OU DRAMA RECEIVES NATIONAL HONORS

Washington D.C. April 22, 2014 - Five University of Oklahoma Peggy Dow Helmerich School of Drama students were awarded national honors at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) held in Washington, D.C., April 15-19, 2014. Hundreds of schools and thousands of students from across the country compete at state and regional festivals for the right to showcase their work at the national KCACTF held every April at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Junior Jake Lozano won first place in the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Competition which includes a $3000 scholarship. His scene partner Senior Josh Bonzie won Outstanding Partner, as well as an all-expense paid internship with the Tony Award winning Actors’ Theatre of Louisville. Junior Kamron McClure and his partner Gabby Reyes were also in the competition. McClure was awarded the Dell’Arte International School of Physical Theatre Fellowship for his scene with Gabby Reyes. This acting competition began with over 2000 students from universities and colleges across the country competing for the right to perform on the Kennedy Center stage. Only sixteen actors and their partners advanced to the top level.

In the area of design, for his set design for Coram Boy, Senior Ethan Hartman, won the National Partners of the American Theatre Award for Design Excellence which includes an all-expense paid week at the Korean National University of the Arts, Seoul, Korea. Ethan was also awarded the Seven Devils Playwrights Conference Fellowship in Scene Design.

In addition, the School of Drama's production of Miss Evers’ Boys was awarded four national citations: Distinguished Achievement in the Production of a Play, Distinguished Achievement in the Direction of a Play for Alissa Millar and Distinguished Achievement by an Actor to Kamron McClure and Outstanding Performance and Production Ensemble.

The students who advance to the Kennedy Center not only compete for scholarships and internships opportunities but they participate in workshops taught by master teachers and professional artists working in the theatre. The mission of KCACTF is to nurture and mentor young talent and prepare them for success in the theatre.

These honors mark the seven year in a row that the School of Drama has distinguished itself on the national stage. The actors prepare all year for an opportunity to showcase their outstanding work, giving them access to professionals who can not only teach them about the professional theatre but also provide direct connections to opportunities in the industry. Said School of Drama Director Tom Huston Orr, “We are thrilled for our students; this opportunity can move a career forward by years – that is substantial. It takes the
dedication of the entire faculty to mentor students to the Kennedy Center. We will never be artistically land-locked in Oklahoma when we have an organization like KCACTF dedicated to expanding horizons of all students.”

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