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**Tenth annual Great Plains Theatre Conference begins May 23  
with free readings, evening PlayFest productions**

OMAHA, Neb. — Metropolitan Community College is pleased to announce the 10th annual Great Plains Theatre Conference, May 23-30. Free and open to the public, the conference will feature daily activities, including PlayLab and MainStage readings, workshops and evening PlayFest performances.

***PlayLab and MainStage readings***

Twenty-nine plays were selected out of 578 submissions from around the world and will be performed in staged readings by local and national directors and actors. Playwrights receive feedback about their work from theatre scholars, directors, master playwrights and the public in a guided-response setting. All readings are held at MCC's Fort Omaha Campus, 30th and Fort streets.

***Luncheon panels***

Throughout the conference, featured artists and theatre scholars share their expertise with an audience of actors, directors, technicians and the general public during luncheon panels. Lunch for the general public may be purchased onsite. All luncheon panels will be broadcast live on Howlround.com

***Design Wing***

During the conference, national theatre designers Justin Townsend and Kip Marsh leads five emerging design artists from across the country in an exploration of the creative process. Guided by Townsend and Marsh, each designer is assigned to work with a MainStage playwright. The designers spend seven days in Omaha immersed in GPTC events, workshops and readings, as well as intense script analysis and close collaboration with their assigned playwright.

***Theatre WorkShops***

One of the most popular and compelling aspects of the conference is the opportunity to attend the Theatre WorkShop series offered by visiting artists. Attendees can choose from a variety of

special interest offerings, including movement, writing and acting. All Theatre WorkShops are free and open to the public. Email [theatreconference@mccneb.edu](mailto:theatreconference@mccneb.edu) to register for a workshop.

### **PlayFest**

GPTC's evening theatre festival, PlayFest, travels each night to a unique location and features performances by both local and national artists.

*Cowles' Scrimmage Anthology* will kick off the festival Sunday, May 24, 7:30 p.m., at the Parade Ground on Metropolitan Community College's Fort Omaha Campus, 30th and Fort streets. Written by Omaha-based singer-songwriter Brendan Hagberg, the play illustrates a history of an actual country ballpark in western Nebraska where Cy Young got his start and Willa Cather found inspiration.

Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge St., will host *Prince Max's Trewly Awful Trip to the Desolat Interior* Tuesday, May 26, at 7:30 p.m. in Joslyn's Witherspoon Hall. Written by Omaha playwright Ellen Struve and directed by Kevin Lawler, the play highlights the museum collection of prints and artifacts from the famous 19<sup>th</sup> century expedition of Prince Maximillian du Wied and artist Karl Bodmer.

*South Omaha Stories* will be held on May 27, 7:30 p.m. at the Livestock Exchange Ballroom, 4920 S. 30<sup>th</sup> St. A part of GPTC's Neighborhood Tapestries project, the evening will explore one of Omaha's most vibrant historical districts through the lives of a few of its residents. These short plays were commissioned by local and national playwrights Virgil Armendariz, Kia Corthron, Michael John Garcés, Ruth Margraff and Scott Working.

Finally, GPTC will host *A Great Plains Compendium – Celebrating 10 Years*, held at the Omar Baking Building, 4383 Nicholas St., May 29, at 7:30 p.m. This anniversary celebration will feature scenes and monologues by returning GPTC honorees Lee Blessing, Constance Congdon and Doug Wright. Nationally renowned musician and sound designer Mark Bruckner and multi-talented Omaha-based singer-songwriter Michael Campbell will provide live music for the evening. PlayFest productions are free and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis and may be limited so plan to arrive early.

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

For more information on GPTC events, plays, playwrights and participants, visit the conference website at [mccneb.edu/gptc](http://mccneb.edu/gptc).

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Metropolitan Community College, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, is a comprehensive, public community college that offers affordable, 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 unique credit and noncredit students.