



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 27, 2017

**49th Annual Kennedy Center American College
Theater Festival
Welcomes 1,000 Students and Faculty from
Colleges and Universities in
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi,
North Carolina, South Carolina,
Tennessee, and Southern Virginia
at the Region Four Festival
February 8–11, 2017**

**Hosted by Georgia Southern University,
Statesboro, Georgia**

Full-Scale Productions Presented by:

**Flagler College, Florida International University, Georgia Southern University,
Meredith College, Morehead State University,
North Carolina Central University, and North Greenville University**

(WASHINGTON)—Georgia Southern University will host 1,000 students and faculty from colleges and universities in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and southern Virginia at the Region Four festival of the 49th annual Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), February 8–11, 2017. This is the fifth 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 expenses-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.

Productions invited to be showcased at the Region Four festival are presented by Flagler College, Florida International University, Georgia Southern University,

Meredith College, Morehead State University, North Carolina Central University, and North Greenville University. The seven invited productions were selected from 42 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 FOUR PARTICIPATING PRODUCTIONS:

Flagler College (FL)	<i>The Maids</i> by Jean Genet
Florida International University (FL)	<i>La Nona</i> by Ivan Lopez
Georgia Southern University (GA)	<i>She Kills Monsters</i> by Qui Nguyen
Meredith College (NC)	<i>Suddenly Last Summer</i> by Tennessee Williams
Morehead State University (KY)	<i>Einstein’s Dreams</i> by David Gardiner and Ralf Remshardt, adapted from the novel by Alan Lightman
North Greenville University (SC)	<i>Nora’s House</i> adapted by Dale Savidge from the play by Henrik Ibsen
North Carolina Central University (NC)	<i>The Mis-Education of Hip Hop</i> devised by Daja Middleton, Destini Mewborn, Sheldon Mba, Jonathan Able, and Stephanie “Asabi” M. Howard

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. For more information visit www.kennedy-center.org/jfk.

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/.

FUNDING CREDITS

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Support for JFKC: A Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy is provided by Ambassador Elizabeth Frawley Bagley and The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation.

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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