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Halley Wegryn Gross Selected as One of Top Five for the Great Plains Theatre Conference

Omaha, Neb. – New York playwright Halley Wegryn Gross’s play *Inherited* 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.

Inherited is a play about a 16-year-old girl coming face-to-face with a father who rejected her and gave her up for adoption as he tries to cajole her into helping his ‘real’ daughter who is dying of cancer and for whom she is a perfect bone marrow match. A ruse of love to woo the girl does nothing as truths come to light.

Gross’s other experiences in theatre include acting in *True Love*, *Hurlyburly* and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. She has an M.F.A. in Dramatic Writing from New York University (NYU) and graduated magna cum laude with a degree in comedy writing from NYU’s Gallatin School.

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.