

Controversy, drama color student play

BY JAMES FRANCIS
 THE BATTALION

In *The Baltimore Waltz*, which runs tonight through Saturday in the Fallout Theater in 144 Blocker, the character of Anna faces a family situation common in society.

Her brother is facing an unchangeable state in his life and for this, she has conjured up the fantastical actions that are in framework of the play.

Cody Bland, director of *The Baltimore Waltz* and a senior theater arts major, said the play starts and ends in the thoughts of Anna.

"*The Baltimore Waltz* is an imaginary trip through Europe to resolve the conflict within Anna's mind," he said.

Bland said one of the problems he encountered with the play was his venture in directing.

"It keeps you up at night, but there's something cathartic about it," he said. "As a director, you get to see the vision you're creating."

Bland, who compliments his actors on their performances, said it is the people who make the job so enjoyable.

"Another thing that's great about directing is to watch these great things happening," he said. "Watching new people come in and find their niche in theater — it's magical."

Bland said the true magic of *The Baltimore Waltz* is in the end of the play, which he expects will surprise the audience.

"Expect everything," he said.

"This play leaves no stone unturned, no moral dilemma unconflicted. To me, it's a roller coaster."

The moral dilemma Bland refers to is revealed in the play's program booklet, which warns the audience of profanity and adult sexual situations.

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Cody Bland
 Director of
The Baltimore Waltz

haven't been very unaffected by the outside world," Bland said. "Part of the reason I chose this play is to challenge what is established here."

Bland said in retrospect, that he hopes audiences will leave believing the hope and faith in the good of man.

The loss of hope and faith are two things one of the main characters must face.

Amanda Young, a junior theater arts and psychology major, plays Anna.

"[The play is] her world, her dream, her way of coping with her brother's fate," Young said. "In the dream, she is totally crazy and

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Special to THE BATTALION

The 35-member Tibetan song and dance ensemble from the snow fields of China will perform tonight at Rudder Auditorium.

Ensemble revives dying Tibetan culture

BY JOHN LEBAS
 THE BATTALION

In 1959, the Communist Chinese government occupied its neighbor to the west, Tibet, and began to systematically dismantle the 2,500-year-old Tibetan culture.

In less than 20 years, the Communists destroyed all but eight of Tibet's 6,000 Buddhist monasteries. And the Chinese government forbids Tibetans from celebrating their heritage through traditional songs, dances and music.

But the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts is determined to halt this cultural disintegration.

Formed by His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama, to perpetuate Tibetan heritage, the institute's 36-member Song and Dance Ensemble will share traditional Tibetan songs, dances and music with the Texas A&M community tonight at Rudder Auditorium. MSC OPAS is sponsoring the performance.

The Dalai Lama, Tibet's government and spiritual leader, brought 100,000 refugees out of Tibet to India following the Chinese occupation. There he set up the Tibetan Government-in-Exile, a satellite government, under which he

created the Institute.

Jamyang Dorjee, the ensemble's director, said the Dalai Lama wanted to save the backbone of the Tibetan people from the Communists' methodical destruction.

"He's always believed that Tibetan religion and culture are the backbone upon which the Tibetan national identity exists," Dorjee said. "He felt it necessary to preserve the traditional dances in their original forms, and to do this, he started the institute."

The institute has paid close attention to detail in reproducing the songs and dances in the performance, Dorjee said, changing little except to adapt the performance to the stage. In Tibet, he said, song was a way of life, not just a performance.

"Every act a Tibetan indulges in, they do it singing songs," Dorjee said. "It shows how peaceful it was before 1959 — everyone is a singer in their own way. The wording is dedicated to a particular deity or god; there are very few romantic songs."

Jeffrey Cranor, OPAS director of audience education and development and senior journalism major, said Tibetan singing does not focus on performance like Western singing.

"The focus of that style is not like that of American opera, to entertain," Cranor said. "It's to put the audience into a different level of awareness."

For example, Cranor said, the ensemble features five monks, each of whom can sing an entire chord at a time.

"On that level, people can take in the awe of being able to sing in that way," he said.

Dorjee said, in contrast to the monks' deep meditational chanting, the ensemble's women sing in high pitches. The instruments used further diversify the music, he said.

"The musical instruments are very melodic, but very simple," he said.

To help ensure accuracy, Dorjee said, the Institute makes its instruments and the performers' costumes. The costumes are colorful and reflect the wide range of traditional costumes found in Tibet, he said.

The ensemble has traveled around the

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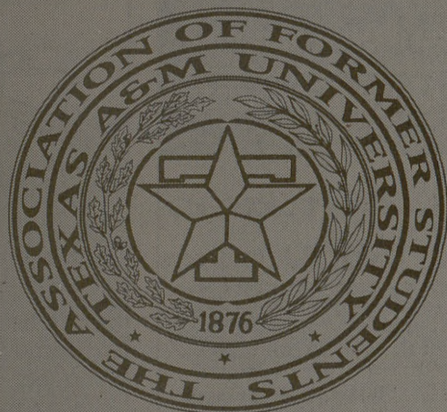
Jeffery Cranor
 OPAS director of
 audience education



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Joel Ray (left), Amanda Young and Chris Voss exchange bunnies in a spy scene in *The Baltimore Waltz*, which runs tonight thru Saturday.

The Association of Former Students Induction Banquet



Wednesday & Thursday, November 13 & 14, 1996

COLLEGE STATION HILTON BALLROOM
 GRAND BALLROOM - 6:20 P.M.

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 Complimentary tickets may be picked up in the
 MSC Hallway, November 5, 6, & 7 (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

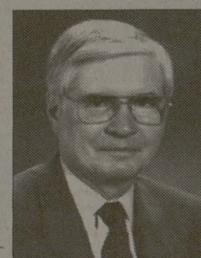
TICKETS GIVEN ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS
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Compliments of The Association of Former Students
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If you have any thoughts or concerns regarding student life here at A&M, I'm very interested in hearing them. I am Malon Southerland, your Vice President for Student Affairs and my office is on the 10th floor of Rudder Tower. My door is always open and I encourage you to come by if I can ever be of assistance. Feel free to call me anytime at 845-4728 or contact me through e-mail: malon-southerland@tamu.edu