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Rick Mitchell Selected as One of Top Five for the Great Plains Theatre Conference

Omaha, Neb. – Los Angeles playwright Rick Mitchell's play *Brecht in L.A.* 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.

Brecht in L.A. is a play about a renowned playwright and a great actor struggling to make it in Hollywood and Broadway as Hitler marches through Europe during World War II. As they work together and are about to open on Broadway, the playwright gets brought before the House Un-American Activities Committee. The play echoes many contemporary themes including parallels between the House Un-American Activities Committee and the Patriot Act.

Mitchell's other playwriting credits include *Through the Roof*, *Becoming Herman Melville*, *Ventriloquist Sex* and *Personality Crisis*. He currently is an English professor and teaches playwriting at California State University–Northridge.

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.