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September 18, 2008

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***In the Heart of America* Featured at McPherson Theatre**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University's McPherson Theatre will open its 2008-2009 season with playwright Naomi Wallace's *In the Heart of America*. Performances will take place Tuesday, Sept. 30 – Oct. 4 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 5 at 2 p.m. in the McPherson Theatre (2 Ames Plaza East, Bloomington).

In conjunction with the production, there will be a showing of the film *In the Valley of Elah* with a discussion to follow on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 1 p.m. in the Beckman Auditorium located in the basement of The Ames Library (1 Ames Plaza, Bloomington). The film highlights issues surrounding veterans returning from the Iraq War including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Also complementing the production will be a discussion hosted by a panel of Iraqi War veterans on Wednesday, Oct. 1 from 6-7 p.m. located in Beckman Auditorium.

Directed by associate professor Sandra Lindberg, *In the Heart of America* examines war-related themes within the context of the Vietnam and Gulf Wars. The play focuses on two soldiers' experiences in the Gulf War featured in flashbacks. The themes of their experiences also manifest in characters who were a part of another conflict, the Vietnam War.

Tickets for *In the Heart of America* will be available beginning Monday, Sept. 22 at the box office of McPherson Theatre. General admission is \$8 for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday performances and \$10 for Friday and Saturday performances. Student tickets cost \$1 with a valid student ID.

For additional information or to reserve tickets in advance, contact the McPherson Theatre box office at (309) 556-3232.

Cast Members: Tom Duncan (Craver Perry), Steve Gonabe (Remzi Saboura), Jessica Tidd (Fairouz Saboura), Diane Teng (Lue Ming), Chris Olmstead (Boxler).

Production Team: Julie Allen (Assistant Director), Bernadette Brennan (Scenic Designer), Devin Clancy (Costume Designer), Hallie Zieselman (Lighting Designer), Armie Thompson (Technical Director), Kyle Urquhart (Stage Manager).