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For Immediate Release

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Canadian playwright pens winning Dylan Days play, to be featured on HCC Theater stage

Organizers announce the winning entry for the 2010 Dylan Days One-Act Play Contest, 'Armagedeon' by Sandra Dempsey of Toronto, Canada. Now in its third year, the one-act play contest has received scripts from all over the world, including England, Scotland, Ireland, Switzerland, Germany, Canada, Chile, and over 40 states in America.

It has gotten scripts from students to established playwrights, from people who have never written a play before, to heads of playwriting departments at major universities. Mike Ricci, former Director of Theatre at Hibbing Community College, and now Director of Theatre at North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, has been the Contest Chair since its inception.

"I am just amazed at the quality and breadth of the work being submitted to this contest. It shows us just how many important voices are out there, and this contest gives them an opportunity to be heard."

Past winners of this contest include 2009's 'Blue in the Rear View', written by Aleks Merilo, a former writer for the TV series '24'; and 2008's 'Lessons and Carols', written by Demetra Kareman, an MFA playwriting student of Lee Blessing at Rutgers University.

This years winning play deals with two elderly spinster aunts and their two nephews, one who is a soldier returning home, and the other who is nine and still in their care. The story takes place at the beginning stages of a nuclear war, and though its subject matter might appear fairly grim at first, it is the interaction of this somewhat dysfunctional family that holds our attention, as they jockey for control in a world gone out of control. Playwright Sandra Dempsey wrote this play over ten years ago, and it has won numerous awards, but it has never been given a fully staged production, until now. The production on the HCC Theatre stage will be a world premiere of this play, and Ms. Dempsey is both honored and excited to have won this years contest. The production will be directed by Mike Ricci, and will feature actors who have all worked on the HCC Theater stage, including Rachel Waters-Brandt, Louisa Guggisberg, and Marty Rice. Ms. Dempsey will be in attendance, as she is coming to Hibbing to sit in on rehearsals and performances.

The official performance of 'Armagedeon' on Friday, May 28 at 3 pm, in conjunction with the Dylan Days Literary Showcase held at HCC Theatre. On that day, the winners of all the literary categories will be announced and excerpts from their works will be read. After a short break, the one-act play will be performed. Admission to that performance is by purchase of a Dylan

Days button. If the start time on Friday is not be convenient, you might consider taking in a special 'preview' performance to be held on Thursday, May 27 at 7:30 pm. Admission to the preview is \$5, with tickets available at the door. For more information, contact Mike Ricci at michael.ricci@nhcc.edu.