ANTIGONE AND Letters to Soldiers Lost

Based on the play by Sophocles
with excerpts from *Shrapnel in the Heart* by Laura Palmer,
Letters on the Wall by Michael Sofarelli,
and *Offerings at the Wall*, Walton Rawls, Editor.

The wars are over
THEBES The struggle continues **VIETNAM**

Thursday Friday Saturday
November 11,12,13,18,19,20

CAL POLY

THEATRE AND DANCE DEPARTMENT
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

SPANOS THEATRE 8PM

ADMISSION $15.00 STDS/SENIORS $12.00 RESERVATIONS 756-2787

PRESS RELEASE

The Theatre and Dance Department of Cal Poly will present a powerful and moving new play entitled ANTIGONE AND LETTERS TO SOLDIERS LOST. The play has been adapted by Al Schnupp from the classic Greek drama by Sophocles. Antigone is a timeless story of love, courage and civil disobedience. When the brothers of Antigone, fighting on opposing sides, are killed, King Creon decrees one shall be honored and the other disgraced and remain unburied. Antigone chooses to honor both brothers. During the performance the action will pause and actors will share letters that were placed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. These letters have been published in *Shrapnel in the Heart* (Laura Palmer), *Letters on the Wall* (Michael Sofarelli), and *Offerings at the Wall* (Turner Publishing, Inc.). The letters enrich the story; the story complements the sentiments of the letters, making for a rich, textured experience.

The letters are haunting, gripping mementos, prayers, and expressions of grief. There is the medic who sat with a wounded soldier, knowing but unable to tell the soldier he was dying, and incapable of remembering the soldier's name. He states, "How I wish I could touch your name and say goodbye. My mother used to say that when we die God sends someone to greet us when we get to heaven. I hope God sends you, and I hope you will tell me your name."

There is a soldier who comes to the wall, bearing the ring of a young Viet Cong soldier killed in battle. He says, "I have carried this ring for 18 years and it's time for me to lay it down. This boy is not my enemy any longer."

A mother offers her son childhood treasures, saying, "My dearest Ben, I'm bringing 'Teddy Bear' and a picture of your loved race car. I realize they can't stay there long, but they are yours and I want them to be with you."

The cast of ANTIGONE AND LETTERS TO SOLDIERS LOST is comprised of 12 actors and musicians. They will utilize sign language, create shrines to fallen heroes and execute stylized movement in their tribute to the victims and survivors of war. The setting is comprised of monolithic rocks with imprinted and engraved names. This collection of tall, sculpted rocks is a memorial in itself. Enlarged letters, stitched together, create an additional backdrop for the action.

The play will be performed at the Spanos Theatre on the Cal Poly Campus on November 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20, 2010. Curtain is at 8 pm. General admission is $15.00. Seniors and students are $12.00. Reservations may be made by calling 756-2787.