



Metropolitan Community College
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May 14, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PlayFest theatre festival begins May 27 with performances and outdoor celebrations

OMAHA, Neb. — Metropolitan Community College's Great Plains Theatre Conference is pleased to announce this year's PlayFest evening performances, May 27-30. Free and open to the public, PlayFest is a theatre festival held in unique locations across Omaha.

PlayFest provides high-quality, accessible theatre and examines how theatre can be produced in ways to connect with the community. Three shows will feature local and national talent in a variety of performances, including locally inspired plays, spoken word performances backed by area musicians and original musical scores.

WE'RE ALMOST HERE: HIGH VISCOSITY will kick off the festivities Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 p.m., at KANEKO, 11th and Jones streets in the Old Market. A local contemporary performance troupe – ætherplough – collaborates with New York-based director Jeanette Plourde in this theatre movement piece created by the troupe throughout May. The final performance will provide audiences with a glimpse into the creative process and an opportunity to learn more about the work during a post-performance discussion with the cast.

The Malcolm X Memorial Foundation, 34th and Evans streets, will host *Voices at the Center* Thursday, May 28, at 7:30 p.m. Curated and directed by Denise Chapman, the outdoor performance will feature GPTC's Honored Playwright Kia Corthron reading excerpts of her own work. Corthron, an internationally renowned writer for theatre and television, will read from plays that are grounded in current socio-political issues. Short performances by local music and spoken word artists will follow, highlighting some of North Omaha's most vibrant artistry. Audiences will have an opportunity to discuss the work with Chapman and each other at a post-performance talkback.

The Florence Mill, 30th and McKinley streets, will host the third night of PlayFest on Friday, May 30 at 7:30 p.m. In *Wood Music*, New York-based director Elena Araoz brings the historic

landmark to life with the work of playwrights Jack Frederick and John Gasper and a host of local and national performers. The evening will transport and immerse the audience to different times and places in Omaha history. Attendees will have an opportunity to dance at a lively hoedown with local bluegrass musicians following the play.

While not part of the official PlayFest lineup, the GPTC has an added bonus for audiences who are ready for the unexpected. The third annual GPTC Fringe will take over MCC's Fort Omaha Campus Monday, May 26, at 7:30 p.m. Coordinated by San Francisco theatre artist Andrea Hart, the Fringe will move audiences through a series of locations where GPTC regulars and local artists deliver up delicious morsels of performance.

PlayFest seating is general admission and first-come, first-served. For more information on the Great Plains Theatre Conference, PlayFest, playwrights and participants visit mccneb.edu/gptc.

PlayFest is sponsored in part by Mutual of Omaha and HDR. Support is also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.



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Metropolitan Community College, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, is a comprehensive, public community college that offers affordable and quality education to all residents of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. Founded in 1974, MCC has the largest enrollment out of six community colleges in Nebraska and is the second largest postsecondary institution in the state. MCC serves more than 40,000 students annually.