

This is a
**PROJECT THEATRE
PRODUCTION**

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



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Written by
**Katherine
Snodgrass**

April 5, 2007 8pm

April 6, 2007 8 and
9:30 pm

April 7, 2007 2 and 8
pm

Produced by special
arrangement with-
Samuel French, Inc.



HAIKU

Cast

Nell Rachel Spollett

Louise Nicole Koch

Billie Nicole Zurawin

Crew

Director Melanie Zaryckyj

Assistant Director Kylie McCormick

Producer Johanna Harris

Stage Manager Janice Acevedo

Assistant Stage Manager Brianna Bingham

Lighting Designer Caitlin Morse

Assistant Lighting Designer Rachel Borg

Set Designer/Technical Barbara Harrison

Sound Designer Emily Freeman

Costume Designer 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 wish-fulfilling 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.