

today's students



Carr Brings Personal Experiences to the Stage

I had been performing and doing improv for 10 years," says actress and comedian Cathleen Carr. "I never finished other college programs, because if I really wanted to be a full-time student, I'd have to give up my performance work. Goddard gave me the room to do both."


Cathleen graduated from the Individualized Bachelor of Arts Program in August with a degree in women and performance studies. She has an eclectic background in stand-up comedy, performance and writing. Her past work includes studies at the University of Massachusetts, improvisation training at Chicago's Second City, time as a main-stage actor at the Improv Asylum in Boston, performances with Upright Citizens Brigade in New York and appearances at comedy festivals throughout North America.

She also collaborates with her husband, Peter Hanlon, in the band Chow Chow Music, and with Daiva Deupree in a two-woman sketch comedy show, *Two Girls for Five Bucks*.

"My comedic identity is all-encompassing," Carr says.

A residency with Ars Nova, a nonprofit arts organization

in New York, helped Carr and Deupree workshop their material and select a director.

Of *Two Girls for Five Bucks*, formed in 2003, Carr says, "a lot of the show was born from personal experience. Because it comes from a personal place, we have to feel connected to the material. At Goddard, I learned to incorporate my own voice in my work, which helps the show evolve with us. What we do on stage helps us catch up to where we are now." 

— BY CHRISTINE TOTH (MFAIA '07)



Somadhi Follows Her Muse, At Last

Kakwasi Somadhi is doing something she's wanted to do for nearly 50 years: becoming a writer.

A student in Goddard's Master's in Creative Writing Program, she has finally met the practical demands of her life—satisfying the desires of her parents, the needs of her children and the call of her teaching career—to focus on her lifelong love: literature and creative writing.

"I am writing a novel entitled *Coming Forth by Day*," she says, "about a woman dying of a disease made worse by medical malpractice."


Her main character becomes an advocate and an activist for patients' rights, she says, and the book revolves around how her life, activism and death change the lives of three other individuals. Kakwasi is writing the novel as part of the graduate program, and she's looking forward to having a

completed work in hand when she graduates next year.

A California resident, Kakwasi travels to the Port Townsend campus for her residencies, meeting with creative writing faculty and students for a week each semester. While this academic format might seem unusual to some, it's familiar to Kakwasi, who is on her second tour of duty as a Goddard student. Her first was in the mid-1970s, when she earned her first master's degree in the off-campus master of arts program. She'd earned her bachelor's from UCLA more than a decade earlier and became a teacher right out of school.

"My parents wanted me to go into teaching," she says. "Life happens, and I did indeed go into teaching in order to support myself. What that means is that writing took a back seat to my growing family and my need to work."

Today this experienced college professor is on the other side of the classroom and loving it, especially her interactions with other writers.

"That's a big part of why I came back to Goddard," she says, "to help establish my own discipline, build a consistent writing habit and schedule, and be part of a vibrant writing community." 

— BY KELLY COLLAR

Top photo, actress and Goddard student Cathleen Carr (seated at right) performs in a comedy show, *Two Girls for Five Bucks*. Left photo, after devoting much of her life to her family and teaching career, Kakwasi Somadhi came to Goddard to pursue a lifelong dream: a career as a writer.