



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 9, 2018

**Kennedy Center
American College Theater Festival
Welcomes 1,200 Students and Faculty from
Colleges and Universities in
Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana,
Northern California, Northern Nevada, Oregon,
Washington, and Wyoming
at the Region Seven Festival
February 19–23, 2018**

Hosted in Spokane, Washington

Full-Scale Invited Productions Presented by: California State University, East Bay; Colorado State University; Diablo Valley College; Spokane Falls Community College

(WASHINGTON)— 1,200 students and faculty from colleges and universities in Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Northern California, Northern Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming will gather in Spokane, Washington for the Region Seven Festival of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), February 19–23, 2018. KCACTF celebrates excellence and achievement in theatrical productions from colleges and universities nationwide.

Launched 50 years ago by festival founder Roger L. Stevens, the Region Seven Festival is the seventh of eight week-long regional celebrations held across the country, which culminate in the national KCACTF held each year at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Individual participants and full-scale productions are eligible for awards recognizing excellence in the art and craft of theater. Individual awardees and representatives from selected productions will receive an expense-paid trip to the National Festival, April 9–14, 2018, at the Kennedy Center.

Productions invited to be showcased at the Region Seven Festival are presented by California State University, East Bay; Colorado State University; Diablo Valley College; Spokane Falls Community College. The four invited productions were selected from 29 eligible productions from the region.

Additionally, Hakim Bellamy, one of the 2017–2018 [Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellows](#), will be giving the Keynote address as well as a performance. Bellamy is the author of the award-winning poetry collection, *Swear* (West End Press), and was Albuquerque’s inaugural Poet Laureate from 2012–2014. Bellamy’s honors include the Tillie Olsen Award for Creative Writing from the Working Class Studies Association, a W. K. Kellogg Foundation Fellowship, and honorable mention for the University of New Mexico’s Paul Bartlett Ré Peace Prize. He holds an M.A. in communications from the University of New Mexico and is the founding president of Beyond Poetry LLC.

The National Festival includes master classes with leading artists from the American theater, an opportunity for the student participants to engage with colleagues from across the nation, attendance at productions at leading Washington, D.C. theaters, interviews, auditions for scholarship and residency opportunities, and the national award ceremony recognizing:

- Outstanding Production of a Play, a Musical, a Classic, a New Play
- Outstanding Devised or Company Generated Work
- Outstanding Scenic, Costume, Lighting, and Sound Design
- Outstanding Choreography or Movement Direction
- Outstanding Direction of a Play, Devised Work, and a Musical
- Outstanding Performances by an Actress and Actor

REGION EIGHT INVITED PRODUCTIONS:

California State University, East Bay (CA)	<i>CSU Ferguson</i> , devised by the Company, with additional writing by
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	Dennis Allen II, Frannie Choi, Julian Curry, Leslie Garcia, Marcus Gardley, Porsha O, Dantez Smith, and Fong Tran
Colorado State University (CO)	<i>Love And Information</i> , by Caryl Churchill
Diablo Valley College (CA)	<i>The Farnsworth Invention</i> , by Aaron Sorkin
Spokane Falls Community College (WA)	<i>The Fairytale Lives Of Russian Girls</i> , by Meg Miroshnik

ABOUT THE KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL

Envisioned in 1968 and launched in 1969 by Roger L. Stevens, the Kennedy Center’s founding Chairman, KCACTF encourages and celebrates the finest and most diverse theatrical productions from colleges and universities nationwide. Through the regional and national festivals, KCACTF celebrates the achievements of theater programs, individual students, and faculty of colleges and universities throughout the United States.

The eight regional festivals provide opportunities for colleges and universities to showcase their finest work to diverse audiences of theater students and faculty from their regions. In addition to the invited productions, students and faculty attend workshops, master classes, juried design expositions, seminars, summer stock and graduate school auditions, and other professional development opportunities that build bridges between higher education and the professional theater community. In July 2014, the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center along with the Kennedy Center, National New Play Network, and Stage Directors & Choreographers Foundation announced the start of the National Directors Fellowship (NDF), a five-year joint initiative which will fast track the professional development of 25 early-career stage directors, five per year. As part of this year-long fellowship, the fellows will attend the MFA Playwrights’ Workshop and Directing Intensive, led by NNPN and KCACTF.

Since its establishment 50 years ago, KCACTF has reached millions of theatergoers and made important contributions to the professional development of countless college and university theater students nationwide. This year, eight regional festivals will be hosted by the following institutions: University of Indianapolis; Indiana University of Pennsylvania; City of Des Moines, Iowa; Western Connecticut State University; Georgia Southwestern University; Mesa Community College; City of Spokane, Washington; and Angelo State University.

EDUCATION AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is the national champion for arts learning and creativity. Committed to increasing opportunities for all people to participate in, learn about, and understand the arts, the Center offers programs and events that strive to reflect the nation and its communities, and that are accessible and inclusive for all. From the Center’s stages to classrooms and communities across the country, to online resources accessible nearly anywhere, the Center serves the burgeoning artist, the curious explorer, the student (of any age), the teacher and teaching artist—any person interested in arts learning and utilizing the arts for positive change.

As an essential component of the living memorial to President Kennedy, the Center's Education programs utilize the arts to embrace the ideals of service, justice, freedom, courage, and gratitude, and cultivate the Citizen Artists in all the people we serve. For more information, please visit kennedy-center.org/education/.

FUNDING CREDITS

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Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts.

For more information, please visit
[**Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.**](#)

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