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## Spoon River Anthology Shatters Myths Of Small-Town Life

### Colby-Sawyer press release

Colby-Sawyer College will host a stage adaptation of *Spoon River Anthology*, in which the ghosts of the townspeople, free in death, return to share their stories and the secrets they guarded in life, shattering myths of idyllic small-town life in America along the way.

*Spoon River Anthology*, a collaborative production by the college's Fine and Performing Arts Department and the Sunapee-Kearsarge Intercommunity Theater (SKIT), will be performed Thursday through Saturday, February 25 to 27, at 8 PM and Sunday, February 28, at 2 PM. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and children, and free with a Colby-Sawyer ID. The box office is open 4 to 6 PM during the production. For reservations, please call 526-3670.

The play is based on Charles Aidman's adaptation of Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology*, a collection of short free-form poems published in 1915. Delivered by 144 different characters, the poems serve as epitaphs that reveal the truth of these characters' lives in the fictional town of Spoon River. The play, like the book, is unconventional in style and content. Fragments of individual poems form a narrative revealing the complex realities of life in a small town.

Directed by Joshua M. Galligan, adjunct assistant professor of Fine and Performing Arts, the production features an ensemble that includes SKIT veteran actors Alice Field, Charley Freiberg, Jay Lambert, Bonnie Lewis, and Kevin Tarleton, in collaboration with Colby-Sawyer students Travis Carlson, Margret McCarthy, Kayla Pingree, and Megan Ruggiero. Each actor

plays about eight different roles, all of which revolve around a distinct theme such as lost youth, wisdom, love, enlightenment, and honesty.

Michael Lovell serves as scenic designer and Deborah Barton as costume designer. The set evokes the remnants of an old cemetery, with music, painting, and photography wafting through the scenes to underscore the play's changing moods. The costumes, made of transparent materials like chiffon with frayed bits of fabric, convey a sense that the characters are fragments or pieces of the people and images they represent.

In their stories, the characters drop the masks they wore in public and reveal the suffering, the disappointments and losses, and also the simple joys of their inner lives. "It is the perseverance, simplicity, and honesty of the characters that may lead an audience to evaluate their own lives," he explains.

*Spoon River Anthology* is SKIT's second production as the Theatre Company in Residence at Colby-Sawyer College for the 2009/2010 academic year. The partnership has expanded the college theatre program's opportunities to work more closely with a community theater and local residents, as well as the potential audience for its productions.

SKIT, founded in 1993, is an all-volunteer non-profit group dedicated to fund-raising for area charities and non-profit organizations through theatrical events. SKIT also provides scholarships to local high school students each spring through its scholarship fund.

To learn more about upcoming events at Colby-Sawyer College, visit [Colby-Sawyer.edu/events/index.html](http://Colby-Sawyer.edu/events/index.html).

Edgar Lee Masters'

# SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY

February 25-27, 8PM • February 28, 2PM  
Sawyer Center Theater, Colby-Sawyer College

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students/children. The box office is open 4-6 PM; for reservations call 526-3670.

Proceeds Benefit Colby-Sawyer College & the S.K.I.T. Scholarship Fund  
Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

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