



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 22, 2017

**Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival
Welcomes 1,500 Students and Faculty from
Colleges and Universities in
Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin
at the Region Three Festival
January 9–14, 2018**

Hosted by University of Indianapolis

**Full-Scale Productions Presented by: Carthage College,
Hope College, Illinois State University,
Kalamazoo College, Marquette University, Oakland University,
and University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point**

(WASHINGTON)—1,500 students and faculty from colleges and universities in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin will gather at the University of Indianapolis, Indiana for the Region Three festival of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), January 9–14, 2018. Launched 50 years ago, KCACTF celebrates excellence and achievement in theatrical productions from colleges and universities nationwide.

The Region Three Festival is the first 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.

The Region Three festival keynote address will be delivered by actress and playwright **Regina Taylor** at the opening ceremony on January 9. Taylor won a Golden Globe® award for Best Actress in a Television Drama and a NAACP Image Award for her role as Lilly Harper in the television series *I'll Fly Away*, about a 1950's Southern home on the cusp of the Civil Rights Movement. No stranger to the stage, Taylor was the first black woman to play Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* on Broadway, and is currently a playwright-in-residence at Signature Theatre in New York City. Her plays include *stop.rest.*, *Crowns*, and *Oo-Bla-Dee*, which won the 2000 American Theatre Critics/ Steinberg New Play Award. In July 2017, Taylor was announced as the new Denzel Washington Endowed Chair in Theatre at Fordham University.

Productions invited to be showcased at the Region Three festival are presented by Carthage College, Hope College, Illinois State University, Kalamazoo College, Marquette University, Oakland University, and University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point. The seven invited productions were selected from 21 eligible productions from the region.

The national festival includes master classes with leading artists from American theater, an opportunity for 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 a 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:

Carthage College (WI)	<i>A Seat at the Table</i> , by Regina Taylor
Hope College (MI)	<i>The Line Between</i> , an ensemble devised project
Illinois State University (IL)	<i>The Heresy of Love</i> , by Helen Edmundson
Kalamazoo College (MI)	<i>Fun Home</i> , by Jeanine Tesori and Lisa Kron
Marquette University (WI)	<i>The Skin of Our Teeth</i> , by Thornton Wilder
Oakland University (MI)	<i>Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet</i> , by Tarell Alvin McCraney
University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point (WI)	<i>Student Body</i> , by Frank Winters

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, the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) encourages and celebrates the finest and most diverse theatrical productions from colleges and universities nationwide. Through 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 fast-tracks 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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