



**MPC  
THEATRE  
COMPANY**

**MPC THEATRE COMPANY TO PRESENT “AN EVENING WITH SUZAN-LORI PARKS”**

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Sky A. Rappoport, 831-649-4495, [SRappoport@mpc.edu](mailto:SRappoport@mpc.edu) (Theatre Manager)

Kirsten Clapp, 831-383-0739 (Director)

BOX OFFICE: 831-646-4213 (Weds – Friday 3:00 – 7:00 & 2hrs prior to all performances)

For information visit [www.mpctheatreco.com](http://www.mpctheatreco.com)

**PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MONTEREY - The Monterey Peninsula College Theatre Department presents “AN EVENING WITH SUZAN-LORI PARKS,” a selection of vignettes from Suzan-Lori Parks’s *365 Days / 365 Plays* project. Performances are Thursday at 7:00 PM, Friday & Saturday at 8:00 PM, and Sunday at 2:00 PM, September 13 – 30 in the Studio Theatre, on the Monterey Peninsula College campus. MPC is located at 980 Fremont Street, downtown Monterey.

Director Kirsten Clapp selected the vignettes that comprise this show based on their quirky, abstract humor, and life-like situations that everyone can relate to, such as one unforgettable visit to a very unique Shopping Mall Santa. The opportunity to direct this type of show excited Kirsten, because it was, to use her words, “Not my usual style.” Much of the action is non-verbal, and it occurs between the scenes & dialogue, presenting a challenge for the director, as well as the nine actors involved. Another artistic challenge was arranging the individual pieces in such a way that the overall flow takes the audience on the journey that the playwright and director envisioned.

During Clapp’s years as student in the MPC Drama Program, she has earned three Associate Degrees, once each for Acting, Directing and Technical Theatre. While she says her passion is Directing, as it gives her the most Artistic Control, she does hope to get back on stage at some point. Now that she has completed her studies at MPC, Kirsten plans to transfer to the Teledramatic Arts & Technology program at CSU Monterey Bay or the Academy of Arts in San Francisco.

Suzan-Lori Parks, named one of *Time* magazine’s “100 Innovators for the Next New Wave,” is one of the most exciting and acclaimed playwrights in American drama today. She is the first African American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in Drama for the Broadway hit *Topdog/Underdog*, and is a MacArthur “Genius” Award recipient, among her many other honors.



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On November 13, 2002, Suzan-Lori Parks, playwright, screenwriter and novelist got an idea to write a play a day for a year. She began that very day, finishing one year later. The resulting play cycle, called *365Days / 365Plays*, is a daily meditation on an artistic life. Some plays are very short, less than a page. Others last forever. While a student at Mount Holyoke, Parks took a writing class with Five Colleges faculty member James Baldwin, and at his behest, began to write plays. She once said in a newspaper interview that she was inspired by Wendy Wasserstein, a 1971 Mount Holyoke graduate who won the Pulitzer in 1989 for her play *The Heidi Chronicles*. "Mount Holyoke women rule, baby," Parks was quoted as saying. "Just knowing someone else is out there doing something good and cool and gets some recognition for it. I joke about it. There's something in the water".

"AN EVENING WITH SUZAN-LORI PARKS" performs 7:00 PM Thursday (September 13, 20, & 27); 8:00 PM Friday & Saturday (September 14, 15, 21 22, 28, 29); and 2:00 PM Sunday (September 16, 23, & 30). In keeping with the wishes of Suzan-Lori Parks and as a gift to our community, this production will be presented on a *Pay What You Can* basis. A suggested donation of \$10.00 would be appreciated, with all proceeds benefiting the Morgan Stock Theatre Arts Endowment Fund. Tickets may be purchased from the MPC Box Office (831-646-4213) Weds-Friday 3:00 – 7:00 PM & 2 hrs prior to any performance, or online at [www.TicketGuys.com](http://www.TicketGuys.com) .

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\*\*\* Production photos will be available Monday September 3, 2007.