



Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

December 29, 2016

**49th Annual Kennedy Center American College  
Theater Festival  
Welcomes 1,500 Students and Faculty from  
Colleges and Universities in Indiana and Wisconsin  
at the Region Three Festival  
January 10–14, 2017**

**Co-hosted by University of Indianapolis and  
Butler University, Indiana–Indianapolis, Indiana**

**Full-Scale Productions Presented by: Carthage College,  
Taylor University, University of Wisconsin–Green Bay,  
University of Wisconsin–La Crosse,  
and University of Southern Indiana**

(WASHINGTON)—University of Indianapolis and Butler University, Indiana will host 1,500 students and faculty from colleges and universities in Indiana and Wisconsin at the Region Three festival of the 49th annual Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), January 10–14, 2017. This is the second of eight weekly celebrations of excellence and achievement of theater in higher education. 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 be brought to Washington, D.C., for an expense-paid trip to the national festival, April 18–22, 2017 at the Kennedy Center. A comprehensive listing of awardees will be announced in mid-March 2017.

In addition to the invited productions, Pulitzer Prize winner **Stephen Adly Guirgis** is delivering the Keynote Address at the opening ceremony on January 10. Guirgis won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for drama for his work *Between Riverside and Crazy*, about a middle-aged man's fight to keep one of the last rent-stabilized apartments

on Riverside Drive in New York City. Guirgis is also the author of several award-winning and Tony<sup>®</sup> nominated plays, including *Jesus Hopped the A Train*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, and *The Motherf\*cker with the Hat*. He is also the creator and executive producer of the Netflix series *The Get Down*, about the evolution of Hip Hop set in 1970s New York.

Productions invited to be showcased at the Region Three festival are presented by Carthage College, Taylor University, University of Wisconsin–Green Bay, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse, and University of Southern Indiana. The five invited productions were selected from 21 eligible productions from the region.

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 THREE PARTICIPATING PRODUCTIONS:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Carthage College (WI)</b>                  | <i>The Breath of Stars</i> by Caridad Svich                  |
| <b>Taylor University (IN)</b>                 | <i>Rabbit Hole</i> by David Lindsay-Abaire                   |
| <b>University of Wisconsin–Green Bay (WI)</b> | <i>Play Nice</i> by Robin Rice                               |
| <b>University of Wisconsin–La Crosse (WI)</b> | <i>26 Pebbles</i> by Eric Uloa                               |
| <b>University of Southern Indiana (IN)</b>    | <i>Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play</i> ,<br>by Anne Washburn |

**This program is part of  
*JFKC: A Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy***

In the year leading up to the centennial of John F. Kennedy's birth on May 29, 2017, the Kennedy Center, the living memorial to President John F. Kennedy, is re-imagining the very mission of the institution created in his name. Inspired by some of the key ideals he championed—Courage, Freedom, Justice, Service, and Gratitude—the Center is featuring special programming through the year that explores, challenges, and reflects the contemporary spirit of America. Guided by JFK's legacy of idealism, hope, and empowerment, the Kennedy Center will serve as a creative catalyst and meeting place, inviting members of the public to engage directly with artists and ideas, and actively participate in the civic and cultural life of their country.

**ABOUT THE KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL**

Developed in 1969 by Roger L. Stevens, the Kennedy Center's founding Chairman, the KCACTF encourages and celebrates the finest and most diverse theatrical productions from colleges and universities nationwide. Through the regional and national festivals, the 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 49 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: Montclair State University; University of Indianapolis and Butler University; City of Des Moines in partnership with Grand View University; Western Connecticut State University; Georgia Southern University; Mesa Community College; University of Colorado Denver and Community College of Denver; 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, [Education at the Kennedy Center](#) offers programs and events that strive to reflect the nation and communities and that are accessible and inclusive for all. From performances and exhibits on the Center's stages and in the community, to classroom and community partnerships, including the recent addition of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Turnaround Arts initiative, to online resources accessible nearly anywhere, the Center serves the burgeoning artist, the exploring student of any age, the teacher and teaching artist, and even the local and national infrastructure—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 utilizes the arts to embrace the ideals of service, justice, freedom,

courage, and gratitude, and to activate and support the Citizen Artists in all our audiences. For more information, please visit [kennedy-center.org/education/](http://kennedy-center.org/education/)

### **FUNDING CREDITS**

*The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by **David and Alice Rubenstein.***

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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.](http://kennedy-center.org/education/)**

Discover the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival on social media:



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