CU to host theater fest

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Creighton will team up with Iowa Western Community College and University of Nebraska at Omaha to host the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival from Jan. 20 - 26.

This festival started in 1969 and includes a variety of activities for those wanting to become more involved in theater, inviting college students to participate in the many events offered. There are eight national regions from which a particular location chosen to host from for that year.

"It has everything that theater has to offer from acting, stage craft, lighting, theater management, costume construction, producing," said Matt DeNoncourt, Arts & Sciences junior and president of Alpha Psi Omega Theater Honors Fraternity. "It has anything that any college student wants to get involved in, and looks like it's going to be a fun time."

The specific events include "The Irene Ryan Festival with scenes for actors, workshops on auditions, playwriting, scene painting, directing, scenic design and lighting competitions, job interviews from theaters across the country. There will also be six productions from schools in the region being held during the festival," said Mark Krejci, technical director for the Lied Education Center for the Arts.

A registration fee is required, but theater majors or anyone in the theater department who volunteers 10 or more hours during the week may be exempt from paying the fee those who are exempt from the fee can attend plays and workshops for free DeNoncourt said.

Creighton is even hosting specific events for the competition.

"We are hosting the Thayer Lighting Competition and the productions of Tabula Rasa and Lights Fade," said Krejci.

Part of the festival includes the production of plays that have been nominated by a KCACCTF member, who have viewed the play previously to the festival said I.P. Rankin, Arts & Sciences sophomore.

This will be Rankin's second year participating. He will be competing for the Irene Ryan scholarship this year.

Part of the purpose for the festival is to "To encourage, recognize, and celebrate the finest and most diverse work produced in university and college theater programs...to encourage colleges and universities to give distinguished productions of new plays, especially those written by students; the classics, revitalized or newly conceived; and experimental works," Krejci said.