



# News Release

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## **WESTERN'S COMMUNICATION AND THEATRE STUDIES DEPARTMENT TO PRESENT TWO COMEDIES**

**St. Joseph, Mo.**—Feb. 25, 2003—The communication and theatre studies department will present “Mrs. Sorken” and “For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls” on March 3 and 4 at 8 p.m. in the Thompson E. Potter Fine Arts Building at Missouri Western State College. The comedies will be presented back-to-back in the Black Box Theatre, room 106. Tickets are available in the communication studies and theatre department in the Janet Gorman Murphy Building room 207 and are \$2.

The cast includes: Brian Piepergerdes of St. Joseph as Mr. Sorken; Kat Guyer of St. Joseph as Mrs. Sorken; Whitney Cook of Kansas City as Amanda; Chris Blodgett of Baring, Mo. as Lawrence; Seth Brackman of Kearney, Mo. as Tom; and Sarah Teubner of St. Joseph as Ginny. The director is Joel Nelson of St. Joseph.

Playwright Christopher Durang, who wrote the plays, is known for bringing parody back to theatre. “Mrs. Sorken” introduces the audience to parody and “For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls” follows is a parody of “The Glass Menagerie” by Tennessee Williams. In this play, Durang’s fading Southern belle Amanda tries to prepare her son Lawrence for a “feminine caller” but all he wants to do is play with his collection of glass cocktail stirrers. Ginny the feminine caller, is nearly deaf and overbearingly friendly. Lawrence’s brother Tom just wants to go to the movies, where he keeps meeting sailors

who need to be put up in his room. Amanda tries to face everything with charm and vivacity, but sometimes she just wants to hit somebody.

A review in the New York Times said, "With the help of Mr. Durang, the fine art of parody has returned to theater in a production you can sink teeth and mind into, while also laughing like an idiot. Parody of this comic verve is as much fun as the sort of marvelous party Noel Coward once sang about. I couldn't have enjoyed it more."

Missouri Western State College is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The college offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.

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