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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 30, 2004

Contact: Janet Finn, UM Department of Social Work, (406) 243-5583.

IRISH THEATER EXPERT TO SPEAK IN BUTTE, MISSOULA

MISSOULA —

Mark McCollum, a visiting artist and scholar from Northern Ireland, will lecture in **Butte** and **Missoula** about the use of theater and creative arts for personal empowerment, community development and conflict resolution. Both lectures are free and open to the public.

McCollum is co-director of the Balor Developmental Community Arts Group of Donegal, Ireland. He will present "Popular Theater and Community Change" from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, in the Big Butte Room of Montana Tech's Student Union Building.

The Butte talk will include an introduction to popular theater; an overview of Balor's work with youth, schools, women's groups and community organizations; highlights of Balor's cross-border project that brings together youth from East Belfast and rural Donegal to promote cultural understanding; and conversations with the audience about possible local projects.

McCollum then will present "Theatre in Northern Ireland as a Tool for Social Change" at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 4, in the Montana Theatre of the Performing Arts and Radio-Television Center at The University of Montana-Missoula.

An experienced actor and group drama facilitator, McCollum will discuss the innovative creative arts programs he has developed for personal and community development purposes. His area of expertise is process drama -- a technique that has participants enter into

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dramatic experiences in order to learn how someone else might feel or view the world.

McCollum also will appear in several UM social work on drama classes on Thursday, Friday and Monday. His Montana visit is being sponsored by the UM social work and drama dance departments and the UM Visiting Scholars Program. For more information, call Janet Finn in the UM Department of Social Work at (406) 243-5583.

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Local, Butte media
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