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

NATIONAL AWARDEES

For the 48th Annual Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival

Student Artists Nationwide Recognized for Outstanding Work

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts today announced the national awardees for the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Selected awardees and representatives will be brought to Washington, D.C. for an expense-paid trip to participate in the 48th annual Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), April 12–16, 2016. These student artists from across the United States have been recognized for their outstanding work from the eight regional festivals that were held January 5 through February 27, 2016.

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. The eight regional festivals and the national festival provide an opportunity for college and university theater departments to showcase their achievements in production, celebrate their students in all disciplines of the art form, and take advantage of a wide array of professional development seminars, workshops, and master classes. Since its establishment 48 years ago, KCACTF has reached millions of theatergoers and has made important contributions to the professional development of countless college and university theater students nationwide.

This year, productions from universities invited to the eight regional festivals were eligible for recognition for national awards celebrating outstanding achievement. 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.

What follows is a list of the productions and individuals recognized for outstanding achievement under the categories of production, direction, choreography, design, acting, performance, and playwriting. Additionally, 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 16, 2016 at 12 p.m. in the Kennedy Center Theater Lab.
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—*Clybourne Park* by Bruce Norris, Albright College

Distinguished Production of a Play:
*Vigils* by Noah Haidle, University of Idaho
*The Lonesome West* by Martin McDonagh, Sam Houston State University
*The Turn of the Screw* by Jeffrey Hatcher, adapted from the story by Henry James, Bossier Parish Community College
*Stupid F**king Bird* by Aaron Posner, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Outstanding Production of a Musical—*Parade* by Jason Robert Brown and Alfred Uhry, Western Connecticut State University

Distinguished Production of a Musical:
*Mad World*, Book by Cristian Guerrera and Chandler Patton, Lyrics by Steven Schmidt and Cristian Guerrera, Music by Steven Schmidt, Ball State University
*Smokey Joe’s Cafe*, words and music by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, Wichita State University

Outstanding Production of a New or Devised Work—*Mad World*, Book by Cristian Guerrera and Chandler Patton, Lyrics by Steven Schmidt & Cristian Guerrera, Music by Steven Schmidt, Ball State University

Distinguished Productions of a New or Devised Work:
*The Treehouse Effect* by Mark Warner and Brandon Jensen, Emporia State University
*Refried Elvis* by Philip Valle, Cuesta College
*Alice* by Ara Vito, Belmont University
*29*, Music and Lyrics by Gaby Alter, Book and Additional Lyrics by Tommy Newman, Troy University
*Coupler* by Dayna Meredith Levy, Hollins University
*Afghanistan/Wisconsin (A Prominent Thing)* by Laurel McKenzie, Carthage College
*Black N Blue Boys/Broken Men* by Dael Orlandersmith, Alabama State University

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 (2)—Kadin McGreevy, *Vigils* by Noah Haidle, University of Idaho; AND Jeffrey Lentz, *Clybourne Park* by Bruce Norris, Albright College

Distinguished Directors of a Play
Ray Scott Crawford, *The Turn of the Screw* by Jeffrey Hatcher, adapted from the story by Henry James, Bossier Parish Community College
Kevin Crouch, *The Lonesome West* by Martin McDonagh, Sam Houston State University

Outstanding Director of a New or Devised Work—Brent Maddox, *Alice*, Belmont University

Distinguished Directors of a New or Devised Work:
Theresa Mitchell, The Treehouse Effect, Emporia State University
Eva Patton, Mad World, Ball State University
bree valle, Refried Elvis, Cuesta College
Martin McClendon, Afghanistan/Wisconsin (A Prominent Thing), Carthage College

Outstanding Director of a Musical—Tim Howard, Parade, Western Connecticut State University
Distinguished Directors of a Musical
Amy Baker Swiethale, Smokey Joe’s Café, Wichita State University
Eva Patton, Mad World, Ball State University

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—Cocol Bernal, Clybourne Park, Albright College
Distinguished Achievement in Scenic Design:
Lachlin Loud, Eurydice, Suffolk County Community College
Paul Gatrell, Alice, Belmont University
David White, The Turn of the Screw, Bossier Parish Community College
Lindsay Haynes, The Lonesome West, Sam Houston State University

Outstanding Costume Design—Shelly Newcomb, The Lonesome West, Sam Houston State University
Distinguished Achievement in Costume Design:
Alison Kluxen, Clybourne Park, Albright College
Phoebe Miller, Stupid F**king Bird, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Cate Wieck, Smokey Joe’s Cafe, Wichita State University
Irene Thelen, Parade, Western Connecticut State University
Caroline Nott, Alice, Belmont University

Distinguished Achievement in Lighting Design—
Wayne E. Vettleson, Clybourne Park by Bruce Norris, Albright College
Keith Bruce, The Turn of the Screw by Jeffrey Hatcher, from the story by Henry James, Bossier Parish Community College
Jason Kankel, Eurydice, Suffolk County Community College
Stuart Wilson and Mickie Marie, Mad World, Ball State University
Scott Cally, Parade, Western Connecticut State University

Outstanding Achievement in Sound Design and Engineering—Avery Orvis, Eurydice, Suffolk County Community College
Distinguished Achievement in Sound Design and Engineering
Marlo Griffith, Smokey Joe’s Café, Wichita State University
Zachary Charles, Parade, Western Connecticut State University
David White and Ray Scott Crawford, The Turn of the Screw, Bossier Parish Community College
David Ball, Fabrice Conte, Taylor Finley, The Laramie Project, University of Oklahoma
Outstanding Choreography or Movement Direction—Tim Howard and Elizabeth Parkinson, *Parade*, Western Connecticut State University
   Distinguished Choreography or Movement Direction:
   Amy Baker Schwiethale, *Smokey Joe’s Cafe*, Wichita State University
   Deb Keller, *Never Swim Alone*, Lansing Community College
   Luke Eddy, *EchoBOOM*, University of Central Oklahoma
   Marc Devine, *Mad World*, Ball 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 Performance by an Actress in a Play**—Natalie Torpey, *Clybourne Park* by Bruce Norris, Albright College
   Distinguished Achievement by an Actress in a Play:
   Madeline Hiers, *The Turn of the Screw*, Bossier Parish Community College
   Madeline Marconi, *Alice*, Belmont University
   Annie Williams, *Bug*, University of the Ozarks
   Hannah Morin, *Eurydice*, Suffolk County Community College
   Alora King, *Stupid F**king Bird*, University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Musical**—Shaylen Harger, *Parade*, Western Connecticut State University
   Distinguished Achievement by an Actress in a Musical:
   Braelin Andrzejewski, *Love’s Labours Lost*, Robert Morris University
   Victoria Buchtan, *Love’s Labours Lost*, Robert Morris University
   Madi White, *Smokey Joe’s Cafe*, Wichita State University
   Keshana Cook, *Smokey Joe’s Cafe*, Wichita State University
   Allison King, *Refried Elvis*, Cuesta College

**Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Play**—Russell E. Alexander II, *Stupid F**king Bird*, University of Alabama at Birmingham
   Distinguished Achievement by an Actor in a Play:
   Alex Johnson, *Afghanistan/Wisconsin (A Prominent Thing)*, Carthage College
   Billy Balmer, *Clybourne Park*, Albright College
   Amir Trotter, *Leveling Up*, Bethany Lutheran College
   Justin Tinker, *The Treehouse Effect*, Emporia State University
   Christopher Lindsay, *The Brothers Size*, Norfolk State University
   Jesse Kortus, *The Turn of the Screw*, Bossier Parish Community College
   Blake Jackson, *The Lonesome West*, Sam Houston State University

**Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Musical**—Matt Grasso, *Parade*, Western Connecticut State University
   Distinguished Achievement by an Actor in a Musical:
   John Bane, *Mad World*, Ball State University
   Robert Kowalewski, *Love’s Labours Lost*, Robert Morris University
Da’Merius Ford, *Smokey Joe’s Cafe*, Wichita State University
D’Jarious Allen, *Parade*, Western Connecticut State University
Lenard Jackson, *My Block*, Los Medanos College
Tony Costa, *Refried Elvis*, Cuesta College
Greg Threlkeld, *Refried Elvis*, Cuesta College

**Outstanding Performance and Production Ensembles**—*Alice*, Belmont University

Distinguished Achievement by Performance and Production Ensembles:
*Refried Elvis*, Cuesta College
*Vigils*, University of Idaho
*Clybourne Park*, Albright College
*Animal Farm*, University of Nebraska at Omaha
*The Brothers Size*, Norfolk State University
*The Laramie Project*, University of Oklahoma
*Parade*, Western Connecticut State University
*Stupid F**king Bird*, University of Alabama at Birmingham

**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**

*We Will Not Describe the Conversation* by Eugenie Carabatsos, Carnegie-Mellon University
The second place recipient is *Alice* by Ara Vito, Belmont University

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

*Strange Men* by Will Snider, University of California, San Diego
The second place recipient is *Chatterbox* by Rebecca Sanchez, University of New Mexico

**The KCAC** National Undergraduate Playwriting Award

*Fair* by Carly Thomas, University of Michigan

**The Mark Twain Prize for Comic Playwriting**

*Breeders* by Dan Giles, Carnegie-Mellon University

**The Jean Kennedy Smith Playwriting Award (2)**

*Four Chambers* by Lisa Kenner Grissom, Lesley University; AND *Ropes in the Well* by Martyna Majok, The Juilliard School

**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.

*Up the Hill* by Keith Huff, produced by Carthage College
The second place recipient is *The Boy Inside* by Richard A. Kalinoski, produced by University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

**The KCACTF Latinidad Playwriting Award**
*Los Moreno* by Mercedes Floresislas, University of California at Riverside
The second place recipient is *The River Bride* by Marisela Treviño Orta, University of Iowa

**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.
*Hunger* by Anna Moench, University of California, San Diego
The second place recipient is *i wrote on ur wall and now i regret it* by Ming Peiffer, Columbia 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.
*Br’er Cotton* by Tearrance A. Chisholm, Catholic University of America
The second place recipient is *A is for Apron* by Leviticus Jelks, Carnegie-Mellon University

**The Rosa Parks Playwriting Award**
*Bhavi the Avenger* by Tearrance A. Chisholm, Catholic University of America

**The KCACTF Hip-Hop Creator Award**
*My Block* by Federico C. Bartolo III, Los Medanos College
The second place recipient is *A Live Mixtape* by Tahirih Moeller, California State University, Long Beach

**The National Partners of the American Theater Playwriting Award**, in its sixth 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.
*In the Moment* by Leo McGann, Boston University
The second place recipient is *Los Moreno* by Mercedes Floresislas, University of California at Riverside

**The National Finalists of the John Cauble Award for Outstanding Short Play**
*Fledgling* by Colleen McCandless, California State University, Long Beach
*Biodegradable Seagulls* by Alexander Hehr, University of Central Florida
*Boxed In* by Mora Harris, Carnegie-Mellon University
*Doctor Scott* by Aaron Scully, University of Missouri

**The National Finalists of the Gary Garrison National Ten-Minute Play Award**
*Nan* by Mark Noa Gardner, Loyola Marymount University
*The Nice View* by Cynthia Veal Holm, Lesley University
*In the Direction of the Sun* by Sierra Carlson, James Madison University
*Jigsaw Cactus* by Caitlin Turnage, University of Houston

**The Planet Earth Arts Playwriting Prize**
Presented in association with Stanford University, Planet Earth Arts, the Sustainable World Coalition, and Earth Island Institute
Biodegradable Seagulls by Alexander Hehr, University of Central Florida

National Finalists:
Firebreak by Darcy Sturges, Western Michigan University
Lorax by Katherine Gee Perrone, Lesley University

The KCACTF Undergraduate Theater Scholar Award—Rick Chason of University of Massachusetts Boston for “No One Can Say I Didn’t Try”: A Study of the musical Anyone Can Whistle as a work of Social Satire and a Foundation for the Latter Works of Stephen Sondheim. Mr. Chason will attend the National Festival, where he will be presented with a cash prize of $1,000, and a student membership in ATHE (the Association for Theater in Higher Education).

EDUCATION AT THE KENNEDY CENTER
The Kennedy Center retains its commitment as the nation’s cultural center to educating and enlightening children and adults in Washington and around the country. The Center’s national education programs include: Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child, which works with 20 municipalities and their school districts around the country to develop a long-range strategic plan for arts education; ARTSEDGE, a website that offers standards-based materials for use in and out of the classroom; Partners in Education, which forges relationships between an arts organization and its neighboring school systems to build effective arts education programs for teachers and teaching artists; Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network, works with 30 state organizations on arts education policy issues; Explore the Arts, which provide insight into the cultural and historical context of the works presented on stage and sparks dialogue between audiences and the artists who have created the performances through participatory workshops, demonstrations, panels, master classes, and open rehearsals; and the Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards, which acknowledge teachers of grades K-12 whose efforts have made a significant impact on their students; and Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences on Tour, which brings original Kennedy Center productions for students and families into communities and performing arts centers around the country.

In and around D.C., the Kennedy Center’s programs include Changing Education Through the Arts, a program that works with seven schools in the area to affect long-term change in school culture through professional learning in arts integration; Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers, which trains Washington-area educators to teach the arts or other subject areas through the arts; and Washington, D.C. Partnership Schools, where the Center provides resources and teaching artist residencies to 22 elementary, junior, and senior high schools in Washington, D.C. The Center also mounts more than 100 events and performances of theater, music, dance, and opera throughout the season for more than 100,000 local school-aged children.

In addition, the Center offers multiple skill development programs for young artists and professionals both locally and nationally, including the National Symphony Orchestra’s Youth Fellowship Program, Summer Music Institute, and High School Competition; Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, Opera Institute, and Kids Create Opera Partnership; the biennial New Visions/New Voices forum for development of new plays for young people; Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell; Betty Carter’s Jazz Ahead; VSA’s Playwright Discovery Program, Young Soloists, and Visual Arts Programs; arts administration internships; and the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival which impacts hundreds of thousands of college-aged theater students across the country and marks its 48th anniversary in 2016.

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For more information, please visit [Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival](https://www.kennedycenter.org/KCACTF/).

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