

# windows of inspiration

a view of performing and visual arts from around the world

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
FALL 2007 PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITIONS



## **The Marriage of Bette and Boo by Christopher Durang**

*Directed by Walt Jones*

October 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 8:00 p.m., October 21, 2:00 p.m.  
Studio Theatre, University Center for the Arts, 1400 Remington Street  
\$16, \$14/Seniors, \$7/CSU Students

Christopher Durang's award winning play "The Marriage of Bette and Boo" is a darkly hilarious play that smashes social conventions, but breaks your heart in a remorselessly sad and aching funny assault on the vanities, inanities and insanities of family life.

As the play begins Bette and Boo are being united in matrimony, surrounded by their beaming families. But as the further progress of their marriage is chronicled, it becomes increasingly clear that things are not working out quite as hoped for. Conveyed in a series of dazzlingly inventive interconnected scenes, the play moves wickedly on through three decades of divorce, alcoholism, madness and fatal illness—all blended in a unique mix of irony, humor and farcical brilliance by one of America's most gifted modern playwrights.

This presentation of "The Marriage of Bette and Boo" is unique because of director Walt Jones' past connection to the play and its author. "Chris was a classmate of mine at Yale. I was in and directed this play in 1973-74. In the cast with me was Meryl Streep (playing Bette's bitter sister Joan)," says Jones.

Walt Jones is now the director of the Theatre program at Colorado State and is excited to direct the student cast and present "The Marriage of Bette and Boo" in Fort Collins. He says, "Although over the years I have directed many of Chris' plays, I have always felt closest to 'Bette and Boo;' it is the most autobiographical of his plays, also the most human."

"The Marriage of Bette and Boo" is the winner of an OBIE Award - the *Off-Broadway Theater Awards* given by the newspaper *The Village Voice*. Reviews of the play speak to Durang's talents as a playwright:

- "Once more Durang is demonstrating his special knack for wrapping life's horrors in the primary colors of absurdist comedy." —*New York Times*
- "Durang has the ability of making the real absurd and the absurd real." — *New York Post*
- "Christopher Durang, the humorist and satirist, has rarely written anything funnier or more serious than his mordant comedy 'The Marriage of Bette and Boo' ...a brimming cornucopia of brilliant lines." -*The New Yorker*
- "Christopher Durang has been the wicked and wonderful kid cartoonist of the modern theatre for a while. Now he is one of the masters...wicked, wonderful and cartoony. 'Bette and Boo' is both demented and compassionate. And wise, hysterical and incredibly sad. There is not a false note or extra word." - *USA Today*

Sponsored in part by *The Rocky Mountain Chronicle*



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**Colorado State University School of the Arts**

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