

Presented by the Hesston College Theatre Department

# TWO ROOMS

06  
September

28  
29  
30

7 p.m.

Northlawn  
Hesston College  
Campus

RATED  
PG

Through special arrangement by Dramatists Play Service Inc.

MIAMI. (A woman's voice) I feel a tear in the fabric of things, in the fabric of earth is our mother, our father is war. The chief priority we have on earth is to vie with each other for a place to stand. Does any of this make sense, Laimie? I'm trying to explain to you what has happened to us. Americans spent all their time in lots of wars. But always on the way. We didn't had to fight for the land, we just stole it in a century. We've forgotten the cost of sacrifice. These people here, everyone in this country, Muslim, Sunni, Moslem, Shi'a, Palestinian, everyone is fighting for the ground, for the land itself. They stand here or now, and it's easy for them to give up their land, a small sacrifice. It's easy for them to make a sacrifice. You know, I've followed up by it, my mother is a really part of the room. Laimie, she's affected, until she says that it makes me feel like I'm in the world. The world must have been a mess, bleeding, then deep for a few years, don't you see? We're here, these people, we've just got this urge doesn't exist and it affects everything, we object to global politics, how all this is a power. Do you know what it is, the balance of power?

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## **America's First Hostage Crisis**

In 1979, Iranian students invaded the American embassy in Tehran and held American diplomats and others hostage for 444 days. To secure their freedom, President Jimmy Carter agreed in his last days in office to release \$8 billion in frozen Iranian assets.

In Lebanon, during the mid-1980s, pro-Iranian extremists kidnapped and held hostage some two dozen American journalists and teachers. Despite his pledge never to negotiate with terrorists, President Ronald Reagan agreed to sell weapons to Iran in return for the hostages' release. Two were freed, but they were soon replaced when extremists took new American hostages.

Few political issues have distressed Americans more in recent years than the taking of hostages. Both the Carter and Reagan administrations suffered severe political damage as a result of their handling of hostage crises. Today, Americans continue to debate how best to deal with hostage situations. Should the United States negotiate with kidnappers? Should we pay ransom and make political concessions to secure the hostages' freedom? Or should the country flatly refuse to deal with kidnappers?

## **International Terrorism: American Hostages**

### **U.S. Government Policy**

The U.S. Government will make no concessions to individuals or groups holding official or private U.S. citizens hostage. The United States will use every appropriate resource to gain the safe return of American citizens who are held hostage. At the same time, it is U.S. Government policy to deny hostage takers the benefits of ransom, prisoner releases, policy changes, or other acts of concession.

# **Two Rooms**

A Play by Lee Blessing

## **Director**

*Megan Tyner*

## **Technical Director**

*Doug Peters*

## **Time**

*The Present and Recent Past*

## **Cast**

Michael Wells—*Caleb Miller*

Lainie Wells—*Amanda Koch*

Walker Harris—*Seth Baker*

Ellen Van Oss—*Erin Hershberger*

## **Technical Crew**

Stage Manager—*Amanda Diaz*

Assistant Technical Director—*Tim Gross*

Set/Light Design—*Doug Peters*

Assistant Light Design/Light Board Operator—

*Stephanie Friesen*

Costume Design—*Megan Tyner*

Costume Assistant—*Katie Guth*

Power Point Design/Operator and Sound Board Operator—

*Zach Hurst*

Set Construction—*Cast, Drama Participation Class*



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There will be a discussion following the performance which you are invited and encouraged to take part in.

## **From the Director:**

*This summer my family was honored to take part in the wedding of two Hesston alums. My husband and I, along with our two young children, made the trek to Vancouver, B.C. While there, the terrorist plot that was uncovered in Britain forced extra security measures to be taken and I remember watching the news wondering if we were going to be able to make it back to the United States! We arrived at the airport for our return flight an hour and a half ahead of schedule just to make sure that we would leave plenty of time for security checks. It went just fine—everyone was respectful and understanding. I do however, remember one particular moment. I watched my very sleepy eyed six year old daughter remove her shoes, put her doll in a plastic tub to get X-rayed and then proceed through a metal detector. I remember thinking, this is my world now. This is her world. What does this mean? Does the threat of terrorist attacks make us change the way we live out our lives? Does it change the way that we behave towards each other? In the play, Michael says, "We're not different from these people, we've just forgotten." And I think that we have forgotten, or, even more so, we never understood to begin with. And so what do we do with that? As Christians we are called to "turn the other cheek" and to "overcome evil with good." But when the evil is so incomprehensible, at what point do we say, "enough is enough?" This play asks all of those questions and more—and makes a point not to answer any of them.*

*I am very, very proud of the talent you see on stage tonight. This cast and crew have worked incredibly hard for the past month to bring this story to you. They have had to deal with questions of their own and explore ideas that 18 and 19 year olds should not have to. And yet, I watched a 6 year old have her doll X-rayed so she could get on a plane.*