

# AIDS Memorial Quilt is thematic companion

On display with current PRC play

BY MICHELLE LEWIS  
STAFF WRITER

Jerry Cohen. Roy Cohn. Howard Okorofsky. These are among the 91,000 names honored in the AIDS Memorial Quilt, maintained by the NAMES Project Foundation.

Four 12-by-12 foot sections of the quilt will be on display at the Paul Green Theatre through March 6 to accompany PlayMakers Repertory Company's presentation of "Angels in America," playwright Tony Kushner's award-winning play on AIDS in America.

Each panel of the quilt is created by friends, family or admirers in memory of someone who died of AIDS.

The entire quilt measures 1.3 million square feet.

Jeffrey Meanza, associate artistic director for PlayMakers — who also plays Louis Ironson in "Angels in America" — said he volunteered for the NAMES project while he was in college.

"I thought it'd be the perfect opportunity for us to showcase this on campus," Meanza said.

"The play is so much about the silence that lingered among the lives of those people and about giving a voice to those folks suffering with AIDS and HIV.

"It feels like it's for them. There's a sense of 'this is why we're doing this play,'" he said.

Each panel measures 3 feet by 6 feet — about the size of a human grave.

"If you think back to the early days of the epidemic when people were talking about statistics and not really talking about real lives, real people lost to this disease. We needed a big visual to say, 'here's the evidence, don't ever forget,'" said Julie Rhoad, executive director for the NAMES project.

The panels of the quilt on display at the theater range from simple to highly elaborate.

Some panels only display a name while others include pictures,



DTH/MARY KOENIG

Community members stand beneath an AIDS Memorial Quilt in the lobby of the CDA, where PlayMakers' "Angels in America" is showing.

poems and notes.

The panel dedicated to Kurt W. Massey has an entire tuxedo jacket beside a picture of him and his partner.

Two panels on the display are in memory of Roy Cohn, a lawyer portrayed in "Angels in America" who denied being homosexual and having AIDS.

"They're not particularly favorable portrayals of him because he's not exactly the most respected person in history," Meanza said.

One of Cohn's panels displays the words: "bully, coward, victim."

Jeffrey Blair Cornell, who plays Cohn in "Angels in America," said Cohn was ultimately a victim.

"All his power and all his influence and all his connections couldn't save him," Cornell said.

"The disease doesn't care about human conceit or vanity."

## SEE THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

**Time:** Now through March 6

**Location:** Lobby, Center for Dramatic Art

**Info:** [www.playmakersrep.org](http://www.playmakersrep.org)

Pairing the quilt with "Angels in America" makes a great connection, Rhoad said.

"(It was) calling America's attention to this disease in a very different way than other works had done, and calling on us to ask questions about life and the value of life and what that meant for us all," Rhoad said. "I think the quilt did the same thing.

"Essentially, it's almost impossible to walk away from the quilt unchanged."

Contact the Arts Editor at [arts@dailytarheel.com](mailto:arts@dailytarheel.com).

## National and World News

N&W

### Know more on today's top story:

► Leaders of the army said they would only keep power for six months, or until new elections can be held <http://wapo.st/eJUGUC> (via Washington Post)

► Wyre Davies says there is an 'upbeat mood' in Cairo's Tahrir Square. Watch the video <http://bbc.in/gqALEN> (via BBC)

► Egypt's Central Bank decided it will suspend work in banks on Monday <http://bit.ly/gxyXQ4> (via Al Jazeera)

Go to [dailytarheel.com/index.php/section/state](http://dailytarheel.com/index.php/section/state) to discuss new developments in Egypt.

### Egyptian military dissolves country's parliament and suspends constitution

CAIRO (MCT) — Egypt's military disbanded the country's parliament and suspended the constitution on Sunday, saying it will rule for six months or until presidential and parliamentary elections are held, according to a statement by the military council read on state television.

The announcement, which came two days after the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak, met some of the demands of anti-government protesters who for nearly three weeks demonstrated against Mubarak and the parliament, demanding constitutional reforms.

Parliamentary elections held in November were considered fraudulent and marred by mass

arrests, pressure on independent candidates, news-media harassment and a boycott by some opposition groups. Last week, in the final days of Mubarak's rule, hundreds gathered in front of the parliament building in addition to the thousands in Tahrir Square.

The army appeared to have left in place the Cabinet, which is running the country.

Earlier Sunday, the army began to clear Tahrir Square, the center of the protests, tearing down tents and opening it to traffic.

The popular uprising shut down Egypt's economy, sparked fighting and froze activity in downtown Cairo, home to the government and major businesses.

### Italy opens refugee camp for Tunisians

LAMPEDUSA, Italy (MCT) — Bowing to local pressure in a rising tide of Tunisian refugees, Italian Interior Minister Roberto Maroni decided Sunday to reopen a large refugee camp on the southern island of Lampedusa.

The central camp took in about 1,000 people on Sunday evening, Italian media reported.

Many of the refugees reportedly were reluctant to be admitted into the camp, fearing that they would be arrested.

Maroni was bowing to pressure from the local population in the decision, after Rome rejected reopening the camp so as not to

"additionally encourage" refugees from heading toward the tiny island.

A further 1,000 Tunisian boat refugees arrived overnight on Lampedusa, further straining the tiny Italian island's facilities to assist them.

At least 230 people were redistributed to camps in Sicily and the mainland by ferries and planes on Sunday, Italian media reported. About 2,300 refugees nevertheless remained on the island by the afternoon, with another 300 sighted on the sea and expected to arrive in the evening, police said.

### Obama to present federal budget

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MCT)

— President Barack Obama on Monday will propose a federal budget that would add \$11 trillion to the nation's debt over the next decade, White House officials say.

Obama will stress that it could be even worse, saying he's actually proposing cutting the red ink by \$1 trillion over the decade through a combination of tax increases and spending cuts.

But that falls far short of the recommendations of his own budget deficit commission.

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### February 15:

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Michael Kreyling will be speaking about his research around his new book that explores the cultural politics of memory in representations of the South through an examination of re-enacted memory in latter-day versions of the Civil War, the construction of white liberal southern-ness in post-Civil Rights fiction and works by authors such as Robert Penn Warren and W.E.B. Dubois.



### March 1:

Marci Campbell

#### HEALTH AND WEALTH: ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES OF POOR HEALTH IN EASTERN NC THROUGH ASSETS DEVELOPMENT

Marci will speak about her work in eastern NC with recognizing and intervening creatively to address root causes of poor health. She will also talk about the evolution and current status of HOPE projects, which blend health promotion with social and economic empowerment strategies.



ALL TALKS BEGIN AT 4PM IN THE ROYALL ROOM OF THE G.W. HILL ALUMNI CENTER. (at the corner of stadium dr.& ridge rd.)

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