

KCACTF Region VIII 2009
Society of Stage Directors & Choreographers (SSDC) Regional Directing Event Guidelines

One student director (either graduate or undergraduate) from each of the eight regions will be invited to participate in the National KCACTF Festival at the Kennedy Center each April. This award includes travel, lodging and per diem expenses, as well as attendance at KCACTF National Festival workshops and performances. Unique educational opportunities will be planned for the award recipients at the National Festival.

- Candidates:** Nominated by the individual institutions, students who have demonstrated success in direction. The institution must have entered either an associate or participating production for the regional festival.
- Event:** Presentation of a five minute scene. Before the presentation the candidate will hand the respondents and judges a prepared prompt book and director's statement that reflects their analysis of the scene. The scene will include bona fide student actors, and will be rehearsed at the institution for presentation in a preliminary round at the regional festival. If an institution has more than one director, scenes may not share actors for the presentations. Directors may not act in the scenes, and must be available to simply "observe" all of the presentations.
- Scene:** All entrants will prepare one from a list of five scenes, to be chosen at the national meetings in August under the guidance of the national member at large who oversees direction. The scene will be announced to all of the regions at the end of the summer meeting.
- Responses:** Both the preliminary and final rounds of the event will have respondents who respond to the work immediately following the presentation. The respondents are skilled directors who have a strong track record of responding to directing. The same individuals will respond to both rounds of presentations.
- Judges:** Out of region colleagues or local professionals who are not affiliated with regional institutions. Judges will make the decisions on which student director will attend the events in Washington DC. The number of judges is determined by the regional chair. At least one member of the team must be a SSDC member. The same individuals will judge both rounds of presentations.
- Evaluation:** Directors will be evaluated through the preliminary scene presentation, interview process, written materials, and final presentation.
- Preliminary Round:** A closed round. All of the candidates (directors only) are required to attend all of the first round presentations. The teachers are encouraged but not required to attend. After the presentation the respondents will react to the work in front of the closed gathering of directors and teachers. No actors are allowed. A prompt book and director's statement is required prior to the Preliminary Round.
- Interview Round:** Directors who are chosen for the final round attend individual interviews with the respondents and judges when the director's statement and approach can be discussed. A current resume (required) and additional materials (optional) are requested for the interview.
- Final Round:** Open to the public. A small number of final round presentations is encouraged (6 or less). The final round occurs a day or two following the preliminary round to allow the director and actors to work on the scene based on the feedback from the preliminary round.

SCENES

What are the judges looking for in the prepared scenes?

1. Storytelling. (Does the scene have a dramatic arc? Can we clearly follow the action of the scene? Does the scene begin and end with purpose? Is there a unity of approach and execution of artistic choices?)
2. Staging and use of space/ground plan. (Is the space thoughtfully and imaginatively used to tell the story of the scene? Does the staging help clarify the story or does it impose something on the scene? Does the director understand the fundamentals of staging?)

3. Theatricality (Does the director solve the challenges presented by the scene in an inventive and purposeful way?)
4. Casting (Was the scene well cast?)
5. Actor Coaching (Are character relationships clear and compelling? Are the actors/characters in the same dramatic world?)
6. Communication, collaboration and understanding. (Is there evidence of collaboration and communication within the company? Is there evidence of clear dramaturgy regarding the playwright, the play and the nature of the scene? How effectively were they able to communicate a coherent and compelling vision of the play and scene in the interview, rehearsal, and performance aspects of the process? Did the director demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of how to realize a unified vision of the play and scene? Does the Director's work demonstrate an understanding of the play and scene? How well does the director communicate their ideas? How successfully does the director incorporate the feedback received in order to further develop the scene?)

SSDC Preselected Scenes for Festival XLI (2009) at Cal State Fullerton

All regional student directing candidates must present a five minute scene at festival from the following list:

A Raisin in the Sun - Lorraine Hansberry ---- Samuel French, Inc.

Act 1, Scene 1 p. 20-27

Ruth, Walter & Beneatha

Begin: Walter: "You know what I was thinking 'bout in the bathroom this morning?"

End: Ruth: "Fifty cents? Here, take a taxi."

Our Lady of 121st Street -Stephen Adley Guirgis ---- Faber & Faber

Our Lady of 121st street & Jesus Hopped the A Train & In Arabia, We'd All Be Kings

p. 16-25

Scene 3 - Flip, Gail & Inez

Beginning with: Flip: "Do not act like a faggot!" Ending with: Gail: "So are we still together?"

Quake - Melanie Marnich

In Humana: 2001- p. 147-153

Lucy & Guy & Brian

Prelude to a Kiss - Craig Lucas

Broadway Play Publishing

Starting on page 39-43

Rita, Peter, waiter

Beginning with: Waiter: "Something from the bar?" Ending with: Rita: "I am me. This is all I am. I'm sorry I can't be whatever you want me to be. This is me. And maybe what you saw wasn't here at all."

The Distance From Here - Neil LaBute

Overlook Press p. 63-69

Darrell: Listen you got like 20 bucks... to end of scene

Tim, Darrell, Jenn

WRITTEN MATERIALS

Students nominated to participate in the SSDC Regional Directing Event are required to bring the following materials to the regional festival:

- Prompt Book and Director's Statement (Due when the preliminary scene is presented)
- Current Resume (Due at the interview)
- Other Supporting Materials - Optional (Due at the interview)

Prompt Book (Required)

Those nominated to present scenes must present a detailed prompt book. Failure to provide the Prompt Book, including the prepared Director's Statement, at the time of the preliminary presentation will result in disqualification. The Prompt Book will also be reviewed as part of the interview phase of the process.

The Prompt Book should include:

(NOTE: The name of your school and contact info should ONLY be included on the Contact Information page – your NAME ONLY should be included on ALL other materials.)

- Contact Information (This page will be seen by the coordinator only)
 - Nominee's Name, School, Current Email Address, Cell Phone Number
 - Faculty Advisor's Name, Email Address
 - Name of Play/Scene Being Presented
 - Actors Names
- Director's Statement (a written statement that reflects analysis of the scene – see below)
- Visual Materials (ground plan, blocking diagrams, etc.)
- Critical Materials (dramaturgical research, text, language, character analysis, etc.)
- Working Script (for the scene with notes, breakdown, analysis, edits, etc.)

Director's Statement (Required)

The director's statement is a prepared written statement that reflects the research, planning and approach to the direction of the scene.

Questions to consider when writing the Director's Statement:

- Your directing philosophy and goals as a director.
- Why did you choose this particular scene/play?
- What are you trying to achieve with your directing approach to this scene?
- How would you present a fully produced version of your play?
- What are your strengths and challenges as a director, and in regards to this particular project?

Current Resume (Required)

- A current resume focused on directing and theatre-related activities.

Additional Materials (Optional)

You may bring ONE additional Production Notebook or Portfolio to the interview. These Additional Materials should be representative of YOUR work on previous productions as a director, and will be returned after the final presentation of scenes. Be selective and choose quality over quantity. Suggestions for Additional Materials:

- Production Script, Journal, Notes, Blocking, Scene Breakdown
- Production Photographs, Research Images
- Directing Statements, Character Analysis
- Research or Dramaturgical Materials
- Design Process, Research, Notes (Set, Costume, Lights, Make-up, Props)

Videos, dvds, tape recordings or other audio-visual materials will not be accepted.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Regional Directing Coordinators will provide a specific list of technical elements for the participants, which includes: theatrical orientation/arrangement and dimensions of space; standard set piece availability and limits; options for sound and lighting. There will be no technical rehearsals for these scenes.

SSDC Festival XLI at CAL STATE FULLERTON

Time and Technical Parameters:

- The scenes will be presented in a proscenium configuration. Playing space: 15' wide X 12' deep.

- Each director will be given 10 minutes to set up, present and strike their scene. There will be a timer.
- Each director will introduce their scene, including the director's name and the name of play/scene being presented. Directors will not mention their school during their introduction.
- It is suggested that you rehearse the introduction with your actors giving them a cue line at the end of your introduction that signals them to begin the piece.
- The student director is responsible for any costume pieces, set dressing and hand props needed for their presentation.
- Directors may not be actively involved with any technical aspect of their scene, they must be available to simply "observe" once the scene is set-up and introduced.

Set

The following black furniture will be supplied at festival:

- 1-Table-24"W x 30"L x 30"H
- 4 -Wooden chairs
- 4-18" square wooden cubes (pushed together can make a bench)
- 1- modular couch/bed unit (couch back is removable)
- 5'Length x 18"Deep x 24"Height
- 1-modular door unit.

Lights

- A simple stage wash. There will no light cues or practical lighting allowed.

Sound

- The director is allowed use sound. However, there are no tech rehearsals (You will NOT be allowed to take time to set a level for instance). So sound must be incorporated into the presentation and execution not requiring a booth sound board operator. In other words, if you want to use a battery-powered boom box (that you supply) that someone can operate from off or on stage (not the director) go for it.

Any additional questions can be directed to Carrie Klewin at kcactfssdc@gmail.com.