

5-20-1996

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Recommended Citation

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations, "[Untitled]" (1996). *University of Montana News Releases*. 14168.
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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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This release is available electronically on INN (News Net).

May 20, 1996

UM, MONTANA REP LAUNCH NEW SUMMER WORKSHOP

MISSOULA —

Missoula's creative writers will see their ranks balloon temporarily in early June when "wannabe" as well as established playwrights and screenwriters from across the country bring their talents to The University of Montana for a workshop scheduled Sunday, June 2, through Sunday, June 9.

The workshop, christened "The Missoula Colony," features three well-known writers, who will read from their latest works on June 4, 6 and 7. The free, public readings are scheduled at 7 p.m. in the Masquer Theatre.

Reading on June 4 will be playwright and screenwriter Roger Hedden, who gained fame with his first full-length play, "Bodies, Rest, and Motion," which he adapted to film.

June 6, James McLure -- author of "Lone Star," "Laundry and Bourbon" and "The Day John Lennon Died" -- will read from his recent excursions into screenwriting.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright of "'night, Mother," Marsha Norman, will read from her latest script June 7. Norman, who teaches playwriting at the Julliard School, wrote the Tony Award-winning libretto for "The Secret Garden" and adapted "'night, Mother" for a film starring Sissy Spacek and Anne Bancroft.

All three writers will participate in a public forum at 7 p.m. June 5 in the Masquer Theatre.

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The Missoula Colony is the brainchild of UM's School of Fine Arts and the Montana Repertory Theatre. Its chief organizers are UM drama Assistant Professor Greg Johnson, artistic director for the repertory theatre since 1990; and Michael Murphy, the repertory's associate director.

"The Missoula Colony will become an annual event," Johnson said, "attracting writers to Missoula to meet, work, discuss and create the films, television and theater for the next century."

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