



Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

January 2, 2017

**50th Annual Kennedy Center American College  
Theater Festival  
Welcomes 1,000 Students and Faculty from  
Colleges and Universities in the District of  
Columbia, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia,  
and West Virginia at the Region Two Festival  
January 16–20, 2018**

**Hosted by Indiana University of Pennsylvania,  
Indiana County, Pennsylvania**

**Full-Scale Productions Presented by:  
Community College of Baltimore County, Eastern Mennonite  
University, Fairmont State University, Gannon University, Howard  
County Community College, Ohio University Lancaster,  
Youngstown State University**

(WASHINGTON)—1,000 students and faculty from colleges and universities in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia will gather at Indiana University of Pennsylvania for the Region Two Festival of the annual Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), January 16–20, 2018. Launched 50 years ago, KCACTF celebrates excellence and achievement in theatrical productions from college and universities nationwide.

The Region Two Festival is the second of eight consecutive week-long celebrations held across the country, which will culminate in the National Festival 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 Two Festival keynote address will be delivered by dancer and choreographer **Maurice Hines** at the opening ceremony on January 16. Broadway credits include *Eubie*, *Bring Back Birdie* with Chita Rivera and Donald O'Connor, *Sophisticated Ladies*, and *Uptown...It's Hot!* which garnered a 1968 Tony® Best Actor nomination. Regionally, he has performed in *Guys and Dolls* (Arena Stage) and *Cool Papa's Party* (MetroStage, Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Choreography). Hines was the first African American director for Radio City Music Hall when he directed *The Radio City Spectacular*, and directed Quincy Jones's music video "I'll Be Good to You."

Productions invited to be showcased at the Region Two Festival are presented by Community College of Baltimore County, Eastern Mennonite University, Fairmont State University, Gannon University, Howard County Community College, Ohio University Lancaster, Youngstown State University. The seven invited productions were selected from 66 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 TWO PARTICIPATING PRODUCTIONS:**

<b>Community College of Baltimore County (MD)</b>	<i>Waiting For Godot</i> , by Samuel Beckett
<b>Eastern Mennonite University (VA)</b>	<i>The 39 Steps</i> , by Patrick Barlow and John Buchan
<b>Fairmont State University (WV)</b>	<i>Urinetown</i> , Music by Mark Hollmann, Lyrics by Mark Hollmann and Greg Kotis, Book by Greg Kotis
<b>Gannon University (PA)</b>	<i>Ape/Essence</i> , by Shawn Clerkin, Alaina Manchester, and the Company
<b>Howard County Community College (MD)</b>	<i>In The Cotton</i> , by Morgan McGuire
<b>Ohio University Lancaster (OH)</b>	<i>Moon Over Buffalo</i> , by Ken Ludwig
<b>Youngstown State University (OH)</b>	<i>Dead Man's Cell Phone</i> , by Sarah Ruhl

### **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/](https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/).

### **FUNDING CREDITS**

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*Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center of the Performing Arts’ Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.*

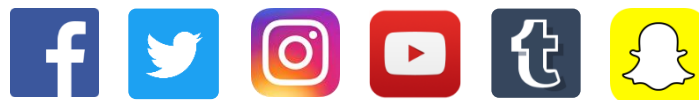
*Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation; Beatrice and Anthony Welters, and the AnBryce Foundation.*

*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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