

UC Merced Global Arts Studies Program Presents

IF ALL THE SKY WERE PAPER

by Andrew Carroll

A one-act play based on Carroll's incredible journey to more than 30 countries on six continents, to seek out the most extraordinary war letters ever written

*Featuring students from "Performative Storytelling"
All proceeds donated to American Legion Post 38, a non-profit organization supporting veterans in Merced County*



Admission | Friday, May 6 at 7:30
\$10 | Sunday, May 8 at 2:00

Merced Multicultural Arts Center - 645 W Main St.

eventbrite.com/e/if-all-the-sky-were-paper-tickets-293750434457



Global Arts Studies Program

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Andrew Carroll, the “MILLION LETTERS CAMPAIGN” and *If All the Sky Were Paper*

Historian and four-time *New York Times* bestselling author Andrew Carroll (bio below) will visit Merced May 4 - 8. During this time, he will:

- Present “*LINES OF FIRE: The Search for the Greatest War Correspondences Ever Written*” a talk FREE and open to the community on **Saturday, May 7 at 2pm** (Merced College Theater)
- Meet with student veterans from both Merced College and UC Merced, in a private reception, following the talk on **Saturday, May 7 at 4:00pm** (Peter J. Gallo Veterans Resource Center at Merced College)
- Attend rehearsals for, and presentations of, his one-act play; *If All the Sky Were Paper* which will be presented by UC Merced students enrolled in Global Arts Studies 141: *Advanced Performative Storytelling*, on **Friday, May 6 at 7:30pm** and **Saturday, May 8 at 2:00pm** (Multicultural Arts Center); Q&A session following each performance
- Connect with local veterans and families of veterans, encouraging the perseveration of letters written during times of war

Trailer for upcoming documentary highlighting Carroll’s work, titled *War Unfolding* (powerful primer for this event): <https://vimeo.com/636671275/b154167ed9>

National ABC News piece:

<http://abcnews.go.com/ThisWeek/video/war-letters-american-history-31273090>

Website for The Center for American War Letters, of which Mr. Carroll is the Founding Director:

www.WarLetters.us

More about the play *If All the Sky Were Paper*:

If All the Sky Were Paper was written by award-winning author Andrew Carroll and is inspired by his *New York Times* bestselling books *WAR LETTERS* and *BEHIND THE LINES*, and his journey to all 50 states and more than 40 countries around the world, including Iraq and Afghanistan. The play features many of the best war-related letters and emails by soldiers, Marines, sailors, and airmen, as well their loved ones at home. The actors go through the full spectrum of emotions and experiences contained in the correspondences. From the incredible drama and ferocity of battle to the pathos and humor of everyday life on the front lines, these letters and emails, woven through Carroll’s extraordinary story, will deeply move and inspire audiences.

This particular production is directed by UC Merced Continuing Lecturer, Jenni Samuelson and features the students from her course, “Advanced Performative Storytelling.”

The “MILLION LETTERS CAMPAIGN” and Merced County

Students from UC Merced will work with local artist, Sue Thompson, on an exhibit consisting of war-related letters and emails, curated from our community. The exhibit will be on display in the lobby at both the talk (Merced College) and the performances (Multicultural Arts Center). All are welcome and encouraged to submit scans of such letters for the purpose of this exhibit by emailing mercedmillionletters@gmail.com or by using the following google form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1BrsVKEoPMGLAscj0H7x-rTlw7Fb_enaf4PS4pQiBLrM/edit?usp=sharing

Samuelson is excited to be partnering with Glenn Galmin, County Veterans Services Officer - Merced County Human Services Agency, to connect with local veterans. Over the next three weeks, students from her class / cast members are visiting local veteran’s organizations across Merced County; informing them about the play, the “talk” and the opportunity to submit letters for the exhibit.

Sponsorships

These events are possible thanks to generous support from Merced College, Merced Sunrise Rotary, TransCounty Title, UC Merced UpstART, and UC Merced Global Arts Studies Program.

Andrew Carroll Biography

Andrew Carroll is a bestselling author, historian, and playwright. He is the editor of four *New York Times* bestsellers, including *WAR LETTERS* and *BEHIND THE LINES*.

In 1998, Andrew founded the Legacy Project, an all-volunteer initiative that was created to honor veterans, active-duty troops, and their families by preserving their wartime correspondences. Andrew has traveled to all 50 states and more than 40 countries, including Iraq and Afghanistan, and he had collected approximately 100,000 previously unpublished correspondences from every war in U.S. history, from handwritten missives penned during the American Revolution to emails sent to Iraq and Afghanistan. Andrew donated this massive collection, free of charge, to Chapman University in 2013. The Legacy Project has been re-named “The Center for American War Letters” and is now part of Chapman University. Andrew serves as the Center's director and continues to seek out and archive war-related correspondences, and the collection has almost doubled in size.

Andrew also edited, on a pro bono basis, *OPERATION HOMECOMING: Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Home Front, in the Words of U.S. Troops and Their Families*, and the book inspired the Emmy award-winning documentary “Operation Homecoming.” Both the book and the film have also been used in veterans’ hospitals and medical centers to help military personnel with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Andrew’s work has helped to provide counseling for thousands of troops and veterans coping with PTSD.

Andrew is featured in the critically acclaimed PBS film on World War I, called “THE GREAT WAR,” and his most recent book is *MY FELLOW SOLDIERS: General John Pershing and the Americans Who Helped Win the Great War*. Andrew also wrote a play based on the letters he’s collected and his travels to find them called “If All the Sky Were Paper,” which has starred Oscar-winning actors including Annette Bening, Laura Dern, Common, and Mary Steenburgen.

Most recently, Carroll co-founded “Americans for Ukraine,” a nonprofit coalition of volunteers working to provide urgently needed aid to Ukrainians now and also to support long-term efforts that will rebuild Ukraine and preserve the country’s arts and culture.