



Summer 8-2018

McHugh '82 To Perform Parents Must Be Dead

Rachel McCarthy
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

McCarthy, Rachel, "McHugh '82 To Perform Parents Must Be Dead" (2018). *News and Events*. 3842.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/3842>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at The Ames Library at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

McHugh '82 To Perform *Parents Must Be Dead*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Illinois Wesleyan [theatre](#) alum Christine McHugh '82 will perform a solo spoken memoir piece *Parents Must Be Dead* on Saturday, Sept. 1 at 4 p.m. at Presser Hall's Westbrook Auditorium (1210 N Park St, Bloomington). This event is free and open to the public.

McHugh developed her personal memoir over the course of several years following the death of her parents, longtime Bloomington residents Donald and Frances McHugh.

"This experience took me deep into an exploration of what it means to love unconditionally, and I wanted to share this personal and eye-opening journey with an audience," McHugh said. "It's a landscape that all of us either have or will eventually navigate, and I wanted to do it with a measure of humor and vulnerability."

Parents Must Be Dead is an official selection of the United Solo Theatre Festival and will be performed in New York City on Sept. 21 at Theatre Row. In performing at IWU, McHugh invites audience members across ages to enter into a meaningful dialogue about death and loss.

"I see these stories as an important jumping off point for conversations around the positive death movement," McHugh said. "A big purpose of this memoir show is to prepare people who have yet to experience this passage, or remind those who have, of just how far they've come in being transformed by this landmark event."

McHugh is a filmmaker, performer teacher, theatre director and seasoned director of solo shows, with over 25 titles to her credit. Her film *On The Nature Of Hotness* won the 2013 New York City International Film Festival for Best Short Comedy and was the official selection at 10 film festivals in 2013 and 2014, including Cannes Court Métrage, the Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival (now the Seattle Queer Film Festival) and the Starz Denver Film Festival. She currently serves as president of New Mexico Women in Film.

A reception sponsored by the Alumni Engagement Office will follow McHugh's performance.



Christine McHugh '82

By Rachel McCarthy '21