

Mather sews together her dreams

“I like to go from different time periods, different styles, different colors.”

BY KRISTIN HALUSZCZAK
Staff Reporter

Just like the rapidly changing Kirksville weather, professor of theater Joan Mather welcomes change into her life.

That passion for change is most evident by the many journeys Mather has taken during her life and a love for theater, art and music. Mather said she loved the arts as a child and continues to express this love through her experiences in the world of theater.

“My parents have movies of me being very theatrical, and they built me a stage in the backyard,” Mather said.

She said she was involved in the arts throughout her adolescence and that she wanted to perform until she went to college and learned what it took to be a performer.

“If you’re a successful performer in live theater, you have a role and then you play that role over and over and over, night after night after night,” Mather said. “For me, it’s all about the creativity ... [but later] I get bored.”

After deciding not to pursue a career in theater, her interest in art paved the way for a career in design, she said.

Mather said she is interested in a variety of design, and would like to work for more than one area of theater.

“I like to go from different time periods, different styles, different colors,” she said. “Right now we’ve been doing a lot of bland-colored shows — I’m looking forward to some bright color soon.”

Mather said she taught costume design and makeup at the College of the Sequoias, a junior college in California, before coming to Truman. She said she also worked at a dinner theater and a couple of other big name theaters in California.

All eyes on Joan Mather



Mayank Dhungana/Index

Joan Mather said she has been interested in theater from a young age, but that in college she found that she preferred the creativity of costume and theater design.

“I don’t think I’d ever held a job steady in theater for longer than about four years, but that’s common in theater — you’re not expected to stay anywhere very long,” Mather said.

She said her favorite show was the first for which she was able to design every aspect of costuming.

“That one stands out as the first time I actually got to do exactly what I wanted to do,” Mather said.

She said she has dealt with a couple of

costume malfunctions. One of the biggest problems she had was in a show set in the Elizabethan era.

“I made these pants for this guy who was a thug, a robber, and he gets caught, and they take him, and two people hold him up by his feet, and [the] crotch split wide open on opening night,” Mather said. “We just didn’t make it well enough, so I’ve been a bit more careful since then.”

Mather said she also enjoys directing shows because she likes working with the

performers on a different level.

“I choose [actors] I want to work with, that I want to spend a lot of time with, and then I try to cast people I want to work with that I feel will work [well] together,” Mather said.

Mather said her love for the arts affected her hobby choices as well. She said she likes to knit, quilt and paint in her free time.

“Right now I’ve rediscovered a love of reading novels, just pleasure reading,” Mather said. “I got an electronic book reader, and it’s made [reading] so easy.”

STAND looks to end genocide

BY KRISHA SHRESTHA
Staff Reporter

A small group of students is taking a stand against genocide. STAND recently was formed at Truman under the STAND Genocide Intervention Network.

STAND is focused on giving students a chance to affect issues in the international sphere. Members can be a part of the group by signing a petition, calling the state department or joining in fundraisers, protests and conferences.

The group is small right now, but has big plans to combat genocide in the future. STAND’s first project is collaborating with Amnesty International in its week-long International Justice campaign.

President of STAND senior Casey Millburg said during the campaign members will be manning a table to support a petition geared toward the arrest of Sudan’s President Omar.

“The petition is going to say, ‘I support the arrest of [the] Sudanese president or the International Criminal Court for issuing [an] arrest warrant against Sudanese president for crimes against humanity and war crimes and genocides relating to the conflict of what has been happening in Darfur,’ — somewhere along those lines,” Millburg said.

Millburg said she will cheer the day al-Bashir is handcuffed because no sitting president of any country has ever been arrested or prosecuted for ongoing genocide.

“Often times we hear about the problem but we do not hear there is a solution to the problem — especially with genocide,” Mill-

burg said. “The petition is to make students aware of what is happening and that there is something that is being done about the genocide. So when they sign the petition we’ll be sending it off to the White House, the International Criminal Court, to our state senators as well as state representatives to let them know that the students of this school support the arrest.”

STAND is taking unique approaches to the usual fundraising and awareness campaign. The group has two other projects in the planning stages: Dresses for Darfur — a fundraiser — and a traditional Sudanese dinner — an awareness program.

“We are going to ask students over [midterm break] Spring Break [to bring back dresses] or if they have dresses lying around here to donate them, and in late March we are going to have a dress sale,” Millburg said. “It’s to raise funds for the genocide intervention network — trying to help out people who are essentially being killed just because they are alive.”

Senior Lauren Walter, president of Amnesty International, said she is pleased about collaborating with STAND for the petition and believes the group can have a positive influence on campus.

“There are so many international justice issues that it’s hard just to pick one, but STAND really helped us provide a focus as far as the petitioning was concerned,” Walter said.

She said genocide is a huge problem in many parts of the world, and she hopes STAND can bring students’ attention specifically to that concern.

“It is very easy for students who are very far away from the issue to be completely complacent and put it in the back of our mind and forget that these horrible crimes are happening in other parts of the world,” Walter said. “I think it’s important that STAND is initiating this campaign and is willing to work with us because together we can be much stronger than either one of us can be individually.”

Marc Becker, STAND’s adviser and professor of history, said he feels strongly about the topic of genocide and the group’s initiative.

“Genocide is one of those issues that affects us all as humans,” Becker said. “Genocide is not something you just . . . become concerned with. Genocide is something that impacts all of humanity . . . All of us as humans have to take responsibility — take actions to stop it.”

Becker said groups like STAND play an important role in bringing awareness about what is happening in the rest of the world. He also said he thinks STAND has a lot of potential to progress as a group.

“If we think of Mahatma Gandhi in India, for instance, and all of these global movements — [they] start out small with initiatives like this,” Walter said. “Sometimes they are successful and sometimes they are not. Particularly when we are dealing with issues like genocide, we are morally [obligated] to do what we can to make people aware of the situation and to stop it if possible.”

STAND does not just deal with genocide in Sudan although this has been its primary focus for the past few years. The situation involving Burmese immigrants in Thailand, along with situations in Sri Lanka and Democratic Republic of Congo, have triggered STAND’s concern. Visit www.standnow.org/chapter/tsu for more information.



Krista Goodman/Index

Water pilates classes are held at the Kirksville Aquatic Center.

PILATES | Kirksville Aquatic Center offers unique exercise

Continued from page 9

or strain on your body, and it does help you lose inches because it tightens and firms you up.”

Natorium director Jeff Arabas teaches the American Red Cross aquatics classes and a few Health 196 swimming classes.

“I would suspect that the biggest, greatest benefit of doing water aerobics versus land aerobics would be the lack of injury,” Arabas said. “You don’t have a lot of impact.”

Arabas worked at a sports medicine clinic in Kansas City for a few years. He said he often worked with rehabilitation in the swimming pool and recalled a story in which one gentleman was relearning to walk.

“Take a step [up], step back down, step up, step down, [he was attempting to] try to re-learn how to do the steps and also get the benefit of [the water] — it’s not full weight bearing,” Arabas said. “He was kind of progressing in a natural way, but it was kind of an interesting experience.”



- Open 24/7, except 9 p.m. Sunday to 6 a.m. Monday
- Full menu - breakfast, lunch and dinner 24/7
- College tradition
- Est. 1983
- Locally-owned and operated

