

Theater Department Newsletter

Spring 2021



ELAC Theater offers a multidisciplinary approach to the study of theater including Acting, Directing, Design, Technical Theater, Theater in the Community, Theater Studies, and upcoming Chicano Theater Studies. Our program offers learning opportunities through both theoretical classes and stage productions where students are involved on all levels.

Center Theatre Group, an Essential Partner During the Pandemic

As one of the nation’s most influential nonprofit theatre companies, Center Theatre Group (CTG) proudly continues its partnership with ELAC Theatre as their educational partner. This incredible opportunity has opened doors to numerous paid internships at CTG and given invaluable access to learning resources to our students learning from home through recordings of plays, interviews and, most recently, a series of one-on-one conversations with Los Angeles based artists working in the Theater, Film and TV industry. We invited Asian-American, Black and Latinx Artists, including ELAC Alums, to share their hopes, aspirations and sometimes fears and give invaluable advice and insight on how to transition into the professional world.

To learn more about this series, visit our website at: <https://elactheater.org/PAID-INTERNSHIPS-and-other-news>

Winning Honors at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival!

This year the virtual Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region 8 was a huge success for the ELAC Theater Arts Department. Nine acting students participated in the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Auditions and three of our nominees made it to the Semi-Finalist Round (Jasmine Alcalá, Robert Anaya, & Faith Richter). Acting student Alejandro Hernandez won an award for Outstanding Actor in a NPP Production. Jocelyn Tamayo, costume designer, won the Stage Craft Institute of Las Vegas award and the Regional Costume Design DTM award. She also served on the Student Advisory Board for the festival and was invited to compete in the Aspire Arts Leaders Program. Brian Cole, scenery designer, competed through the final round of DTM. Faculty member, Vanessa Mizzone Pellegrini, served on the KCACTF Region 8 Board this year as the Co-Coordinator for the Festival’s Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Auditions. Another great year for the Theater Arts Department Huskies!



A Call To Action: ELAC Theater, Ann James, and Antiracism

The COVID-19 global pandemic and resulting quarantine, followed by months of planned remote instruction. The Black Lives Matter movement re-ignited by the brutal death of George Floyd. these challenging and painful events created time and space to re-examine WHAT we do, and WHY we do it.

We began the individual work required to develop a basic level of cultural competency and attended antiracism seminars training sessions with Ann James, founder of Intimacy Coordinators and Directors of Color. Following her guidance, we have revamped our curriculum and selection of plays to reflect our student body and its cultural diversity. We hope this new season will better represent and serve our community.

Fall 2021

Producing and Teaching Theater on Campus Again



When COVID-19 forced us into isolation, none of us imagined we would be canceling over a year of in-person education. Through trials and errors, creativity, ingenuity, and long hours, we found new ways to teach our theater classes and produce plays through a hybrid of live streaming and pre-recorded performances. Far from being a theatrical experience, this was our way to give our students the opportunity to perform and fulfill their education goals. What we did not anticipate was to find, through this process, a new hybrid form of theater integrating traditional and modern techniques.

We are aiming to partially return to in-person education this FALL. This much needed return will not be without its challenges: Instead of performing in front of a live audience, we are planning to live stream our plays through a multiple camera system from our theater. Our actors will perform on the stage, our technicians and designers will learn how to operate cameras and sound equipment, and design lighting and scenery. We hope you will take part of this new and exiting chapter of our program!

Visit our website to stream this year’s plays and for info about this FALL www.ELACtheater.org