sill community every semester and provides training on webpage building and other skills related to multimedia design.

According to Dr. Wright-Smith, the club adopts a family to help with holiday season needs every Christmas.

"We adopt a family every Christmas," Dr. Wright-Smith said. "For the children of the family, we collect toys and also provide the family with a \$100 Wal-Mart gift card."

Dr. Wright-Smith said that the club members also make Christmas cards for the family.

According to Dr. Wright-Smith, the Multimedia Design Club members have been taking part in the Oklahoma Memorial Marathon for 10 years.

"We ran in the marathon 10 ten years," Dr. Wright-Smith said. "Our students also served as volunteers to distribute water for the runners."

Dr. Wright-Smith said that the club decided not to take part in the Oklahoma Memorial Marathon since last year due to the date conflicting with final exam dates.

"Since the students are not able to take part in the marathon due to their final exams, we have decided not to take part in the marathon," Dr. Wright-Smith said. "We now participate in the Spirit of Survival run."

The club takes part in food drives to collect food for the Lawton Food Bank every year.

"We organize a food drive to help the Lawton Food Bank," Dr. Wright-Smith said. "There is always a need for food in the food bank and we try to do our part to help."

In addition to being a part of different community service activities, the club also

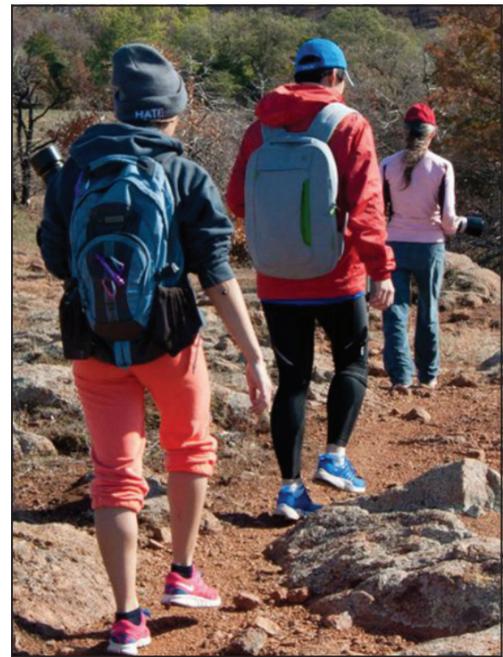


Photo Courtesy of Multimedia Design Club

Into the wild: Multimedia Design Club members take part in photographic retreat at the Wichita Mountains. During the retreat the students use their photographic skills to capture the beautiful scenery.

organizes a photographic retreat to Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge every semester.

"I take the students to the back trail of the Wichita Mountains where they can take pictures in the wild," Dr. Wright-Smith said. "The pictures are then printed in black-and-white and displayed in CETES."

Amy Herring, a senior Multimedia Design major, is the Vice-President and Treasurer of the club. She said that the club takes part in various activities and she enjoys being a part of the club.

"This semester we hosted a community workshop, a photographic retreat and currently we are collecting money and other items for the Adopt-A-Family program," Herring said. "We are also planning different activities for the spring."

Other members of the club include Chad Hearrell, President, a senior Multimedia Design major; Markita Nash, Secretary, a senior Multimedia Design major; and Jonathan Watson, SGA representative, a junior Multimedia Design major.

Dr. Wright-Smith said that membership is open to all CU students.