



**OTTERBEIN**  
COLLEGE

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**NEWS**

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**OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE HOSTS WORLD PREMIERE**

For the second year, Otterbein College Theatre will end its season with the world premiere of an original play. On May 24, Otterbein will open *Catnap Allegiance* by noted playwright Kia Corthron.

With language that is sparse and poetic, Corthron's plays are hard-hitting and unrelenting. Her plays address political issues, yet they also transcend the political and capture the essence of the human struggle. *Catnap Allegiance* protests the Gulf War with the story of several African American soldiers deposited in the middle of the desert, pumped full of inadequately explained medicines and ordered to "take no prisoners...eliminate and go."

Corthron, who was featured in the October issue of *American Theatre* magazine, is known for giving a voice to the voiceless. She writes about victims — of racism, of the military, of the government — who, for whatever reason, society would like to forget. She instead puts these characters on stage to tell their stories.

Corthron currently lives in New York City and has had plays commissioned by the Manhattan Theatre Club, the Long Wharf Theatre and Second Stage Theatre. Her other works include *Cage Rhythm*, *Come Down Burning* and *Wake Up Lou Riser*.

Her plays have been produced at Long Wharf Theatre, Circle Repertory Company and Columbia University. *Come Down Burning* had its premiere at the American Place Theatre, as well as being presented at the Voice & Vision women's theatre retreat in Northhampton, Mass. She has also presented readings of her plays at Manhattan Theatre Club, The Philadelphia Theatre Company, Circle Repertory Company and Playwrights Horizons.

Her work appears in the Theatre Communications Group anthology of African American women playwrights, *Moon Marked and Touched by Sun* and *Come Down Burning* will be included in *Plays by American Women of Color* and *The Best American Short Plays 1993-94*.



Corthron won the New Professional Theatre Screenplay/Playwrighting Festival and in 1992 received the first Van Lier Playwrighting Fellowship from the Manhattan Theatre Club. She is a member of The Women's Project Playwright Lab and The Dramatists Guild. She received her M.F.A. in Theatre Arts from Columbia University.

*Catnip Allegiance* will be performed May 24-28 and May 31-June 4 in the Campus Center Theatre, 100 W. Home St. The opening night performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. Other evenings performances begin at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$9.50 for Friday and Saturday shows and \$8 for Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday shows and opening night. Reserve tickets by calling the Otterbein College Theatre box office at 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.