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### **Great Plains Theatre Conference names Naomi Wallace as 2016 Honored Playwright**

OMAHA, Neb. — Metropolitan Community College's Great Plains Theatre Conference is pleased to announce award-winning playwright Naomi Wallace as the conference's honoree in 2016. As the Honored Playwright, Wallace will share her work and expertise at the 11th annual Great Plains Theatre Conference, May 28–June 4, 2016, at Metropolitan Community College's Fort Omaha Campus, 30<sup>th</sup> and Fort streets.

#### **About Naomi Wallace**

A Kentucky native, Wallace's plays—which have been produced in the Europe, the United States and the Middle East—include *In the Heart of America*, *Slaughter City*, *One Flea Spare*, *The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*, *Things of Dry Hours*, *The Fever Chart: Three Vision of the Middle East*, *And I and Silence*, *The Hard Weather Boating Party*, and *The Liquid Plain*. Her stage adaptation of William Wharton's novel *Birdy* was produced on the West End in London. In 2009, *One Flea Spare* was incorporated in the permanent repertoire of the French National Theater, the Comédie-Francaise. Only two American playwrights have been added to La Comédie's repertoire in 300 years. Wallace's films include *Lawn Dogs*, *The War Boys*, and *Flying Blind* (co-written with Bruce McLeod). She has been awarded the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize on two occasions, the Joseph Kesselring Prize, the Fellowship of Southern Writers Drama Award, the Obie Award, and the 2012 Horton Foote Award for most promising new American play. She is also a recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship and a National Endowment for the Arts development grant. In 2013, Wallace received the inaugural Windham Campbell prize for drama, and in 2015 an Arts and Letters Award in Literature. Wallace is presently under commission by The Public Theater and Birmingham Repertory, UK. Signature Theatre, the Off Broadway company that has historically mounted a season of plays, will produce three of Wallace's plays in 2014-2015, including the world premiere of *Night is a Room*.

#### **About the Great Plains Theatre Conference**

Free and open to the public, the conference's mission is to enable playwrights and theatre artists to share time, energy and talent in the service of developing craft, creating new work, and strengthening community on a local and national scale. Metropolitan Community College hosts the annual conference that offers extensive opportunities for top emerging playwrights to learn

and grow. Through the conference, playwrights connect with one another and in a supporting and encouraging environment, critique one another's work, develop work together, and form future creative alliances. The conference is also proud to present PlayFest, a free community theatre festival held each evening of the conference. PlayFest 2016 will feature Wallace's work as well as new work by local and national theatre artists.

For more information, visit [mccneb.edu/gptc](http://mccneb.edu/gptc) or [facebook.com/GreatPlainsTheatreConference](https://facebook.com/GreatPlainsTheatreConference) or call 402-457-2618.

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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.