

Meredith Performs' new play *Uncommon*

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Staff Writer

*Uncommon Women & Others* is a play that explores the lives of five young women from their college days to the present. It traces their growth, relationships and how they have changed.

In the first scene, Kate, Samantha, Muffet, Holly and Rita meet at a restaurant in 1978 and catch up and reminisce about their college days.

They attended Mount Holyoke College, "a college established to do for young women what Yale had done for young men."

In her director's note, Catherine Rodgers reports that the title of the play was taken from a remark made by the president of the college at the time, Glenn Getell, who was not very popular with the students.

Between the scenes of the play we hear the voice of the president speaking about the purpose of the college and the expectations and the accom-

plishments of its graduates.

There is a striking difference between the lofty words of this man and what we witness in the lives of these women.

The audience soon sees that these are uncommon women, though not necessarily in the way the president of the college means.

We see that in many ways these young women are still girls at heart, such as when they dance around the parlor together or have a party for their stuffed animal Piglet.

We also see that in spite of the superb etiquette their house mother, Mrs. Plumm, tries to instill in them, they are still sometimes rude and selfish.

When the saccharine sweet Susie Friend leaves the room they impersonate her, and Muffet never misses an opportunity to get a dig in at Holly about food or her weight.

We also see the strained friendship of Kate and her former good friend and roommate of three years, Leilah.

Kate seems to be the best at

everything from attracting guys to getting the best grades, and Leilah longs to get out of college so she can escape from Kate's shadow.

Everyone seems to look up to Kate, believing she has her life mapped out. However, the audience sees Kate take breaks from her studies to read trashy love novels, which she shoves under her pillow when someone enters the room.

One night she can't sleep and goes and talks to Carter, a freshman, who is typing in rhythm to Handel's Hallelujah Chorus in preparation for her typing exam. Kate explains that she is scared of ending up a cold woman in a cold gray business suit not knowing how to do anything but succeed.

All of the girls have to deal with their fears of not knowing what they will do after they graduate.

The audience is also made privy to a lot of their girl talk about men, much of which is a bit graphic, and Rita is so blunt that she often embarrasses even

them.

The women all wrestle with choices concerning their future careers, men and whether they want to have children.

We cannot help but laugh along with them as they struggle with growing up and changing.

The play captures the audience's attention from beginning to end. The set is impressively lifelike and the talented cast draws the audience in making them feel like "just one of the girls."

The play does contain mature language

and topics so parental discretion is advised.

It is being performed February 15-19 at 8 p.m. and February 20 at 2 p.m. in the Meredith College Studio Theatre in Jones Hall. Contact the box office at 760-2840.



Lindsey Sutton, Dr. Burgunde Winz and Kathryn Allen appear in *Uncommon Women*.

PHOTO BY STEVE WILSON



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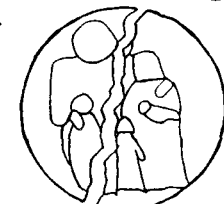
Monday, February 21st  
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We will have a questionnaire to help you evaluate your relationships, if you are curious.

**"SHATTERED DISHES"**

Could be about you.  
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Show times at 12:30 and 3:30

Date Approved: 2/16/00  
Date to be Reviewed: 2/22/00

**VOTE**

***Leslie Gilliland***

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