

## 'Beyond Therapy' opens AU's Performing Arts season

10/04/04

Beyond Therapy by Christopher Durang opens Wednesday, Oct. 6, and runs through Saturday, Oct. 9, in C.D. Smith III Theatre, Miller Performing Arts Center, on the Alfred University campus. Curtain time for each performance is 8 p.m. Reservations may be made on-line at <http://las.alfred.edu/per...> or by calling 607-871-2828. Directed by Professor Stephen Crosby, chair of the AU Division of Performing Arts, Beyond Therapy is described as a "quirky, satirical comedy and love story, Beyond Therapy should appeal to anyone who has ever taken the trouble to wonder why, with the multitudes of therapists and social workers, it seems we remain no less screwed up than we were in days gone by, perhaps more so." Considered by many to be Durang's best play, Beyond Therapy "opens with a blind date from hell, one with which everyone can identify. Its characters, extravagant and wild, are aided by their whacky therapists, as they strive to find happiness in an indifferent world. But the play is not intended to ridicule practitioners of a noble and useful profession. It is a story of people, not of professions. "Durang generates a unique style of humor: strong and sometimes dark but never black, absurd but relevant and insightful. His protagonists in general, and in Beyond Therapy in particular, tend towards the borderline psychotic. Through Bruce and Prudence, we get far more than a portrait of crazy people in need of help, though. In their let-it-all-hang-out personal interaction and wildly "inappropriate" therapist/patient relationships, they make their way through a world, which appears even less rational than they are. They are human. Their dilemmas make sense. We cannot help but empathize with them."