

Mesa Community College music, theatre, film students bring home Kennedy Center awards

Students from the Mesa Community College Theatre and Film Arts Department and Music Department earned multiple recognitions against rigorous competition during the Region VIII Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival held in Hawaii on Feb. 11-14, according to a press release.

Kinsey Peotter received first place for the musical theater initiative and earned the Open Jar Institute Scholarship. She will represent MCC at the KCACTF National Conference in Washington, D.C. in April.

Adam Bei, Kaitlin Booth, Danie Grief, Katie McCarthy, Sammie Sanchez and Brie Wadsworth were also accepted into the Open Jar Institute.

Laurence Lilagan and Harrison Hayes brought home technical theatre awards. Lilagan was a design finalist in allied crafts and properties for the properties design of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Mr. Hayes received an honorable mention in theoretical lighting for design in *Water by the Spoonful*.

Kaitlin Booth is one of two Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship semifinalists who competed with 300 other students for outstanding acting by adjudicators for the honor.

MCC students also received recognition in several Musical Theatre Initiative categories: Featured singers: Kinsey Peotter, Adam Bei, Danie Grief, and Kaitlin Booth

Dancers: Katie McCarthy, Kaitlin Booth, Danie Grief, Adam Bei, Tuni Hernandez, Sammie Sanchez, Brie Wadsworth, and Josh Lindblom

Official festival accompanist: Jenn Crandall Actors auditioned for acting conservatories and professional theatre companies in the Next Step Auditions and received callbacks for the intensive California State University Summer Acting Program. Next Step Auditions honors included:

Dolores Mendoza was awarded Best Actor in the New Play Project 10-minute play *Nan*

Devised Theatre recognized Rajjene Rodriguez and Gina Hoyt for their roles in *Products of the Future*

Jack Nguyen was honored with a Dancer, Musical Theatre Initiative for his *Cabaret* performance

Ausette Anderies and Samantha Hanna presented segments of *Othello* in the Festival's Evening of Invited Scenes. Competing students were coached by MCC faculty and staff including: Kevin Dressler, performance faculty; Kara Thomson, scenic design faculty; Mallory Prucha, costume design faculty; Chris Tubilewicz, technical director/production manager; Stephanie Salem, assistant technical director/scene shop supervisor; Jeff Parulski, lighting and sound supervisor; Sue Anne Lucius, music faculty; Cathy Hauan, music faculty; Jennifer Crandall, accompanist; and Alex Keen, technical director/production manager.