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## Celebrated Author Marie-Claire Blais To Visit Illinois Wesleyan University

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## **Celebrated Author Marie-Claire Blais To Visit Illinois Wesleyan University**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Marie-Claire Blais, one of the most prolific and influential authors of Quebec, will visit Illinois Wesleyan University Sunday, Oct. 26 through Tuesday, Oct., 28.

Blais, who published her first novel at the age of 20, has written 21 novels, a dozen volumes of poetry, and several plays, all of which have been translated into English.

On Monday evening, Oct. 27, at 7:30 p.m., Blais will give a public lecture in the Beckman Auditorium of The Ames Library, 1 Ames Plaza. A discussion and reception will follow.

Prior to the lecture there will be an International Film Series viewing of the 1972 film adaptation of *Une Saison dans la vie d'Emmanuel* (in French with English subtitles) on Sunday, Oct. 26, in the Beckman Auditorium of The Ames Library, with a discussion following the showing at 7 p.m. On Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m., will be a dramatic reading of *Wintersleep* (in English) with discussion afterward, in The Phoenix in Memorial Center, 104 University Ave., Bloomington. *Wintersleep* is a collection of five short plays written in the form of chamber plays.

All events are free and open to the public.

There will also be an exhibit of Blais's work on display in The Ames Library rotunda until Oct. 31, and she will meet with various classes on Oct. 27 and 28.

The Illinois Wesleyan University Humanities Series is sponsoring the event which according to Scott Sheridan, assistant professor of French and director of the Language Resource Center at IWU, "will be a particularly rewarding experience for the university, as her work speaks to the very issues at the core of the Humanities Series goals...she is very passionate about human rights, violence, and global dynamics." Her writings address women's issues, violence and exile.

As one critic remarked, "One of the most striking features of her novels is the way she interweaves a critical perspective on the major social issues of our time (poverty and violence, ecology, and exploitation of the Third World, particularly through tourism), and in-depth exploration of the human soul. Her recent writing is realistic in content through its portrayal of the class and sex wars of North American life, but poetic in its prose style and romantic in its emphasis on inwardness, suffering, tenderness, passion, and creativity."

Blais' work has earned her many prestigious awards, including three Governor General of Canada awards, the Prix Medicis, the Prix France-Quebec, and membership into the Academie des Lettres du Quebec.

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