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Southern Utah University Students Win Awards for Theatre

(Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah)SUU Students were recently recognized for their outstanding theatrical work at a regional conference held in Fullerton, California.

Anne Keefe (MFA '10), graduate student in the Arts Administration program, won the regional level dramaturgy award. She will compete with her dramaturgy project from *Facing East*, in nationals in Washington DC in April.

Ellesse Hargreaves (Theatre '09) and Alex Allred (Theatre '11), both made it to the semi-final round for the Irene Ryan Scholarship. The Irene Ryan Foundation, is named after the late-Tony-Award Winning actor, who donated scholarships to young theatre arts students involved with KCACTF. In addition, several students from Southern Utah University participated in this competition.

The following students won awards of merit: Amanda Bullock (Properties Master) for *The Elephant Man*; Casey Carlson (Assistant Stage Manager), Derrick Duncan (Playwright), Jillian Rae Jackson (Stage Manager) and Jillian Rae Pagan (Director) for *Jared Hawthorne: Marriage Counselor to the Stars*; Kyle Cook (Sound Designer), Laura Kirk (Stage Manager) and Meggan Steffensen (Assistant Director) for *Lysistrata*; Rachel Mann (Production Manager), Dominic Yeager (Technical Director) and MacKenzie Pederson (Cellist) for *Facing East*.

The conference was held on campus of California State University, Fullerton, the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) Region VIII participants competed in acting, designing, directing, dramaturgy, playwrighting and other important aspects of production. Region VIII consists of Arizona, California, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Nevada and Utah. The competing students showcased the finest projects of this region and offered a variety of activities, including workshops, symposia and regional-level award programs. Regional festival productions are judged by a panel of three judges selected by the Kennedy Center and the KCACTF national committee.

Since its inception, KCACTF has given more than 400,000 college theater students the opportunity to have their work critiqued, improve their dramatic skills and receive national recognition for excellence. More than 16 million theatergoers have attended approximately 10,000 festival productions nationwide. KCACTF is a national theatre program involving 18,000 students from colleges and universities nationwide which has served as a catalyst in improving the quality of college theatre in the United States. KCACTF encourages, recognizes and celebrates the finest and most diverse work produced in university and college theater programs; provides opportunities for participants to develop

their theater skills and insight; improves the quality of college and university theater in America and encourages colleges and universities to give distinguished productions of new plays, especially those written by students.

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ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts is comprised of the departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, and a graduate program in Arts Administration. The College's affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, American Folk Ballet, Utah Shakespearean Festival, the performance group Acclamation, and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. Over 550 students are majoring in 16 different degree areas in the arts. Both liberal arts B.A. and B.S. degrees are offered, as well four professional degrees: Bachelor of Music (B.M.); Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in Studio Art, Graphic Design, and Arts Education; and the B.F.A. in Theatre. The College's Art and Design, Music, and Dance programs are nationally accredited. More than 60 full and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring students in their pursuit of a degree in the arts. The College regularly enrolls 1100 students each semester in over 195 classes on the SUU campus. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, contact the Office of the Dean 435-865-8561 or by e-mail at cpvamktg@suu.edu.