

CSUH Hosts Regional Theater Festival

By Svetlana Dubenko and Beree Grivois
Staff Writers

Cal State Hayward's Theater and Dance Department will host the regional Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) Feb. 11 to 17.

Schools from five states are scheduled to showcase their productions, compete for various awards and participate in workshops and seminars throughout the event.

The KCACTF is a national, year-round theater program that has grown into a network of 18,000 students from 600 colleges and universities nationwide since its start in 1969.

According to Tom Hird, interim chair of theater and dance, "KCACTF has helped improve the quality of college theater in America, because it allows artists to learn from one another's work."

Each year in February and March, eight regional festivals recognize the best work produced in university and college theater programs.

Festival organizers say the events allow artists to "celebrate the creative process" and gain knowledge and insight from one another.

Colleges in California, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah are included in region VIII of KCACTF and their representatives will arrive prepared to show their finest and most diverse theater work.

According to Executive Producer Karis Griffin, over 1,000 students are expected to participate in next week's festival.

"Students, faculty and alumni of the department have devoted much time and effort preparing for the festival since December," Hird said. "It is a very busy time for us right now as we are preparing. However it gives students a greater sense of the real world."

The festival will include competitions in acting, design and new play development.

Workshops and seminars are scheduled to help the artists develop theater skills and profes-

sionalism. KCACTF honors overall productions as well as individual artists for excellence and creativity through awards and scholarships.

A panel of judges will choose four to six of the best regional-level productions to be presented at the organization's annual national festival, which will be held at Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., this spring. A schedule of events may be found on the festival Web site, www.kcactf.org.

Pre-sale performance tickets are reserved for festival participants. Public attendees will have access to late seating only. Seats are \$10 for individual shows or are included in the \$57 full week festival workshop registration.

Interested persons may contact Sylvia Medeiros, arts marketing coordinator, at (510) 885-4299.

One of the goals of the program is to improve the quality of theater in America by providing recognition and encouragement for the work produced in college programs nationwide.

Students of CSUH are not only busy preparing for the large event, but are also rehearsing for their KCACTF performance of "Ubu Roi," directed by Professor Edgardo de la Cruz.

"The ability of the school to host such a big event speaks well of CSUH and the theater and dance department," Hird said.

Besides CSUH, schools in the Bay Area that will participate include Stanford and the University of the Pacific.

Approximately 45 CSUH theatre and dance students will participate. Twenty-four will be officially entered in competitions like the Irene Ryan Acting Competition, the Design Finals competition and "Ubu Roi."

"Shows are adjudicated," explained Craig Marker, graduating senior and theatre arts major. "Officials sit through auditions and talk to the cast and then decide which three people are nominated for the Irene Ryan competition."

Marker has been to two such



Ready for Festival: Senior theater students Brandon Harrington, left, and Craig Marker are preparing for the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival that begins Feb. 11 at Cal State Hayward. Photo/Svetlana Dubenko

festivals and although he loves the event he admits the competition can be nerve-racking.

"I get to see hundreds of people all over the western United States attending these workshops and have an opportunity to talk with them," said Marker. "For a theatre geek, it's a great atmosphere to be in."

"The best thing about the fes-

tival is that it generates excitement for theatre," said Production Manager Ed Wright. "The students have a common goal, which unites them."

"There is a wide geographical representation that brings different styles from all over, and this exposure makes the event a greater learning experience for those who participate."

Calendar

Thursday, Feb. 7 AS Volleyball Time: 2 - 4 p.m. Location: Front of Bookstore	Location: UU South Lounge
Oakland Breakers Dance Troupe Time: noon - 1 p.m. Location: Front of UU	Flag Football Time: 1-3 p.m. Location: MI Lawn
Funabashi Sister City Committee Time: 5:30 p.m. Location: Hayward City Hall, Conference Room 1C	AS Super Soccer Time: 3-6 p.m. Location: Practice Field
Local Agencies Committee Time: 5:30 p.m. Location: Hayward Area Recreation and Park District 1099 E Street	Saturday, Feb. 9 CSUH Invitational Band Festival Time: 8 p.m. Location: University Theatre Admission: Free
Friday, Feb. 8 Soul Cinema "Soul Food" Time: 11:30 a.m.	Sunday, Feb. 9 CSUH Women's Basketball Time: 5:30 p.m. Location: CSUH
	CSUH Men's Basketball Time: 7:30 p.m. Location: CSUH

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