

The Women of Lockerbie to be Presented at SWOSU

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University theatre is set to open its 2005-06 season with an October 6-8 run of Deborah Brevoort's *The Women of Lockerbie*.

The play focuses on the aftermath of the horrific December 21, 1988 event when the American airliner, Pan Am Flight 103, was exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, by a terrorist bomb. All 259 people on board the flight and 11 on the ground were killed.

After the crash of Pan Am 103, the women of Lockerbie, Scotland, set up a laundry project to wash the 11,000 articles of clothing belonging to the victims that were found in the plane's wreckage. Once the clothes were washed, the women packed and shipped them to the victims' families around the world.

These events are historical, according to director Steve Strickler, however the play is loosely inspired by those events and takes place on the seventh year anniversary of the attack.

American parents Madeline and Bill have traveled to Lockerbie to attend a memorial service and meet the women of Lockerbie, who are fighting the U.S. government to obtain the clothing of the victims. The women are determined to convert an act of hatred into an act of love.

According to Brevoort, even though it is a tragedy, *The Women of Lockerbie* is an uplifting story about people who refused to be broken by a disastrous event. They healed themselves from the legacy of terrorism – which is hatred and revenge. Hatred claimed the lives of their loved ones, but they wouldn't let it infect their hearts. They responded with love.

For this play, Brevoort received the Silver Medal at the Onassis International Playwriting Competition and the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays Award.

The SWOSU production will be presented at 7:30 p.m. nightly on October 6, 7 and 8 in the Old Science Building Auditorium. Tickets are \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for non-SWOSU students, and free for those holding an SWOSU I.D. For more information, call 580.774.3240.