

Theater students compete at regional theater festival

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The theater department at Mesa Community College has a lot to be happy about.

Nineteen students from the department traveled to Los Angeles to compete in Region VIII at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival placing in the top three in most categories.

MCC was one of the fifty-five colleges that were participating in the festival held from Feb. 12-16.

Design and production instructor, Kara Thomson said that this is not the first time MCC has taken part in the festival.

“We have been sending students to compete at this event for eight years and most of them are finalists in the different categories,” Thomson said.

The theater categories the students competed in were design, acting, stage management, and theater criticism and research.

This year, MCC student Glenn Starr received a high honor as the Allied Theater Crafts National winner for the technical direction for the recent MCC production of Zorro (Z).

The design and technology finalists included Jesse Soper who took second place in Property Design; Tyler Scrivener took third place for Set Design, and Kenzie Wood placed third for Lighting Design.

Thomson said that the students prepare for the festival before going to LA.



Photos Courtesy of Kara Thomson

The set designs from the production of “Zorro”, were among the top finalists at the Regional Kennedy Center competition Feb.12-16.

“The show has to be produced to be considered and we entered Zorro (Z) with the knowledge that it could go onto the festival or tour,” said Thomson.

Musical Theater major, Nathan Luis competed this year in the Irene Ryan Scholarship acting competition.

“Last year I got to the semi-finals but this year I got considered for the Neil Simon Festival and Kingsman Shakespeare Company,” said Luis.

Luis received a callback from the Stella Adler School of Acting in New York during the Next Step Auditions.

Some of the schools that competed in Region VIII were four-year colleges with undergraduate and graduate students competing alongside two-year schools.

Garnering these accolades is something that Thomson hopes will help the department.

“Our main goal is to give students the opportunity to apply what they have learned and the festival is good way to help display their art and craft,” said Thomson.



Photos Courtesy of Kara Thomson

Student Angela Cava, was part of the Zorro production that was entered for the competition.