

## *The Return of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sister* Synopsis

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### **Production History:**

- Hood College production under the title *The Return of the Fifth Sister*, Frederick, MD, April 2006
- Capitol Fringe Festival production, July 2006, under AEA Fringe contract
- Mobtown Players production as part of the Baltimore Playwrights Festival, August 2006
- Stillpointe Theatre Initiative, December 2012

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Four sisters live alone on a farm in a male-dominated society. Twenty years earlier, their older sister Eve left the farm in protest to the religious oppression by the local patriarch. One autumn morning, Eve appears in the apple orchard, grown to a silent giant. She shakes blank pages from the trees, and one sister collects those pages. As the day wanes, messages emerge on the pages. By the end of the day, nature is moving faster than the usual, and fertility transforms fall into spring. Several animals and one of the sisters become mysteriously pregnant, and the corn grows as tall as the farmhouse.

What do you do when the goddess camps out in the apple orchard? *The Return of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sister* is an existential fairy tale of four women regaining their strength, breaking out from underneath the patriarch and awaking their potential as individuals.

**Set:** unit set, farmhouse kitchen with two doors and a window. Some chairs and a table.

**Running time:** an hour ten

### **Character Breakdown:**

- Prudence, 35, control freak, trying to hold the family together, Roy's widow
- Charity, 30, engaged to a man she doesn't love in order to save the farm
- Hope, 25, the rebel, an amateur botanist
- Grace, 20, conformist, brainwashed by the Elders and reluctant to accept Eve

*"The Baltimore Playwrights Festival has produced few – if any – fables in its 25 years, so Kimberley Lynne's *The Return of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sister* is an original, odd and welcome addition."*

*J. Wynn Rousuck, Baltimore Sun, August 2006*