

## REGION VII – Feb. 2021

### Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) Directing Initiative

**BIG NOTE:** Because the Feb. 2021 R7 festival will be entirely virtual there will be substantial differences in the SDC Directing Initiative this year. My goal is to make participation possible for as many students as we can this year given the pandemic conditions. *If you have any questions, concerns, or problems regarding applying for or participating in the event this year please contact me and we will figure it out!*

-Andrew ([gollaup@gmail.com](mailto:gollaup@gmail.com))

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 April. Unique educational opportunities will be planned for the award recipients at the National Festival.

In addition, finalists receive a one-year Associate Membership in SDC. SDC underwrites the National Award(s), which is the result of a unique collaboration between SDC and KCACTF. Associate Membership in SDC introduces each regional finalist to the national community of professional stage directors and choreographers. Additionally, they receive the monthly E-Newsletter, a subscription to SDC Journal (the Union's quarterly magazine), free or discounted admission to SDC Foundation's events, and specially negotiated discounts. For more information about SDC, please visit the website at [SDCWeb.org](http://SDCWeb.org).

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for the SDC student directing initiative students must be a bona fide student at the time of the regional festival and submit a completed application by December 15, 2020 (see application process below).

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:** Each student director participating in SDC will have to prepare/create a **10-minute, pre-recorded video presentation** based on one of the plays/scenes from the 2021 list. Details about the video content, other materials, and the application deadline are all below. *Note: The video does not need to be created prior to having your application accepted.*

**Scenes:** The 2021 KCACTF Region 7 Festival will be held virtually this year, with everyone participating remotely. The “live” events of the festival will occur Wed. – Sat., Feb. 17-20, 2021. The scenes for this year’s festival are listed below and a link to PDF versions of the scenes on the National Festival site is at the end of the list.

***Hype Man: a Break Beat Play*** by Idris Goodwin (Playscripts)

*Shoe* by Marisela Treviño Orta (choose one of two listed scenes). The script may be acquired for restricted use for SDC only from Kelly Quinnett by emailing kellyq@uidaho.edu)

*Do You Feel Anger?* by Mara Nelson-Greenberg (Samuel French)

*Twelfth Night* adapted by Dr. Emily Rollie (NPX)

*The Day We Were Born* by Jaisey Bates (NPX)

*Black Super Hero Magic Mama* by Inda Craig-Galvan (NPX)

*Good Kids* by Naomi Iizuka (Playscripts)

*Orange* by Aditi Brennan Kapil (Samuel French)

*Three Sisters* adapted by Maiya Corral (script acquired for restricted use for SDC only from Kelly Quinnett by emailing kellyq@uidaho.edu)

*The Revolutionists* by Lauren Gunderson (Dramatists Play Service)

**Note: No cuts may be made to the scene selected.** Directors are encouraged to consider non-traditional casting for any of the scenes selected as can be supported by your concept.

**Note:** *PDFs of the scenes listed above can be found online at* <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/opportunities-for-artists/pre-professional-artist-training/kcactf/directing/>

#### **Pre-festival Submissions:**

Each student director will submit a **10 minute, pre-recorded video presentation and a written (PDF) analytical director's book** based on one of the plays/scenes from the 2021 list. *This prerecorded presentation and PDF book should be created by the student and will be submitted prior to the festival by 5 p.m. Pacific on Wednesday, Feb. 3 (two weeks prior to the festival).* The process for submitting these items will be described in the director's acceptance email, if not before.

#### **Video:**

**The first 5 minutes must address the following questions:**

- Who are you? What play did you choose?
- Why does this play need to be done RIGHT NOW?
- Why are you the artist to do this play, and what will you, specifically, bring to the production?
- What does your ideal production look/feel/sound like?

**Within those first 5 minutes you may also address any of the following questions** if you wish to (and have time to):

- What space do you want to do the play in?
- What is your big wish for the production?
- What impact do you want your production to have?
- How can you succinctly tell the story of this play?

**The second 5 minutes of the video presentation will be used to present your emotional and visceral response to the play using images, music, collage, vision boards, short film, other persons, things – anything which will help you express your connection with the play.** This is for you to use your creativity to articulate the heart and soul of the piece and to further support and reflect your deep analysis of the whole play.

**Note:** *The video should identify the student director by name only, and should not identify the student's institution.*

**Book:** Analysis will consist of a prepared director's book for the scene. The director's book should include the following, *which address the chosen play as a whole*:

- 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).***
- 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

The director's book should also include the following, *which will focus on the chosen scene*:

- 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 PDF book should identify the student director by name only, and omit student contact information and the name of the student's institution.*

***Failure to meet the Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline for submitting the video and PDF book will disqualify the student director from participation in the event.***

#### Festival Rounds:

**Preliminary Round:** SDC respondents will meet virtually with each director to discuss their video and book on the first day of the festival. This discussion will be between the director and the respondents. The student's faculty mentor may also attend this discussion.

**Interview Round:** Depending on how many directors participate in the preliminary round the respondents *may* reduce the number of participants for the interview round. Students selected will attend virtual, individual interviews with the respondents. No teachers/mentors 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:** The final round will consist of a showing of the original 10-minute video presentation followed by a 5 minute “live” presentation of any revisions they’ve made to their approach in light of the feedback they’ve received from the respondents. This round will be open to all directors who participated in the preliminary round, as well as faculty mentors. A response session will follow the final round presentations.

**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 be well versed on the plays, will respond to each presentation in the preliminary round, will run the “interview round,” and will decide which student director will attend the National Festival after seeing the final round. At least one member of the respondent team will be an SDC member.

**Application:** The SDC Directing Initiative will be self-nominating this year. No faculty nomination will be required, though students are encouraged to work with a faculty mentor where possible. To apply for the SDC Directing Initiative ***please submit the following materials as a single pdf. file by 5pm PST on December 15, 2020:***

1) ***SDC CONTACT INFORMATION COVER PAGE***, include the following:

SDC Student Directing Initiative  
Name of Directing Nominee  
Institution Name  
Cell Phone Contact for Nominee  
Current Email Contact for Nominee  
Name of Faculty Mentor (*optional for 2021*)  
Current Email Contact for Mentor (*optional for 2021*)

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 to participate remotely for the Region VII KCACTF Festival February 17-20, 2021.

3) ***A CURRENT RESUME*** for the nominee.

***All materials must be submitted electronically to:***

Andrew Golla  
Directing Coordinator, KCACTF Region 7  
[gollau@gmail.com](mailto:gollau@gmail.com)

***The application deadline is 5 PM PST, December 15, 2020. Failure to meet this deadline, or follow the prescribed format listed above, will disqualify the student director from participation in the event.***

**Selection:** Applicants will be selected based upon the following criteria: a) a complete application packet at the time of the deadline; and 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;

***Students will be notified of selection via email by December 18, 2020.***