

The English Department at The University of Texas presents:



AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS

Recipient of the 2010 \$20,000 George H. Mitchell Co-Op Award

and

Nominated for the David Mark Cohen Best New Play Award by the Austin Critics' Circle

a staged reading of the play written by

Johnny Meyer

Jessen Auditorium, Homer Rainey Hall
12:30 PM, Sunday, May 23rd 2010

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Chorus (*Angela Barratt*).....metamorphic
Sergeant First Class Weisman (*David Boss*).....platoon sergeant
Private Martin (*Ania Upstill*).....the female

Second Squad

Staff Sergeant David Mitchell (*Daniel Rigney*)

Alpha Team

Sergeant James Ron (*Jack Fogarty*)
Specialist Wakin (*James Lamon*)
Specialist "Ski" (*TJ Faraizi*)
Private Fisher (*Isto Barton*)

Bravo Team

Sergeant Williams (*Daniel Friedman*)
Specialist Davis (*Carter Rossner*)
Specialist Garcia (*Alex McDonald*)
PFC Taylor (*Sam Liebl*)

With Alli Hammond, Chelsea Bunn, Norma Balli-Borrero providing tech support.

American Volunteers follows a squad of special operations Rangers as they patrol the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. The play focuses on the three sergeants responsible for leading the squad, and the conflict that arises as each pursues life, liberty, or happiness. The plot unfolds under the eyes of a female soldier briefly attached to the squad, and a metamorphic Chorus. Warning: Strong language, violence, and meter.

THE FIRST FEW SCENES:

- Chorus opens the play, setting the stage for the entrance of Staff Sergeant Mitchell, the leader of second squad, and Sergeant Ron, his Alpha Team leader. Second Squad's Bravo Team leader, Sergeant Williams, interrupts their conversation. When "Will" hears that Ron wants to make a phone call, he suggests to Mitchell that they give Ron some privacy. Ron fails to make the phone call, apparently afraid of something about home.
- The platoon sergeant, Weisman, brings a new female to join the squad. Her name is Martin, and her job is to pat-down the female Afghans and keep her mouth shut. She is not allowed to learn anything about the squad's mission. Ron and Weisman leave Martin at a bunker, but Staff Sergeant Mitchell quickly returns to the scene, complaining about his recent return to the Ranger regiment after attending college for a few years.
- The rest of the squad joins Staff Sergeant Mitchell, and moves out on patrol. After Bravo Team searches a compound, the squad reassembles in the late afternoon light and opens a care package from a church group. Ron opens a letter from his wife. They are only a few hundred meters from the border, facing a constant threat from an enemy they can't find, and a mission they can't talk about.
- Martin, Chorus, and the audience watch while the squad becomes strained, the mission is a question mark, and violence seems certain as the three soldiers surrender to "fate..."