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 Theater 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 Alumni, 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. Students were able to participate in the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Auditions and three of our nominees made the final cut. The Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Auditions are an opportunity for students to perform in front of a live audience and gain valuable experience in the arts. The festival also awarded our Technical Design Team with the Stage Craft Institute of Las Vegas award and the Regional Costume Design DTM award. We are proud of our students and the hard work they put in to prepare for this festival.

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. We are thankful for our students and the hard work they put in to prepare for this festival.

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

The COVID-19 global pandemic and resulting quarantines, 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 curiculum 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.

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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 partly 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, design lighting and scenery. We hope you will take part of this new and exiting chapter of our program.

On November 3, we held a conference with our students and their families to discuss the hybrid production of our fall play. The conference was well attended, and we received many positive responses from our students and their families. We are grateful for their support and look forward to the upcoming fall season.

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

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Elisse D. Lee (ELAC Theatre, Ann James, and Antiracism)

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