



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 3, 2018

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
announces the

KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL

National Festival Runs April 9–14, 2018

Student Artists Nationwide Recognized for Outstanding Work

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts hosts more than 120 outstanding theater students from colleges and universities across the nation as part of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), which runs April 9–14, 2018 in multiple locations throughout the Center. The Center also announced the national awardees for the KCACTF. Selected awardees and representatives will be brought to Washington, D.C. for an expense-paid trip to participate in the National Festival. These student artists from across the United States have been recognized for their outstanding work from the eight regional festivals that were held January 9 through March 3, 2018.

The Festival includes readings of short plays featuring the finalists of the Gary Garrison National Ten-Minute Play Award as part of the Michael Kanin Playwriting Awards showcase and the John Cauble Award for Outstanding Short Play; public auditions for the Irene Ryan National Acting Scholarships; the opportunity for participants to take part in master classes and engage with colleagues from across the nation and the Washington, D.C. theater community; and a closing day ceremony for awards in production, directing, choreography, acting, writing, design, stage management, dramaturgy, and theater criticism.

This year, productions from universities invited to the eight regional festivals were eligible for recognition for national awards celebrating outstanding achievement. Productions and individuals were recognized for outstanding achievement under the categories of production, direction, choreography, design, performance, and devising. A selection panel consisting of members of the KCACTF National Committee, Executive Committee, and the KCACTF Artistic Director met over the eight weeks of the regional festival calendar to discuss the work. At the conclusion of the final festival at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas, the selection panel made the award decisions described below. **The “nominees” for each category**—those productions and

individual artists under consideration for these national awards—have been recognized for distinguished achievement. These awards, along with additional awards selected during the national festival, will be presented at the closing ceremony on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 12 p.m. in the Kennedy Center Theater Lab.

EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

JFKC commissioned One-Act, Concert Reading

Invitation only, please contact KCACTF@kennedy-center.org for schedule and more information.

TO TOKYO AND THE MOON by Steve Yockey

Directed by Jenna Duncan

With Susan Rome, Megan Graves, Madeline Burrows, Momo Nakamura, Carlos Saldaña, Nora Achrati, Lynette Rathnam, Michael Kevin Darnall, and Barb Pinolini

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 3:45 p.m.

Kennedy Center Theater Lab

Short Play Concert Readings

Invitation only, please contact KCACTF@kennedy-center.org for schedule and more information.

This program recognizes outstanding one-act and ten-minute plays. Seven national finalists have been selected to showcase their work at the Kennedy Center national festival. One playwright will be awarded a \$500 prize and a professional development residency. Awards will be announced on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 12 p.m. in the Kennedy Center Theater Lab. Concert readings of these plays, featuring distinguished actors from the Washington, D.C. theater community, are presented throughout the national festival and are open to the public as free events.

Passion Play by Zahria Moore, University of Missouri-Columbia

Directed by Psalmayene 24

With Shannon Dorsey, Tiffany Byrd, Vaughn Midder, Deidra LaWan Starnes, and Charmaign Davis

Water Like Honey by Nathaniel Whitehead, University of Northern Colorado

Directed by Nefertiti Burton

With Kimberly Schraf, Justin Weeks and Terrance Fleming

Canvas by Andrew Heinrich, Texas State University

Directed by Curt Tofteland

With Nancy Robinette and Maboud Ebrahimzadeh

Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.
Kennedy Center Theater Lab
Short Play Concert Readings

The Meeting by Lauren Ferebee, Texas State University
Directed by Michael Dove
With Thais Menendez and Laura C. Harris

The Moment After by Michael McGoldrick, Arizona State University
Directed by Michael Dove
With Annie Grier, Justin Weaks, and CarrieAnn Quinn

Fatberg by Darcy Sturges, Western Michigan University
Directed by Jon Hudson Odom
With Celeste Jones, Jonathan Feuer, and CarrieAnn Quinn

Will Be Live by Micah Ariel Watson, University of Virginia,
Directed by Justin Weaks
With Kashayna Johnson, Chelsea Robinson, Natalie Graves Tucker, and
Christopher
Richardson

Isadora Del Sol by Eliana Pipes, Columbia University
Directed by Kelsey Mesa
With Analisa Gutierrez, Olga Sanchez, Yasmin Tuazon, Carlos Saldaña, and
Barb
Pinolini

Friday, April 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
The Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Auditions
Kennedy Center Terrace Theater, \$25

The Irene Ryan Acting Scholarships provide recognition and financial assistance to outstanding student performers wishing to pursue further education and professional development. Each year, up to 300 nominees audition at each of the eight regional festivals. Two performers and their scene partners from each region are invited to attend the national festival to audition for the national scholarships. Each of the eight regional finalists receive a \$500 scholarship and week-long, expenses-paid trip to the national festival, where adjudicating selection panel made up of artistic directors, actors, and producers view the audition presentations of monologues, scenes, and songs. One student will receive a \$5000 scholarship and their partner will receive \$1000. The student recognized in second place will receive a scholarship for \$2500 and their partner, \$1000. All of the nominees and their partners are eligible for additional

summer fellowships and professional development residencies. The national scholarships and performance awards will be announced at the end of the conclusion of the auditions. The 2018 finalists are:

Chase Durrett, University of Oklahoma , Assisted by Chase Bradshaw
Akia Nyrie Smith, Hope College, Assisted by Samantha Hill
Jazzmin Carson, Alabama State University, Assisted by Zaria Hall
Bradley Mackay, Brigham Young University, Assisted by Malia Mackay
Tajionna Anderson-Clinton, Slippery Rock University, Assisted by Tyler Hahn
Jacques Matellus, University of Massachusetts-Boston, Assisted by Christian Ruiz
Andrew Thornton, University of Wyoming, Assisted by Jared Mohr-Leiva
Haley K. Johnson, Graceland University, Assisted by Andrew Dipoto

The Musical Theater Fellows

Additionally, on Friday evening, April 13, 2018 in the Terrace Theater as part of the 7:00 p.m. Irene Ryan National Acting Scholarship Auditions and Musical Theater Fellows Showcase, performers from around the country will showcase songs from the American Musical Theatre. They will be in residence for performance master classes throughout the National Festival.

Melissa Brausch, Sacramento State University
Sasha Brown, Western Connecticut State University
Nicholas Coffey, Cuesta College
Dominic Grijalva, College of the Sequoias
Allison King, Cuesta College
Adrian Lopez, Sam Houston State University
Laurel Smalley, West Texas A&T University
Nissi Shalome Smith, Western Illinois University
Mark Summer, Western Connecticut State University
Morgan Lynn Sterrett, Kansas State University

The Open Jar Institute

The Open Jar Institute has generously provided eight regional scholarships to its Summer Institute in August 2018. Each of these regional scholarship awardees will audition for a full scholarship on Friday evening, April 13, in the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater by performing in the Musical Theater Fellows Showcase, the second act of the Irene Ryan National Acting Scholarship Auditions.

Founded in 2003, The Open Jar Institute provides select students and professionals the most intensive one-on-one training with working Broadway professionals— including directors, choreographers, agents, casting directors, and performers. Under the artistic direction of Jeff Whiting, and with the guidance of Joanna Gleason, Susan Stroman, Lynn Ahrens, and Stephen Flaherty, every class, workshop, and masterclass is designed to challenge and push the student to prepare for a successful career in

entertainment. Every teaching artist at The Open Jar Institute is a working Broadway professional. They are not only the best in their field, but they are also extremely qualified and gracious teachers, who can offer the best insight and tips to finding success in the entertainment business.

The College of Fellows Jane Alexander Award for Acting

Award will be presented Friday evening, April 13, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. during the scholarship and awards presentations of the Irene Ryan National Acting Scholarships **at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater.**

The College of Fellows Jane Alexander Award for Acting is designed to celebrate the next generation of theater artists through an award of \$2,500 granted to foster the **awardee's career in any way deemed** appropriate by the winner. The award is not tied to any institution or program and can be used for head shots, audition classes, and tickets to see theater, among other furthering career uses.

Eligible for the award are actors who are either Irene Ryan Finalists or Irene Ryan Partners. Those interested in being considered will craft an essay that includes thoughts on art and the art of acting, of artistic heroes/influences, integrity as an essential responsibility for the theater artist, and a vision of **the actor's career path** in relation to theater.

In addition to the cash award, the recipient of the College of Fellows Jane Alexander Award for Acting will be invited to be a member of the acting company of the MFA **Playwrights' Workshop, produced by the** Kennedy Center in association with the National New Play Network (NNPN), July 23 to 31, 2016. The award recipient will be part of the development of nine plays; work side-by-side with leading actors from Arena Stage, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Studio Theatre, and others; as well as connect with the artistic leadership of 12 NNPN member theaters, in addition to Actors Theatre of Louisville, and Theater Alliance.

The award is named for Jane Alexander, an actress of film, television, and the stage. She has four Academy Award® nominations, two Emmy Awards, and a Tony® for her work. Alexander has appeared in 65 films for television and the big screen, including *The Great White Hope*, *Kramer vs. Kramer*, *Testament*, and *Eleanor and Franklin*. On the New York stage she is known for roles in *The Lady from Dubuque*, *Chasing Manet*, *First Monday in October*, and *The Visit*. She was Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts during the Clinton administration. Alexander will present the award to the student recipient.

The College of Fellows of the American Theatre recognizes eminent individuals whose life work constitutes a truly outstanding contribution to the profession. Fellows are elected to membership for life, come from all parts of the United States, and represent the full range of creativity and leadership in theater.

MASTER CLASSES

Regional nominees and award-winners in the categories of performance, directing, playwriting and dramaturgy, design, dramatic criticism, and stage management take part in master classes with artists from across the nation and the Washington, D.C. theater community. The 2018 master class and workshop leaders include:

Playwriting and Dramaturgy

Mark Bly, Senior Dramaturg, The Acting Company
Naomi Iizuka, playwright *36 Views, Aloha Say the Pretty Girls, Good Kids*
Steve Yockey, playwright, *Writer Supernatural*
Dana Lynn Formby, Acting Artistic Director, Chicago Dramatists
Luis Valdez, Founding Director, El Teatro Campesino, *Zoot Suit*
Nan Barnett, Executive director, National New Play Network
Gary Garrison, Director of the Dramatists Guild Institute
Anne Morgan, Literary Director of the American Shakespeare Center
Karen Zacarías, Playwright, *The Book Club Play, Legacy of Light, Mariela in the Desert*, and *Destiny of Desire*

Directing

Tony Cisek, Five-time Helen Hayes Award-winning scenic designer
Rick Dildine, Artistic Director, Alabama Shakespeare Festival
Madeline Sayet, National Directing Fellow
Seema Sueko, Deputy Artistic Director, Arena Stage
Joy Zinoman, Founding Artistic Director, Studio Theatre

Scenic, Costume, Lighting and Sound Design

Debra Booth, Director of Design, Studio Theatre
Tony Cisek, Five-time Helen Hayes Award-winning Scenic Designer
Beverly Emmons, Distinguished Lighting Designer of Broadway, Robert Wilson and Modern Dance
Robert Kaplowitz, Tony Award®-winning Sound Designer

Dramatic Criticism

Mark Charney, Associate Director of the O’Neill National Critics Institute, Texas Tech University
Sarah Kaufman, *The Washington Post*
Christopher Klimek, *Washington City Paper*
Bob Mondello, *NPR* and *Washington City Paper*

Stage Management

Josiane Jones, Associate Production Manager, Olney Theatre Center
Christopher Sadler, University of Oklahoma, Stage Management Program Coordinator
Karen Storms, The Washington Ballet
Ian Poole, General Manager, Arena Stage

Leadership in the Arts

Curt Columbus, Artistic Director, Trinity Repertory Company, Program Coordinator

Kelvin Dinkins, Jr Diversity Committee Chair, League of Resident Theatres and General Manager, Yale Repertory Theatre

Edgar Dobie, Executive Director, Arena Stage

Garth Ross, Executive Director of the Schwarzman Center at Yale University

Marie Mattson, University Secretary, Georgetown University

Victoria Nolan, Deputy Dean, Yale School of Drama

Meghan Pressman, Managing Director, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company

Deborah F. Rutter, President, Kennedy Center

Robert Van Leer, Senior Vice President of Artistic Planning, Kennedy Center

Musical Theater

Howard Breitbart, Music Director

Bobby Smith, Coordinator, Multiple Helen Hayes Award-winning performer

Kelly Crandall **d'Amboise, Choreographer**

Tracy Lynn Olivera, Leading Actress and Cabaret Artist, Ford's Theatre,
Signature Theatre

Jeff Whiting, Artistic Director, Open Jar Institute, Associate Director, *Big Fish*,
Bullets Over Broadway, and *The Scottsboro Boys*

NATIONAL FESTIVAL FINALISTS

Award finalists from the regional festivals attend the national festival to participate in **the week's master classes and activities, as well as being eligible in each discipline for awards, residencies, and scholarships.** Awards will be announced at the closing day awards ceremony on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the Kennedy Center Theater Lab.

The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) Student Directing Fellowship

The nine student directors-in-residence at the national festival have been awarded associate membership of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) and are also nominees for this fellowship. The recipient of the National Fellowship will receive a grant of \$1,000 from the SDC to offset the costs of a professional development opportunity to be arranged in consultation with the recipient. The 2018 finalists include:

Courtney Plati, Salem State University

Katie Ciszek, James Madison University

Kristin L. Schoenback, Illinois State University

Melissa Lopez, Florida International University

Jordan A. Malone, University of Central Missouri

Allison Price, Texas State University
Audrey Delaney-Hanna, Western Washington University
Abel Marquez, Citrus College

The KCACTF Awards for Excellence in Scenic, Costume, Lighting, and Sound Design

Designs of the regional finalists will be on display during the national festival and national design respondents (distinguished artists in theatrical design) will select the award recipients in each category. All KCACTF National Design Award recipients will receive an award of \$500 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Las Vegas for a Cirque du Soleil Design Immersion, visiting with the creative and design staffs of *Kâ*, *Mystère* and *O*, and seeing the productions, with the assistance and coordination by the Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas. In addition, regional finalists will be eligible for design **fellowships at the O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwrights Conference**, the Contemporary American Theatre Festival, the Williamstown Theatre Festival.

2018 Finalists for Scenic Design:

Morgan Dawn Golightly, University of Connecticut
Christopher Erbe, Montclair State University
Kim Lartz, Illinois State University
Apriah Williams, Florida International University
Alex Hollmnn, Doane University
Carleigh Wagner, Oklahoma City University
Hanah Toyoda, University of Idaho
Andrea Tinoco, East Los Angeles College

2018 Finalists for Costume Design:

Georgia Fried, Salisbury University
Rachel Clark, University of Southern Indiana
Haley Grannon, Georgia College and State University
Robert Crone, University of Kansas
Stacey L. Johnson, Texas State University
Rosalie Olson, Linfield College
Jillian Ross, Los Angeles City College

2018 Finalists for the Barbizon Award for Excellence in Lighting Design:

Jessica Winward, University of Rhode Island
Nathaniel Hart, West Chester University
Zach Young, University of Wisconsin-Parkside
Calypso Hernandez, University of Southern Mississippi
Rachael Carney, Johnson County Community College
Jason Driver, Amarillo College
Shaye Evans, Colorado State University
Susan Kupferer, Brigham Young University

2018 Finalists for Sound Design:

JT McLoughlin, Southern Connecticut State University

Meghan Reed, West Chester University

Colin Kovarik, University of Wisconsin-Parkside

Tiffany Nabors, University of Southern Mississippi

Kayleigh Shaffer, University of Kansas

Matt Doyle, Southeastern Louisiana University

Chandler Oppenheimer, Colorado State University

Mathias Brown, Scottsdale Community College

The KCACTF Allied Design and Technologies Award

This award is open to students who have completed major crafts or technology projects in areas including makeup, projection, properties, millinery, masks, tech, wigs, scenic art, draping and tailoring, technical direction, puppets, special effects, costume craft, and audio engineering. Each of the recipients received an all-expenses-paid five-day residency at the United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT). 2018 recipients include:

Tiago Rodrigues, Bridgewater State University

Amanda Piergallini, Millersville University

Juliana Silva, Ball State University

Lindsey Kelley, University of Southern Mississippi

Carter Higgs, University of Central Missouri

Cassandra Trautman, Texas Tech University

AngelMarie Summers, University of Portland

Tu Nyugen, Mesa Community College

The Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas Scholarships

The following students were awarded one-week or multi-week scholarships to the Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas (SILV). SILV was founded by Don and Jane Childs to offer a better, more efficient way to train practitioners in all areas of live entertainment. The Institute has become the first-of-its kind intensive training program for students from around the world to meet, learn from, and network with leaders in the field of live entertainment who are committed to sharing their experience with the next generation. SILV has evolved into a partnership with industry friends who donate their time, their gear, their studios, workshops, rehearsal spaces and arrange for students to see examples of cutting edge design and technology. Summer 2018 master classes include **Rigging, Digital Drafting SFX, Automation, and “Movers, Media and Rock-n-Roll.”**

Olubankolay Sage Fagbohun, Saint Michael’s College

Nathaniel Hart, West Chester University

Amanda Piergallini, Millersville University

Michaela Pietrinferno, Montclair State University

Nichole Seul, East Stroudsburg University

Rebecca Rickaby, Bethel College
Shelby Ashley, Northeast State Community College
Emily Aveldanez, Auburn University Montgomery
Nicholas Baker, Jackson State University
Chelsea Cosio, Florida International University
Di'Jon Dupree, Georgia Southwestern State University
Rachel Gil de Gibaja, Florida International University
Gabriel Gonzalez, Florida International University
Alexandra Hess, Florida International University
Apriah Williams, Florida International University
Dillon Baxendell, Southwest Minnesota State University
Victoria Stowell, State Fair Community College
Matt Doyle, Southeastern Louisiana University
Karla Sofia Perez Lopez, University of Texas at El Paso
Miranda Quinn Miller, Southeastern Louisiana University
Zach Polasek, Oklahoma City University
Caitlynn Sandoval, Trinity Valley Community College
Hayden Bearden, California State University-Chico
Solveig Gasner, Laramie County Community College
Anjelica Negrete, Humboldt State University
Roman Sanchez, Humboldt State University
Olivia Fuentes, University of Texas at El Paso
Emilygrace Piel, Laramie County Community College

The National Partners of the American Theater Award for Design Excellence

This award is presented to one of the Design Award finalists, and is funded by members of the National Partners, many of whom are present or former members of the KCACTF National Committee. The Design Excellence Award is co-sponsored by the Korean National University of the Arts (KNUA) and the award recipient will spend an all-expenses-paid week in Seoul, Korea visiting theater design and traditional arts classes, various design studios, and attending performances. **This year's recipient will** be selected by National Partners of the American Theatre founding members Lin Conaway and Andy Gibbs.

KCACTF Stage Management Fellowships

These fellows attend the national festival in Washington, D.C. as recognition for their outstanding achievement in stage management at the regional festivals. The 2018 recipients are:

Ryan Gardner, Boston College
Gabi Bazinet, Rider University
Emmie Sandstedt, Hope College
Chelsea Cosio, Florida International University
Hannah Donovan, St. Ambrose University
Andrew Gutierrez, Texas State University
Kelly Edwards, Boise State University

Megan Johnson, Utah Valley University

ASPIRE: The Leadership in the Arts Fellowship

In association with the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the following students have excelled in Arts Leadership within their home regions and will be in residence at the National **Festival, part of a pilot program in association with the League of Resident Theatres' Diversity Initiative**. They will be mentored by Victoria Nolan and Kelvin Dinkins, Jr., of the Yale School of Drama and Yale Repertory Theatre, and with the student leadership of Braxton Crewell, Savannah College of Art and Design, currently the Artistic Administration Fellow and Trinity Repertory Theatre. During their time in Washington they will meet with leading arts administrators in the community, including Edgar Dobie at Arena Stage and the President of the Kennedy Center, Deborah F. Rutter, and her senior staff.

Nayarit Alcantara, LaGuardia Community College
Brandi M. Lavigne, Dean College
Alex Tolle, McDaniel College
Rachel Dion, Hope College
Veshonte Brown, Troy University
Vivian M. Cook, Iowa State University
Brea Clemons, University of Oklahoma
Roman Sanchez, Humboldt State University
Eliza Franklin, Los Angeles Southwest College

The LMDA Dramaturgy Award in Association with the Association for Theater in Higher Education

This award is the result of a unique collaboration between Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA), the Association for Theater in Higher Education (ATHE), and KCACTF. The winner of the LMDA Dramaturgy Award will receive a one-year membership in LMDA, and will be considered for a residency at the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, the Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis, the Kennedy Center and National New Play Network's MFA Playwrights' Workshop. The 2018 nominees are:

Sarah Schreck, University of Central Florida
Xiomara Cornejo, University of Missouri
Hannah Simon, University of Oklahoma
Gunner Joachim, Whittier College

The Institute for Theatre Journalism and Advocacy Scholarship

At each of the KCACTF regional festivals, students participated in the Institute for Theater Journalism and Advocacy. **This name reflects the Kennedy Center's interest** in developing articulate, highly informed, and well-trained arts journalists who can advocate for excellence in the arts in print, web-based, or broadcast media. Four regional finalists were selected to attend the KCACTF National Festival to participate in a series of master classes and symposia on dramaturgy and theater criticism. One

national scholarship recipient will receive a full fellowship to attend the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Connecticut during its National Playwrights' Conference in July 2018, working with leading professional newspaper and magazine critics from across the United States. The 2018 finalists are:

Jennifer Dorn, Providence College
Pedro Urquia, Florida International University
Shane Strawbridge, Texas Tech University
Adam Cadena, Scottsdale Community College

THE KENNEDY CENTER CITIZEN AWARDS

The productions below have been recognized for their role in insisting that theatrical production is central to the urgent community, emphasizing national and international conversations on the campuses of higher education nationwide.

A Seat at the Table: The Testimony of Fannie Lou Hamer by Regina Taylor, Carthage College
Diary of a Madman from the story by Nikolai Gogol, adapted by Kati Vecsey, Bates College
Displaced: A Response to Qurban, devised by the second year Contemporary Theatre students with the guidance of Mauricio Salgado, An-lin Dauber, Anais Azul, James Montano, and Alli Ross, Boston Conservatory at Berklee
Eclipsed by Danai Gurira, University of Utah
Jumpers devised by the company, based on an article by Tad Friend, Utah Valley University
(I)sland T(rap) by Austin Dean Ashford, University of Arkansas
In the Cotton by Morgan McGuire, Howard Community College, in collaboration with **Prince George's Community College, Carroll Community College**
Lydia by Octavio Solis, University of Texas at El Paso
CSU Ferguson devised by the company, with additional writing by Dennis Allen II, Frannie Choi, Julian Curry, Leslie Garcia, Marcus Gardley, Porsha O, danez smith, and Fong Tran, California State University, East Bay

PRODUCTION AWARDS

The productions below have been recognized for their outstanding achievement. **Additionally, the "nominees" for each category have been recognized for distinguished achievement.**

Outstanding Production of a Play—

Lydia by Octavio Solis, University of Texas at El Paso

Distinguished Productions of a Play:

Gruesome Playground Injuries by Rajiv Joseph, Sam Houston State University

The Government Inspector by Nicolai Gogol, adapted by Richard Alger, LACC Theatre Academy

Outstanding Production of a Musical—

Man of La Mancha, Cuesta College

Distinguished Productions of a Musical:

Evita, Western Connecticut State University

Sleepy, A Musical by Anton Chekhov and the Lost Children Band, University of Idaho

Outstanding Production of a New Work—

Cold by Ben Jolivet, Hollins University

Distinguished Productions of a New Work:

(I)sland T(rap) by Austin Dean Ashford, University of Arkansas

In the Cotton by Morgan McGuire, Howard Community College

States of Happiness by Josh Whedon, Wichita State University

Jumpers based on an article by Tad Friend, Utah Valley University

Absence Makes the Heart by Sean Abley, Hollins University

Sleepy, A Musical by Anton Chekhov and the Lost Children Band, University of Idaho

A Seat at the Table: The Testimony of Fannie Lou Hamer by Regina Taylor-Carthage College

Diary of a Madman, from the story by Nikolai Gogol, adapted by Kati Vecsey, Bates College

Outstanding Productions of a Devised or Company-Generated Work—

The Line Between, Hope College; AND *Sleepy, A Musical*, University of Idaho

Distinguished Productions of a Devised or Company-Generated Work:

CSU Ferguson, California State University—East Bay

Displaced: A Response to Qurban, Boston Conservatory at Berklee

DIRECTING AWARDS

The individuals below have been recognized for their direction of plays, musicals, classic, and devised works, and new plays and musicals. Additionally, the “nominees” for each category—those individual artists under consideration—have been recognized for distinguished achievement.

Outstanding Director of a Play—

Kim McKean, *Lydia*, University of Texas at El Paso

Distinguished Directors of a Play

Nefertiti Burton, *Miss Ida B. Wells*, University of Louisville

Tina Kronis, *The Government Inspector*, LACC Theatre Academy

Joe Serpa Daniels, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, Sam Houston State University

Outstanding Director of a New Work—

Todd Ristau, *Cold*, Hollins University

Distinguished Directors of a New or Devised Work:

Christopher Clark, *Jumpers*, Utah Valley University

A. Falijan, *CSU Ferguson*, California State University, East Bay

Cole Wimpee, *(I)sland T(rap)* by Austin Dean Ashford, University of Arkansas

Daniel Kwiatowski and Eric Saxvik, *The Line Between*, Hope College

Maiya Corral, *Sleepy, A Musical*,

University of Idaho

Outstanding Director of a Musical—

breve valle, *Man of La Mancha*, Cuesta College

Distinguished Directors of a Musical

Timothy Howard, *Evita*, Western Connecticut State University

Maiya Corral, *Sleepy, A Musical*, University of Idaho

DESIGN AWARDS

The individuals below have been recognized for their outstanding achievement in **design**. **Additionally, the “nominees” for each category**—those individual artists under consideration—have been recognized for distinguished achievement.

Outstanding Scenic Design—

breve valle and Richard Jackson, *Man of La Mancha*, Cuesta College

Distinguished Achievements in Scenic Design:

Michael Reidy, *Diary of a Madman*, Bates College

Elise Sottile, *Woyzeck*, Auburn University Montgomery

Distinguished Achievement in Costume Design—

Nicole Kippen, *The Heresy of Love*, Illinois State University

Elise Sottile, *Woyzeck*, Auburn University Montgomery

Christina Bayer, *The Government Inspector*, LACC Theatre Academy

Distinguished Achievement in Lighting Design—

Rachael Carney, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, Johnson County Community College

Richard Jackson, *Man of La Mancha*, Cuesta College

Eric Marsh, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, Sam Houston State University

Outstanding Achievement in Sound Design and Composition—

Anais Azul, *Displaced: A Response to Qurban*, Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Distinguished Achievement in Sound Design and Composition

Bill Matthews, *Diary of a Madman*, Bates College

Alex Rettie and Stuart Wheeler, *Jumpers*, Utah Valley University

Outstanding Choreography—

Tina Kronis, *The Government Inspector*, LACC Theatre Academy
Distinguished Choreography:
Sierra Crawford, *Jumpers*, Utah Valley University
bree valle, *Man of La Mancha*, Cuesta College
Mary Ann Lamb and Timothy Howard (Musical Staging), *Evita*, Western
Connecticut State University

PERFORMANCE AWARDS

The individuals below have been recognized for their achievement in plays and musicals. **Additionally, the “nominees” for each category**—those individual artists under consideration—have been recognized for distinguished achievement.

Outstanding Performances by an Actress in a Play (2)—

Ana K. Miramontes as Lydia, *Lydia*, University of Texas at El Paso; AND Gabriela Torres as Ceci, *Lydia*, University of Texas at El Paso

Distinguished Achievement by an Actress in a Play:

Macy Watts as Caroline, *Luna Gale*, West Texas A&M University

Lexie Bounds as Kayleen, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, Sam Houston State University

Ruby Segal as Tillie, *She Kills Monsters*, Normandale Community College

Mahogany Wesley, *I and You*, Valdosta State University

Sidney Edwards, *Miss Ida B. Wells*, University of Louisville

Mutiyat Ade-Salu, *Miss Ida B. Wells*, University of Louisville

Emma Sperka as Ellie, *Cold*, Hollins University

Bonny Branch as Jane, *Cold*, Hollins University

Mary Hill as Esther, *Intimate Apparel*, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Darby Mest as the Girl, *Eclipsed*, University of Utah

Marie Tredway as Fannie Lou Hamer, *A Seat at the Table: The Testimony of Fannie Lou Hamer*, Carthage College

Hannah Oldham as Kayleen, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, Johnson County Community College

Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Musical—

Allison King, Aldonza, *Man of La Mancha*, Cuesta College

Distinguished Achievement by an Actress in a Musical:

Shaylen Harger as Evita 1, *Evita*, Western Connecticut State University

Olivia Kurtz as Evita 2, *Evita*, Western Connecticut State University

Alexandra Colavecchio as Evita 3, *Evita*, Western Connecticut State University

Kristen Muller as Mistress *Evita*, Western Connecticut State University

Jessica Schwartz as Mistress, *Evita*, Western Connecticut State University

Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Play—

Tony Romero as Misha, *Lydia*, University of Texas at El Paso

Distinguished Achievement by an Actor in a Play:

Jeremy Gee as Doug, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, Sam Houston State

University
Ryan McCann as Beethoven, *Dog Sees God*, University of Nebraska-Omaha
Aidan Davari as Khlestakov, *The Government Inspector*, LACC Theatre
Academy
Tyair Blackman as BJJ/George/McCloskey, *An Octoroon*, Georgia Southern
University
Austin Dean Ashford, *(I)sland T(rap)*, University of Arkansas
Nicholas Vitela as Jason and Tyrone, *Hand to God*, Lone Star College-North
Harris

Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Musical—

Nicholas Coffey as Sancho Panza, *Man of La Mancha*, Cuesta College
Distinguished Achievement by an Actor in a Musical:
Johnathan Jordan as Agustin Magaldi, *Evita*, Western Connecticut State
University
Mark Sumner as Che, *Evita*, Western Connecticut State University
Tony Costa as Cervantes/Don Quixote, *Man of La Mancha*, Cuesta College
Daniel Poppen as the Doctor, *Sleepy, A Musical*, University of Idaho

Outstanding Performance and Production Ensembles—

Lydia, University of Texas at El Paso
Distinguished Achievement by Performance and Production Ensembles:
Gruesome Playground Injuries, Johnson County Community College
Cold, Hollins University
Eclipsed, University of Utah
The Government Inspector, LACC Theatre Academy
The Line Between, Hope College
Man of La Mancha, Cuesta College
CSU Ferguson, California State University East Bay
Sleepy, A Musical, University of Idaho
Gruesome Playground Injuries, Sam Houston State University

Outstanding Performance by a Faculty Guest Artist

Rebecca Rivas as Rosa, *Lydia*, University of Texas at El Paso

PLAYWRITING AWARDS

The Michael Kanin Playwriting Awards Program encourages and supports the development of student-written plays through a variety of honors, including fellowships at the Lark Play Development Center's Residency at New York Stage & Film, O'Neill Playwrights' Conference, the Playwrights' Center of Minneapolis, potential publication contracts, membership in the Dramatists Guild of America, and cash awards.

The Harold and Mimi Steinberg National Student Playwriting Award

The Honey Trap by Leo McGann, Boston University

The second place recipient is *(I)sland T(rap)* by Austin Dean Ashford, University of Arkansas

Distinguished Achievement: *Mrs. Phu's Cleansing Juices (and also*

salads) by Emily Witt, DePaul University; AND

Lyon's Den by TJ Young, Texas State University

The Paula Vogel Award in Playwriting recognizes the outstanding student-written play that celebrates diversity and concerns issues of gender and sexuality.

Mingus by Tyler English-Beckwith, New York University

The second place recipient is *53% Of* by Stephanie Del Rosso, University of California, San Diego

Distinguished Achievement:

Butter Knife by Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin, Indiana University

La Llorona by Cecelia Raker, University of Texas at Austin

Poor Herman by Elizabeth Doss, University of Texas at Austin

The KCACTF National Undergraduate Playwriting Award (2)

Canaan by Micah Ariel Watson, University of Virginia; AND

Megan and the Bear Go Camping (to Solve Their Problems) by Zoe Jovanovich, Western Washington University

Distinguished Achievement:

There is Trouble All Over this World by Renae Jarrett, New York University

Hennessy by Brysen Orlando Boyd, Boston College

How Sweet the Sound by Eryn McVay, Western Washington University

Smudge by Meg Schenk, University of Oregon

The Mark Twain Prize for Comic Playwriting (2)

Butter Knife by Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin, Indiana University; AND

Part and Parcel by Jenny Rachel Weiner, The Juilliard School

The Jean Kennedy Smith Playwriting Award

Richard & Jane & Dick & Sally by Noah Diaz, Yale School of Drama

The second place recipient is *CJ, a trilingual play* by Mercedes Floreslas, University of California, Riverside

The David Mark Cohen National Playwriting Award is presented in an effort to promote the writing and production of new plays in memory of David Mark Cohen, who was Professor of Playwriting, University of Texas at Austin.

In the Cotton by Morgan McGuire, produced by Howard Community College,

Prince George's Community College and Carroll Community College

The Kennedy Center Latinx Playwriting Award

Twenty50 by Tony Meneses, The Juilliard School

The second place recipient is *Between Here and the City of Mexico* by Tony Meneses, The Juilliard School

Distinguished Achievement:

Los Dreamers by Monica Sanchez, University of New Mexico

Las Pajaritas by Jordan Ramirez Puckett, Ohio University

CJ, a trilingual play by Mercedes Floresislal, University of California at Riverside

The Paul Stephen Lim Playwriting Award, recognizing the outstanding play written by a student of Asian or Pacific Rim heritage, and sponsored by the University of Kansas Foundation.

The Book of Mountains and Seas by Yilong Liu, University of Hawaii at Manoa

The second place recipient is *Butter Knife* by Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin, Indiana University

The Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award, presented in memory of the distinguished dramatist to the outstanding KCACTF student-written play on the subject of the African American experience.

Slave Play by Jeremy O. Harris, Yale School of Drama

The second place recipient is *White History* by Dave Harris, University of California, San Diego

Distinguished Achievement:

Canaan by Micah Ariel Watson, University of Virginia

(I)sland T(rap) by Austin Dean Ashford, University of Arkansas

The Rosa Parks Playwriting Award

Slave Play by Jeremy O. Harris, Yale School of Drama

The second place recipient is *White History* by Dave Harris, University of California, San Diego

Distinguished Achievement:

Stand and Wait by Eliana Pipes, Columbia University

Los Dreamers by Monica Sanchez, University of New Mexico

Sucia, a Cinderella story for the real world by Nicole Jost, San Francisco State University

The Hip Hop Theater Creator Award

Gang Sines by Malique Guinn, University of California-Santa Barbara

The second place recipient is *(I)sland T(rap)* by Austin Dean Ashford, University of Arkansas

The National Partners of the American Theater Playwriting Award, in its seventh year and sponsored by National Partners of the American Theater (NAPAT), recognizes an outstanding playwright selected from eight nominated playwrights. The award recipient will receive an expenses-paid residency with the O'Neill Playwrights'

Conference.

A Night of Stars with Tennessee Williams by Maxim Vinogradov, University of Michigan

The second place recipient is *The Great Maverick Adventure of 2007* by Caroline Toby Graham, University of New Mexico

The third place recipient is *Sucia: A Cinderella Story for the Real World* by Nicole Jost, San Francisco State University

The National Finalists of the John Cauble Award for Outstanding Short Play

Isadora Del Sol by Eliana Pipes, Columbia University

Passion Play by Zahria Moore, University of Missouri-Columbia

Water Like Honey by Nathaniel Whitehead, University of Northern Colorado

The National Finalists of the Gary Garrison National Ten-Minute Play Award

The Meeting by Lauren Ferebee, Texas State University

Canvas by Andrew Heinrich, Texas State University

Will Be Live by Micah Ariel Watson, University of Virginia

The Moment After by Michael McGoldrick, Arizona State University

The KCACTF Musical Theatre Award

Fostered Love book, music and lyrics by Claire-Frances Sullivan, Central Michigan University

The Darrell Ayers National Playwriting Award

Lost Girl by Kimberly Belflower, University of Texas at Austin

The second place recipient is *La Llorona* by Cecelia Raker, University of Texas at Austin

The Planet Earth Arts Playwriting Prize

Presented in association with Stanford University, Planet Earth Arts, the Sustainable World Coalition, and Earth Island Institute

Fatberg by Darcy Sturges, Western Michigan University

National Finalists:

You Did This by Josie Basford, Glendale College, California

Dead Zone by Lindsay Adams, Catholic University of America

The Volcano Play by Isaac Otterman, University of South Dakota

Two Dinosaurs Talking About Climate Change by Elisabeth Frankel, Columbia University

Jungle by Art Por Diaz, Gonzaga University

The KCACTF Undergraduate Theater Scholar Award recognizes the outstanding research paper in theater written by an undergraduate student.

Anglo-Saxon Oral Poetry and Early Medieval Liturgical Drama in England by Austin Benson, Hillsdale College

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 kenedy-center.org/education/.

FUNDING CREDITS

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

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