## PROJECT THEATRE PRODUCTION

This is a

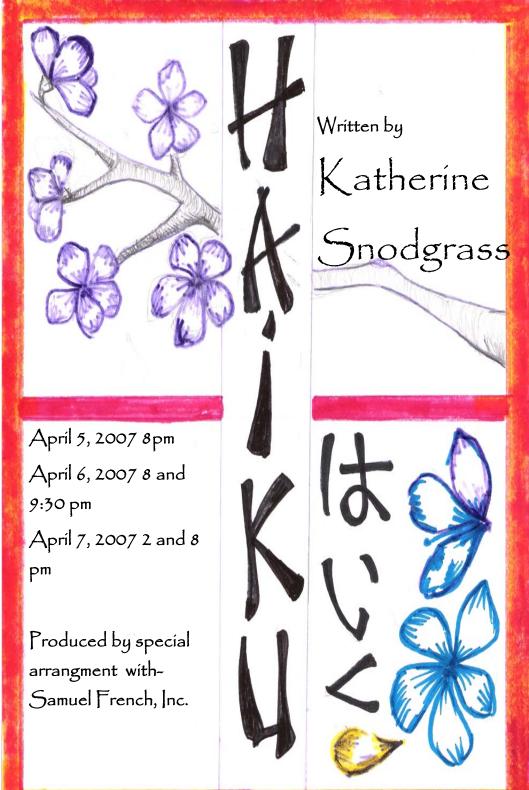
Supported by the Mount Holyoke College Department of Theatre Arts.

Coming soon...

## GOOD OLD GIRLS

April 13-15 Dwight 101

Cover art provided by Nicole Koch



## HAIKU

## Cast

Nell	Rachel Spollett
Louise	Nicole Koch
Billie	Nicole Zurawin
Crew	
Director	Melanie Zaryckyj
Assistant Director	Kylie McCormick
Producer	Johanna Harrís
Stage Manager	Janice Acevedo
Assistant Stage Manager	Bríanna Bíngham
Lighting Designer	Caitlin Morse
Assistant Lighting Designer	Rachel Borg
Set Designer/Technical	Barbara Harrison
Sound Designer	Emily Freeman
Costume Desígner	Althea Greenstone
Dramaturg	Allyse Knox
House Manager	Rebecca Stein

Autism is a developmental disability of the central nervous system that manifests itself in children at an early age, most often before three years. It is characterized by impaired social interaction, delays in language development and use, and repetitive or restricted play or activities. It is a lifelong disorder, and it is estimated that it occurs in about 1 out of 150 children. Symptoms range widely between autistic people; some may experience only mild challenges in day-to-day life, while others experience severe disabilities.

Like any condition of this sort, autism has far-ranging effects on the family of an autistic person. Severely disabled autistics will need a caretaker throughout the rest of their lives. Particularly for mothers who often bear the most responsibility for child-rearing, significant psychological distress and feelings of grief or sadness are common. This is especially true for single mothers who have little other familial support. In some cases, mothers may even engage in wishfulfilling fantasies. Furthermore, because of the amount of time required to raise an autistic child, siblings may feel resentment and as if they are being treated unfairly. Siblings of autistic children often feel lonely and may experience problems with their peers.

Since autism only began to be diagnosed on a large scale quite recently, there have been few studies focused on autistic adults in particular, although there is some evidence that suggests improvement occurs with social interaction and responsiveness. However, this is still unclear.

*Haiku* is the story of the family of a severely autistic adult. Through the voices of Nell, Billie, and Louise, Kate Snodgrass seeks to clarify the challenges present in the everyday life of thousands of families.