JMU Theatre Students Score at Kennedy Center Festival

Twenty theatre students and three faculty members from the School of Theatre at Dance at James Madison University recently attended the Region II Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival held at Towson University in Towson, Md., and three of the students were rated number one in their categories and earned all-expenses paid trips to the KCACTF national festival in Washington, D.C. in April. In addition, three JMU actors and their partners advanced into the highly selective semi-finals and the finals for the Irene Ryan acting scholarship.

Senior Connor Davis won the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society Award for his directing of a scene from "How I Learned to Drive," by Paula Vogel. JMU students Kelly Wetherald, June Hundley, Noel Edwards, Ryan Lynch, and Andrew Darnell performed in the scene.

Senior Lizzie Donelan received the Barbizon Costume Design Award for her designs for the Spring 2010 production of bobrauschenbergamerica by Charles Mee and the Fall 2010 production of Letters to Sala by Arlene Hutton.

Senior Anna Lee Craig was awarded the KCACTF Award for Sound Design Excellence for her work on the same two plays.

In the Irene Ryan acting pool, three JMU pairs made the semi-final round of 32 out of 222 pairs that began the event, and two of those duos went on to qualify for the final round of 16. Students who made the final round include Austin Colby with partner Maria Slye and Amanda Kohr with partner Ryan Lynch. Arielle Kook and partner Andrew Trego advanced to the semi-final round.

The students were accompanied by faculty members LeVonne Lindsay, assistant professor of theatre, who gave workshops in figure drawing; Wolf Sherrill, assistant professor of theatre, who provided acting workshops; and Roger Hall, professor of theatre, who is the current National Playwriting chair for KCACTF.

The KCACTF awards program provides student designers with feedback from professionals in the field and gives outstanding student designers national recognition. Approximately 1200 students and faculty attended the five-day event, which included colleges and universities from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, West Virginia and Washington, DC

http://www.jmu.edu/jmuarts/features/KCACTF-Winners.shtml