

HCC scores Kennedy Center theater awards

The Holyoke Community College Theater Department was recognized with three awards at this year's regional Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

HCC earned awards in the category of "Theatre for Social Change" for its spring 2019 production of "Ugly Lies the Bone," by Lindsey Ferrentino, and another for ensemble work for its fall 2019 production of the Thornton Wilder classic "Our Town."

In addition, HCC theater major Haley Thompson of Westfield won a performance award for her role in "Ugly Lies the Bone" as the mother of the main character, Jess, a war-scarred female soldier returning home.

The awards were announced at the end of the KCACTF Region I festival, which was held at Cape Cod Community College Jan. 28 to Feb. 1.

Sixteen HCC students and two theater faculty members attended the festival and were on hand to accept the awards.

"It's wonderful to have our students recognized by the Kennedy Center for their outstanding accomplishments in all aspects theater," said HCC theater professor Patricia Sandoval, who directed "Our Town." "I'm especially proud of the award for ensemble work because that is for collaboration, which is really the essence

of theater."

KCACTF Region I includes colleges and universities in northern New

York and the six New England states.

Awards are based on the recommendations of respondents, who travel around

the country to view college theater productions and offer critiques.

"We are extremely proud of the hard work our students and staff put in to pull these performances together throughout the year," said HCC theater professor Tim Cochran, director of "Ugly Lies the Bone." "The Kennedy Center people sure seem to like what we're doing here at HCC, given that our program continues to receive a lot of recognition."

In the past eight years, the HCC Theater Department has won 11 KCACTF awards in various categories, among them individual acting, ensemble acting, dedication to a script, stage managing, and best original music.

The HCC Theater Department puts on two full stage productions each academic year, one in the fall and one in the spring. HCC students take part in the annual alumni-sponsored 24-Hour Theater Festival in September, a festival of one-act plays in the spring, and No Shame Theater, where students gather once a month to write, rehearse and perform short plays in one night.

Rehearsals are now underway for HCC's spring 2020 production of the classic Greek tragedy "Antigone," by Sophocles. The show, directed by 1977 HCC theater alumna Denise Boutin, will be presented in HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater April 16-18.



Holyoke Community College student-actors Caleb Curd, Jayda Aponte and Brandon Rodriguez in a scene from HCC's award-winning production of "Our Town."

Submitted photo