

REGION VII
The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC)
Student Directing Initiative

One student director (either graduate or undergraduate) from each region will be selected to participate in the National Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Washington D.C. 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.

Eligibility: To be eligible for the SDC student directing initiative students must be nominated by a faculty member from the student's institution. *Nominated students must have demonstrated excellence in direction.* The institution must have entered either an associate or participating production for the regional festival during the year in which the nomination occurs.

Student Status: The participant must be a bona fide student at the time of the regional festival. The scene must also include bona fide student actors.

Up to twenty-four (24) student directors from the region will be selected to participate in the regional festival. The application and selection process is detailed below.

Event: Students selected to participate in the competition must direct one scene from the nationally selected list of scenes (below). 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 more than one director participates from the same institution, the directors are discouraged from sharing actors for their projects and the directors are prohibited from acting in each others' scenes.

Scenes: The scenes for the 2017 KCACTF Region 7 Festival in Denver, CO. (Mon. – Fri., Feb. 20-24, 2016) are listed below. *Please note: page numbers may or may not align with acting editions, and a link to PDF versions of the scenes is at the end of the list.*

The Stonewater Rapture by Doug Wright
Published by Dramatists Play Service, Inc. 1990
Begin: p.16 "Hello, Carlyle."
End: end of scene 1 on p. 23

Hir by Taylor Mac
Published by Northwestern University Press, 2015
Begin: page 19 "I should show you your bed."
End: page 34 "Things are truly good now. Your father's out of the picture and it's not like how it was before."

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom by August Wilson
Published by Samuel French
Begin: "SLOW DRAG: Don't make no difference if she leave or not."
End: "LEVEE: Your God ain't shit, Cutler."

Love and Information by Caryl Churchill
Published by Theatre Communications Group, 2012
Begin: p. 48 "Linguist"
End: p. 52 last line.
Insert "Depression" lines wherever deemed appropriate.

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams
Published by Dramatist's Play Service, Inc., 1998
Begin: p. 44 Laura's line "Mother!" Amanda's response "What's the matter now?"
End: end of Act I p. 51, Tom's line "For these and all Thy mercies – God's Holy Name be praised."

Roosters by Milcha Sanchez Scott
Published by Dramatist's Play Service
All of Scene 4.

Eclipsed by Danai Gurira
Published by Dramatist's Play Service, New York, 2010
Scene 6, p. 27-32

The Who and The What by Ayadh Aktar
Published by Back Bay Books/Little Brown and Company, 2014
Begin: p. 75, "Mahwish: Zaina you have to talk to him."
End: p. 84 end of Act II.

Speech and Debate by Stephen Karam
Published by Dramatist's Play Service, Inc. 2012 (revised version)
Scene 8 Declamation, p. 52-60

Rag and Bone by Noah Haidle
Published by Dramatist's Play Service Inc., 2006
Begin: Top of play
End: end of Scene 3.

Cleave by Elena Belyea.
Not yet published, available by .pdf.
Begin: "(CAROL grabs the chicken and potatoes and goes onstage.)" at the bottom of page 27
End: "(PINA keeps eating. CAROL grabs the bottle of wine off the table then exits.)" at the top of page 39.

Note: PDFs of the scenes listed above can be found online at <http://www.kcactf.org/directing/directing-scene-selections.html>

Rounds: **Preliminary Round:** A presentation of no more than six (6) minutes of the director's selected scene (scenes will be timed, and will be stopped at 6 minutes if necessary). Students may select which six (6) minutes they'd like to share with the respondents. All directing candidates are required to stay for the entire round and the response sessions. Mentors of the directing students are encouraged but not required to attend. Other than for the scene in which they are performing, actors are not allowed in the room. After the presentation the respondents will respond to the work in front of the closed gathering of student directors and teachers/mentors. Following the preliminary round, the respondents will select up to ten (10) directors to continue to the semi-final and interview round.

Semi-Final and Interview Round: Students will present their scene in its entirety in this round. Respondents will provide immediate feedback following each scene. All semi-finalists are required to stay for the entire round and response sessions. Only SDC participants and mentors are allowed in the room (preliminary round directors may also attend). Following the semi-final round, the semi-finalists will attend individual interviews with the respondents. At this time, the director's book, written statements and approach will be discussed. No teachers/mentors or actors are allowed to participate in the interviews. After the interviews, the respondents will select up to six (6) students for the final round.

Final Round: Presentation of the scene in a round open to the public. A final round of presentations will consist of up to six (6) selected scenes. The final round will occur at least two days following the semi-final round to allow the director and actors time to work on the scene based on feedback from the semi-final round. Limited rehearsal space will be provided. Teachers/mentors may advise the student directors during these rehearsals. A response session will follow the final round.

Analysis: Analysis will consist of a prepared director's book for the scene. Student directors will submit their analysis in two steps.

Step 1: All student directors will submit an electronic copy of their director's statement (as a pdf file) to the Directing Coordinator by **Friday, February 10, 2017 at 5pm.**

Failure to meet this deadline will disqualify the student director from participation in the event.

- Director's statement: The director's written statement provides the personal, analytical and intuitive framework for the scene. It is a combination of script analysis, research, creativity and personal connection to the text. The statement should address the themes, images and specific lines of text that

guide the director's work, including the context of the scene; where/how the scene fits into the play. ***Please limit this statement to a single page (single space, 12pt font).***

Step 2: The ten (10) semi-finalists will submit a hard copy of their entire director's book to the Directing Coordinator prior to the Semi-final & Interview Round. The director's book should include the director's statement from step 1 (in hard copy format) in addition to the following:

- Play Overview
 - A metaphor which expresses the essence of the play.
 - A simple, one sentence telling of the story of the play.
 - Given Circumstances: Address the following:
 - Geographical location, including climate
 - Date: year, season, time of day
 - Economic environment
 - Political environment
 - Social environment
 - Religious environment
- Characters: provide the character's objective for the scene, his/her obstacles (both internal and external) and discuss what the character learns (or how they change/evolve) in the scene.
- Language: discuss how choice of words, images, phrases, sentence structures and the sound of the dialogue help to reveal character and provide meaning within the scene.
- Scene Analysis
 - Dramatic Action: Include the following:
 - Provide a concise analysis of the scene's basic conflict.
 - The previous action (to the scene)
 - Provide a copy of your script divided into units of action and beats. Give a nominative phrase as a title for each beat.
 - Detailed breakdown of the action. Separate the action into beats and provide an active present-tense verb for each character within each beat. Example: *A* entraps and *B* pleads.
 - Indicate the key events for the scene (key discoveries and turning points, etc.)
- Additional materials: provide any additional research material, images, etc., that helped you find the core of the scene.

Note: *The hard copy book should identify the student director by name only, and omit student contact information and the name the student's institution.*

Production: The only furniture items permitted and provided will be two chairs, one table, and four acting cubes (approx. 18" x 18" x 18"). You may not have other furniture or set items. Any hand props or costumes required for the scene must be provided by the director. *If you have questions about what constitutes a "prop" verses a "set item" please contact the Directing Coordinator.* The regional host and coordinators will not be able to provide props or costumes for the scenes. Costumes may be used (but are not required). Please note that there is no technical support in the way of lighting and sound. You may provide your own sound with your own equipment - no speakers or amps are provided. No lighting equipment will be provided for the scenes. Directors will simply say "lights up" when actors are set. Likewise, directors will say "lights down" to indicate the end of the action. There will be a three-minute break between each scene for set-up.

Respondents: The respondents are skilled directors who have a strong track record of responding to directing and are out-of-region colleagues or local professionals who are not affiliated with regional institutions. They will respond to each scene in the preliminary round and semi-final round, will run the "interview round," and will decide which student director will attend the events in Washington D.C. after seeing the final round. At least one member of the respondent team will be an SDC member. *Note: Students chosen to attend events at the national festival in Washington D.C. are not chosen to work on original scripts.*

Application: To apply for the SDC Student Directing Initiative *please submit the following materials as a single pdf. file by December 1, 2016:*

- 1) ***SDC CONTACT INFORMATION COVER PAGE***, include the following:
 - SDC Student Directing Initiative
 - Name of Directing Nominee
 - Institution Name
 - Phone Contact for Nominee
 - Current Email Contact for Nominee
 - Name of Faculty Mentor
 - Phone Contact for Mentor
 - Current Email Contact for Mentor
- 2) ***A LETTER OF APPLICATION*** from the student, which includes why the student is interested in participating in this program and the ways in which they believe the program may contribute to their growth as a director. The letter should also affirm the student's availability for the Region VII KCACTF Festival in Denver, CO. February 20-24, 2017 and for the National KCACTF Festival in Washington D.C., April 17-21, 2017.
- 3) ***A CURRENT RESUME*** for the nominee.
- 4) ***A LETTER OF NOMINATION (should be sent separately)*** provided by a faculty member from the student's institution. The letter should provide

information about the student's record as a student of directing, including coursework and practical directing experience. In addition, the letter should provide the faculty member's assessment of the nominee as a director and how participation in this program may benefit the student.

All materials must be submitted electronically to:

Andrew Golla

Directing Coordinator, KCACTF Region 7

golla@up.edu

The application deadline is 5 PM, December 1, 2016. Failure to meet this deadline, or follow the prescribed format listed above, will disqualify the student director from participation in the event.

Selection: A maximum of twenty-four (24) student directors from Region 7 will be selected to compete at the festival. Nominated directors will be selected based upon the following criteria: a) a complete application packet at the time of the deadline; b) the student's ability to articulate why they wish to participate in the SDC scenes, and how they hope the program will benefit their growth as a director; and c) the quality of support for the nominee as described in the letter of nomination provided by the faculty member.

Students will be notified of selection via email on December 15, 2016.