



MINNESOTA STATE  
Write Like Us



# Presents a reading by **Tommy Orange**



Tommy Orange is the author of the New York Times bestselling novel *There There*, a multi-generational, relentlessly paced story about a side of America few of us have ever seen: the lives of urban Native Americans. *There There* was one of The New York Times Book Review's 10 Best Books of the Year, and won the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize and the Pen/Hemingway Award. *There There* was also longlisted for the National Book Award and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Orange graduated from the MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts, and was a 2014 MacDowell Fellow and a 2016 Writing by Writers Fellow. He is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. He was born and raised in Oakland, California.

## And in conversation with **Merle Geode**



Merle Geode is a mixed race (Korean and white) disabled genderfluid poet/writer, shamanic practitioner, and multidisciplinary artist based in Minneapolis living with metastatic breast cancer. They have a B.S. degree in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where they were a UW-Madison Writing Fellow. They were a food and features writer for several years for *Isthmus* and *Our Lives Magazine* in Madison, but their storytelling is now taking a turn for more experimental and expansive forms. They are currently an MFA candidate in Poetry at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Their poems and essays appear in *Love, Always: Partners of Trans People on Intimacy, Challenge and Resilience*; *MNartists*; and *poetry.onl*. Currently, they are working on a picture book about anticipatory grief and death as an author/illustrator. They are a former journalist, fine dining cook, and dog groomer who has discovered, during the pandemic, that they actually like to garden.

**Tuesday, April 5 • 1:30 p.m.**  
**Normandale Community College**  
**Lorenz Auditorium**

**Open to the public • Free • Reservations required for in-person limited COVID-protocol seating at [wlu-TommyOrange.eventbrite.com](https://wlu-TommyOrange.eventbrite.com) (proof of vaccination or negative test within 72 hours required) • Event will be ASL interpreted • For further accommodations and questions contact [WriteLikeUs@MinnState.edu](mailto:WriteLikeUs@MinnState.edu)**