



Vang, A Drama about Recent Immigrant Farmers

Enjoy the on-stage performance followed by an Immigration Workshop or Actor Talkbacks

April 4, 2019

**MCC Student Center
Muscatine Community College
152 Colorado St., Muscatine, IA**

Performance 9:45 – 11 a.m.

Immigration Workshops 11:20 a.m. – 1:20 p.m. with Mary Swander

Performance 7 – 8:30 p.m. with Actor Talkbacks



THE *Community's* College



"For any sensitive soul, it is not possible to be a witness to this play and not be changed by it, not be moved by the gut-wrenching experiences of these recent refugees and immigrants. We applaud their ability to survive the horrific and find solace in their farms and gardens."

Dr. Judith A. Conlin, Former Executive Director of the Iowa International Center

Poet Laureate of Iowa **Mary Swander**, Pulitzer Prize winning photographer **Dennis Chamberlin**, and ACT Kennedy award-winner **Matt Foss**, collaborated to create this drama. Vang, means "garden" or "farm" in Hmong. Swander and Chamberlin began by documenting recent Iowa immigrant farmers. Swander wove their words together to form a verbatim play that captures the immigrants' journeys to the United States.

Hmong, Mexican, Sudanese and Dutch immigrants all speak of their struggles, survival skills and their strong desire to return to the land. The play shares the intense journeys of the following individuals and families:

- A Hmong family who fled Communist bullets and wild tigers through the jungle of Laos and across the Mekong River to the refugee camp in Thailand.
- A Sudanese man who was thrown into prison in Ethiopia for helping the Lost Boys and was left gasping for air through a crack in the door.
- A Mexican woman who taught herself English by looking up the meaning of profane words that were hurled at her during her first job in a meat packing plant.
- A Dutch boy, dressed as a cowboy, who put the flag of Netherlands through the paper shredder and declared, "I am an American."

**For more information,
call 563-288-6005**

eicc.edu

EICC is an EEO/AA/Titles VI, VII & IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution. For a complete copy of our statement, please visit eicc.edu/eo