The Afghan Women’ removes veil

By Lacey Korevec
Entertainment Editor

Review

Are those who submit weak or are those who endure a life of submission strong? This seemed to be one of many questions that audience members were left pondering as the lights grew dim on the set of The Afghan Women.

The play premiered on Friday, Oct. 24, at the Mill Hill Playhouse in Trenton, N.J., and was written by 1974 Rider graduate William Mastromonaco.

Set in the deserts of Afghanistan, the show begins with three women, Wajima (Regina Hilliard Bain), Gulalai (Sophia Skiles) and Nahid (Soraya Broukhim) digging up the bones of buried children with hopes of making a profit. An American woman, Maleli (Cindy Katz) catches them and calls their desperate business "squeaking breaks often interrupted the play’s elapsing of time.

Yet, at its core, the play is the story of American fulfilling a duty that she is burdened with, lending her help to poor Afghans and at the same time working to mend a broken country. But what makes it really interesting are the characters’ different perspectives.

The same situation is looked at through four different points of view: the American, the Afghan women, the war-hungry Afghan and the young Afghani men, who are made out to be almost as much victims as the women.

Eventually, the women are invited to spend the night in the orphanage that Maleli runs. A warlord, Hamood (Christopher McGann) and his army take the orphanage hostage and from there the story unravels as the women rebel, mirroring the larger situation in Afghanistan.

The show took place on the second floor of the playhouse, which was originally built as a church. When first seated, audience members may have felt like they were about to listen to a sermon.

There were no curtains. The set consisted only of a semi-circular court filled with sand, a few small props and the original stone walls of the room. While simple, the set worked well with the story.

The city of Trenton buzzing outside seemed to mirror the building interfered with some of the show. Sounds of car horns and squeaking breaks often interrupted the eerie quiet of Afghanistan. There is some music, although mainly only as scenes change to show the elapsing of time.

The Afghan Women is worth seeing because it wakes audiences up. It is sad, suspenseful, depressing and hopeful all at the same time and its messages are incredibly relevant, especially today, probably because it tells a story of truth. And the best story ideas often stem from reality.

The Afghan Women is directed by Jonathan Bernstein and will be playing through Nov. 2.

1974 Rider graduate and playwright William Mastromonaco stands with cast members Saraya Broukhim (left), Hilliard Bain (top left) and Sophia Skiles (right) from the play The Afghan Women. Student ticket prices are available; call 609-392-0766 for details.

‘Nemo’ finds BLC

By Dana Lynn Flatekval
Staff Writer

Review

A motherless child with a stunted limb is abducted and held prisoner along with several other physically and emotionally scarred victims. Meanwhile, his neurotic, illiterate father is forced to enlist the aid of a stranger with short-term memory loss to decipher the only clue left at the crime scene.

With a cast of villains and superheroes plagued with deep-seeded issues, Pixar Animation Studios’ latest computer-generated adventure is a captivating aquatic fable with characters that seem human at times.

Set on a coral reef near Sydney, Australia, the movie begins with a tragedy. Marlin, a clown fish (voice of Albert Brooks), is traumatized when his wife (Elizabeth Perkins) and 399 of her eggs become shark food.

Undeniably, Daddy is a little anxious about the one surviving egg, who grows into Nemo (Alexander Gould), a cute fish with a bum fin who, after testing the limits of his father’s uttering worshipfulness, winds up in the net of a scuba diver.

Fortunately, a mask has fallen off the boat with the diver’s name and address written on it. That where Dory (Ellen DeGeneres) comes in. Somehow, the blue tang can read; she just can’t remember what she has read from one minute to the next. She and Marlin become allies in the search for Nemo, a quest that takes them not only into the company of three sharks in unconvincing recovery from an addiction to fish as food (Barry Humphries, Eric Bana and Bruce Spence), but into a field of jellyfish aid in his plot to sabotage the tank’s filter mechanism and escape.

Meanwhile, Nemo has befriended his fellow captives, a group of detainers from the pet shop and E-bay, including the Moorish idol, Gill (William Dafoe), a scarred veteran of one too many escape attempts, whose despair is given a momentary boost by the arrival of someone small and naive enough to aid in his plot to sabotage the tank’s filter mechanism and escape.

It’s a dangerous strategy, but no more risky than Marlin’s mission, which seems to overlook the fact that, even if he and Dory get to where they’re going in one piece, it’s a long way from harbor to the tank where Nemo is being held.

It’s funny as well as deeply touching. Pixar’s attention to minute details of characterization, lobsters speak with New England accents, seagulls are mindless, yapping clones fixated on their next meal, pay off big time.

In the end Finding Nemo may not be just a fish tale, but a story of the paradox of love, knowing when to hold on means knowing when to let go.

Campus Corner

Compiled by Lacey Korevec, Entertainment Editor

Friday, October 31

SEC Film: Finding Nemo
7:30 p.m., BLC Theater

Westminster Opera Theater
8 p.m., The Playhouse

Saturday, November 1

Family Day
Andrew J. Rider Award Ceremony
11 a.m., BLC Theater
Mass 4 p.m., Gill Chapel
CCM Wine & Cheese Reception 5 p.m., Emmanuel House
SEC Films: Finding Nemo 7:30 p.m., BLC Theater

Sunday, November 2

Mass, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Gill Chapel

PCM Worship, Christian Band & Supper, 5 p.m., Gill Chapel
SEC Films: Finding Nemo 7:30 p.m., BLC Theater

Monday, November 3

Senior Pub Night
7 p.m.-2 a.m.

Tuesday, November 4

Resume Blitz
9 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-4 p.m., 6-7 p.m., Career Services Center

Opening Ceremony for Hispanic Heritage Month 6 p.m., BLC Cavalla Room
PCM Bible Study & Faith Talks 7 p.m., Gill Chapel
Brown Water 8 p.m., BLC Pub

Wednesday, November 5

Resume Blitz
9 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-4 p.m., 6-7 p.m., Career Services Center

The Beatles and the Blues 7:30 p.m., BLC Theater

Thursday, November 6

Career Day
11 a.m.-2 p.m., BLC Cavalla Room

SEC Films Terminator 3 7:30 p.m., BLC Theater

Friday, November 7

SEC Films Terminator 3 7:30 p.m., BLC Theater