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Ivan Fuller Selected as One of Top Five for the Great Plains Theatre Conference

Omaha, Neb. – Sioux Falls playwright Ivan Fuller's play *Eating the Fabric* has been selected as one of five for the Mainstage Series at the 2009 Great Plains Theatre Conference May 23-30 at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Neb.

The Mainstage Series is comprised of the five top-rated plays out of more than 400 submitted to the Conference. The plays will be presented at special staged readings for Conference attendees and responded to by accomplished playwrights Theresa Rebeck and Constance Congdon, among others. The top Mainstage playwright will be selected at the Conference and recognized at the culminating Gala with an award and \$1,000.

Eating the Fabric is a play inspired by the true story of Leningrad under siege by the Nazis during World War II. Despite horrific conditions during one of the harshest winters on record, theatre continued. The play focuses on a theatre company struggling to continue rehearsals and performances under the impossible conditions of the siege.

Fuller has also written a one-act play, *Sensitive Scar Tissue*, and is in the process of writing a new play about Soviet poet Olga Berggolts. He is an associate professor of theatre at Augustana College and is the founder and artistic director of the Bare Bodkins Theatre Company.

The mission of the Great Plains Theatre Conference is to recognize the work of renowned American playwrights while at the same time fostering the work of new and emerging playwrights. The creative goals of the Conference are threefold: to nurture new playwrights giving them the opportunity to have their work performed and to study with and receive thoughtful feedback from experienced theatre professionals; to be a place where emerging and more accomplished playwrights can workshop their new work and receive attention from national theater professionals; and to be a catalyst for vibrant new work to be released onto the national theatre scene.

For more information on the 2009 Great Plains Theatre Conference, visit www.mccneb.edu/theatreconference.