Students to Stage Drama at OU Art Museum April 7-9

NORMAN, OKLA. – The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is collaborating with the University of Oklahoma’s Peggy Dow Helmerich School of Drama to merge two art forms.

Students will perform *Elliot, A Soldier’s Fugue*, a Pulitzer-nominated play by Quiara Alegría Hudes, inside the museum. *Beyond the Battlefield: Depictions of War*, an exhibition currently on display at the FJJMA, will serve as the play’s backdrop. The performance will take place in the third-floor Ellen and Richard L. Sandor Photography Gallery April 7 through 9.

Admission is complimentary and seating is limited. Seats may be reserved via email at ouarts@yahoo.com. The play will be performed at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 7; at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8; and at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9.

The plot explores the effects of war by telling the story of three generations of a Puerto Rican family. The performance combines music and drama in order to depict the incongruity between life and war.

“I quite like the inherent tension between the violence of war and the delicate beauty of the sound of the flute,” said Lauren Hughes, instrumental music major who will provide the flute portions of the performance.

The concept of the performance is due to the efforts of performance seniors Del Alan Murphy and Jake Lozano, and OU School of Drama professor Rena Cook.
The group collaborated with museum staff to conceive a setting of battlefield art to serve as the play’s backdrop.

The small cast includes Murphy, Lozano, senior Joe Dougherty and sophomore Olivia Abiassi.

“Jake and Allan want and deserve to do material that reflects and celebrates their Hispanic roots,” Cook said. “This is our last chance to work on such beautiful material together.”

Murphy said the collaboration between the School of Drama and the museum has been positive.

“The museum staff has been so accommodating and actually seem excited to have the play,” Murphy said. “We couldn’t ask for more enthusiasm and support.”

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is located in the OU Arts District on the corner of Elm Avenue and Boyd Street, at 555 Elm Ave., on the OU Norman campus. Admission to the museum is complimentary to all visitors, thanks to the generosity of the OU Office of the President and the OU Athletics Department. The museum is closed on Mondays. Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling (405) 325-4938 or visiting www.ou.edu/fjjma.

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**IMAGE CREDIT**

A temporary exhibition at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art serves as the backdrop for a live play performed by the OU School of Drama April 7 through 9. Students will perform Quiara Alegría Hudes’ one-act play, *Eliot, a Soldier’s Fugue*, inside the museum’s third-floor gallery. *Beyond the Battlefield: Depictions of War* is on display through May 10 and includes works inspired by war from the 19th to the 21st century, such as Edmund Lewandowski’s 1946 painting, *Cemetery*.

Edmund Lewandowski (U.S. 1914-1998)
*Cemetery*, 1946
Gouache on board, 22 x 30 in.
Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, The University of Oklahoma, Norman; Purchase, U.S. State Department Collection, 1948