



Above and right: Scenes from *Love in a Time of War*, performed at the University of Memphis in October. Photos by Curt Hart.

***Love in a Time of War* Playwright Catherine Ladnier Visits University of Memphis**

The College of Communication and Fine Arts was honored to welcome playwright Catherine Ladnier for the opening of *Love in a Time of War* at the U of M's Studio Theatre this past October. The local premier included a playwright lecture during which Ladnier offered a rare glimpse of the play's origin and its backstory.

Love in a Time of War is based on letters written by servicemen and their loved ones during World War II and was co-written with Paul Janensch. The letters and other correspondence were saved by Ladnier's mother, Eva Lee Brown of Easley, South Carolina, and discovered after Brown passed away in 2001. The narrative reveals stories of hardship, involving love and romance during the war by ordinary men and women who met extraordinary challenges during this time. The written exchanges are candid, sad and sometimes funny. Men were facing the draft or were already in uniform; many saw action on the frontlines. Women, left behind at home, were lonely and dealing with shortages. The play paints poignant portraits of the personal side of war.

