

BY BRIANNA HEADSTEN
A & E Editor

Cal State East Bay's new fall theater season introduces the world premiere of a new play, "The Iago Syndrome," about four U.S. war veterans who murder their wives soon after returning from Afghanistan in 2002.

the wives to base. Though their relationship is never ideal, the physical and emotional wounds of war certainly take their toll on Sergeant Brandon, with Andrea trying to keep up a brave face. Caitlin O'Leary does a superb job of playing the endlessly happy Andrea Floyd, infusing humor and undeniable enthusiasm into the play.

Bradford J. Barnes and Grace Khasar, who play Sergeant Ray Griffin and Marilyn Griffin, share a particularly intimate bedroom scene. When the horrors of war seep into the desired intimacy of a relationship, problems occur that are unable to be clearly communicated. Two black-clad dancers that mimicked the actors' words and movements physically manifested what the characters were unable to emotionally express.

Carlos Martinez and Rebecca Bujko play Sergeant Bill and Jennifer Wright. This particular couple brings the most reality to the play by showing every day events like arguments as well as the elation that comes from a marriage engagement and the birth of a child. These factors make one of the final scenes, a graphic depiction of a murder and suicide, all the more disturbing.

Sal Valladolid and Melanie Sutradhara portray Sergeant First Class Bert Nieves and Terry Nieves, who in a particularly

BY MELANIE CRAWFORD
A & E Editor

Impact Theatre in Berkeley is known for its sometimes offbeat, but always hard-hitting productions. This winter's production of "Large Animal Games" definitely meets up to Impact's reputation.

The play, which runs 75 minutes, is a world premiere play written by Steve Yockey.

Its seven players initially appear to be acting in separate individual vignettes but what binds them together becomes apparent fairly quickly.

Laughs come easily as the actors reveal the quirks of their characters: Rose comes home from a European vacation with Miguel, a Spanish "boyfriend" with whom she can't communicate because he speaks no English—but that's okay with her. Then there's Stan, engaged to Alicia, who has the peculiar (and secret) habit of wearing women's lingerie.

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Pirate Radio: Rhys Ifans (above) as one of the British DJ's in the '60s who broadcast from a ship to avoid government regulation.

Photo/Courtesy of Focus Features

BY ELIZABETH HEFNER
Staff Writer

When the British government tries to stop offshore radio stations from broadcasting pop and rock music, eight dedicated disc jockeys stand up for music and fight back in "Pirate Radio."

The highly entertaining film, directed by Richard Curtis (director of "Love Actually"), takes place in the 1960s, when the rock music the public wants to hear isn't being played by mainstream radio stations. The film tells the story of the Radio Rock, the ship that hosts a group of rebellious and dedicated DJs who are broadcasting music they love while defying the government.

Formerly titled "The Boat That Rocked" for the U.K. release, the film has a cast of many talented actors, including Philip Seymour Hoffman (Capote), Bill Nighy (Pirates of the Caribbean), and Rhys Ifans (Notting Hill).

The film centers on the issue of pirate radio stations at risk of be-

mood of the film resonates the feeling that freedom and expression are worth fighting for.

mon sense advice for his customers. Leontyne Mbele-Mbong's (Valerie) continually changing outlook on her big game expedition (when she actually shoots a gazelle, she is completely anguished) shows a fine range of emotions. The exchanges between Rose (Elissa Dunn) and Nicole (Cindy Im) regarding Rose's scandalous choice to bring a non-English-speaking man back with her from Europe, after having barely met him, are down-to-earth and realistic. By the end of the play, the audience knows that each individual and their own reality has been touched or changed by the events that have taken place.

"I really liked Cindy Im's character, Nicole," said Julie Elder of Castro Valley, who attended the play Saturday night. "She played her part so naturally that I really believed she could be that character."

"Large Animal Games" continues Thursday to Saturday, 8:00 p.m., through Dec. 12, at La Val's Subterranean, 1834 Euclid in Berkeley. Tickets start at \$12. To make reservations, call 510 464-4468 or check it out on Impact Theatre's website, impacttheatre.com.