

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—April 12, 2006

### **Dramatic Comedy *Training Wisteria* To Be Performed April 20-24**

KEUKA PARK, N.Y.—The dramatic comedy *Training Wisteria*, by Molly Smith Metzler, will be performed at Keuka College April 20-24.



The spring theatre production will be staged at 8 p.m. April 20-23 and 7 p.m. April 24 in the Red Barn Theatre.

*Training Wisteria* is the story of a contemporary American family in shambles after a recent divorce. Junior Caley Sharratt plays Lynn, the broken-hearted matriarch of the family. She is busy preparing for son Dylan's (played by freshman Justin Roe) high school graduation party and works on sprucing up the back yard by digging up a decaying compost pile and nurturing a stubborn tree. Dylan turns to alcohol after the divorce and ends up destroying the

work his mother has done in the yard.

Eldest child Rachel (played by sophomore Erin Merklinger) comes home from her Ivy League school for her brother's party and tries to help Lynn and Dylan cope with the absence of her father, Stephen (played by sophomore Brian Cobb), while trying to come to terms with it herself. Thirteen-year-old Kacie (played by freshman Meghan Russell) holds out hope that her father will come back.

It is when Stephen comes to the house for his weekly visits with Kacie that the children reveal how they really feel about his having left. Realizing how the divorce is affecting her children, Lynn pulls herself together and tries to keep Dylan, Rachel, and Kacie from going the way of the yard.

"The play treats a serious subject matter with a light touch," according to Associate Professor of Theatre Mark Wenderlich, who directs the College production. "There are lots of laughs."

Sophomore Heidi Reynolds is stage manager, and sophomore Pam Waterman and freshman Kate Volz are assistant stage managers.

(more)

## **DRAMATIC COMEDY 2**

*Training Wisteria* was first produced by the Playwright's Theatre at Boston University in October 2002 and presented at the Kennedy Center for the Nation College Theater Festival in 2003. It won the Michael Kanin National Student Playwriting Award, Mark Twain Prize for Comic Playwriting, and David Mark Cohen National Playwriting Award in 2003.

Ticket prices are \$4 for Keuka students, faculty, and staff; \$7 for the general public. Tickets are available on-line at [www.genevaarts.com](http://www.genevaarts.com) and will also be available at the door. For more information, call Wenderlich at (315) 521-1876.