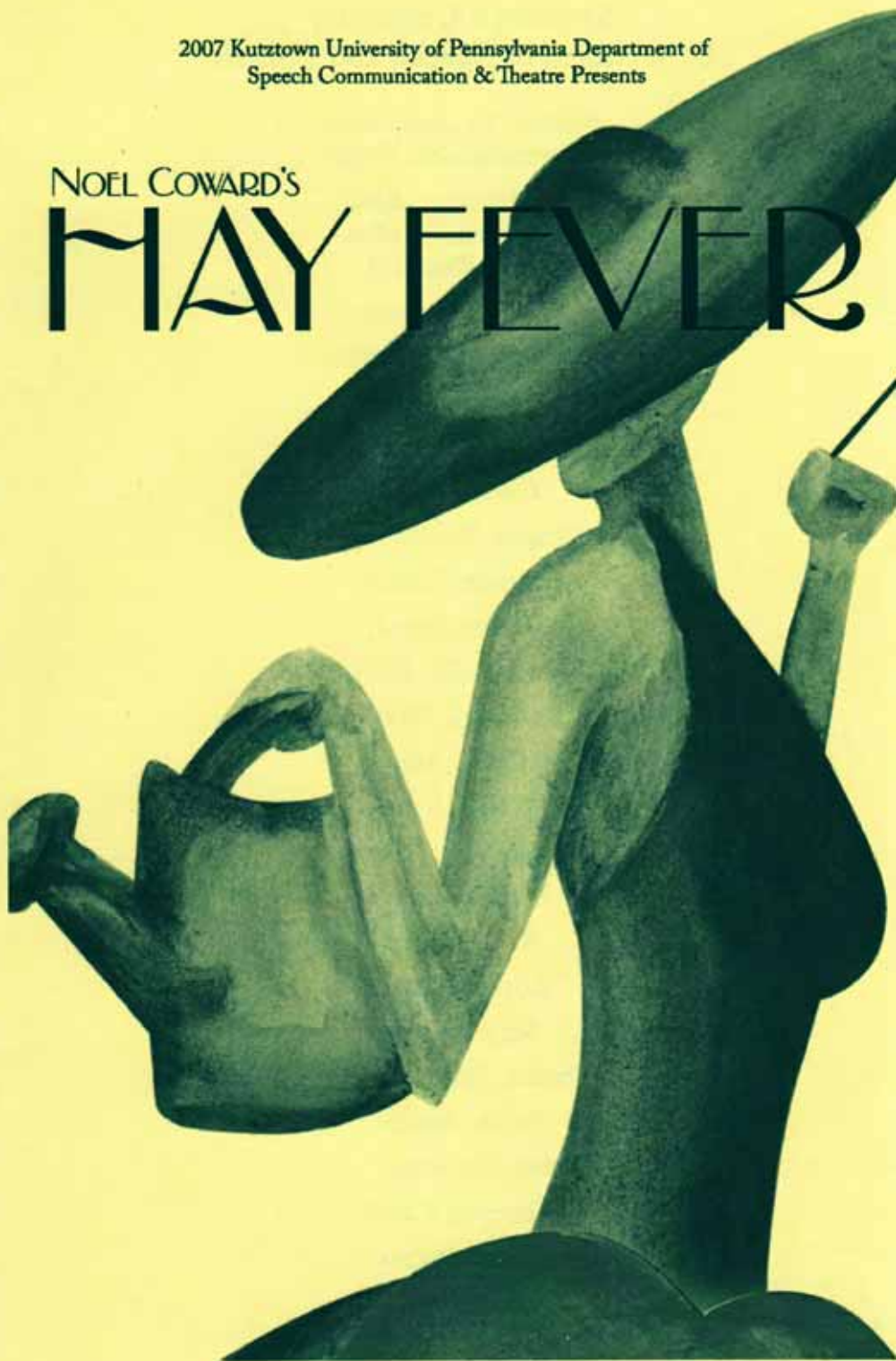


2007 Kutztown University of Pennsylvania Department of
Speech Communication & Theatre Presents

NOEL COWARD'S

MAY FEVER



Kutztown University
Department of Speech and Theatre

Barnett, Dr. Jacqueline
Behrenshausen, Bryan

Brandenberger, Emily
Chapman, Charles
Corby, Russell J.

Crisson, Roberta

Danielson, Dr. Kenneth

Davidheiser, Austin

Forte, Johanna

Gilbert, Paul

Grapsy, Dr. Ronald

Ironside, Tiffany

Jensen, Diane

Johnson, Dr. Deryl

Lambkin, David

McGinty, Megan

McNiff, James

Mitnick, Dr. Andrea

Pfeiffer, David

Rix, Roxane

Royse, Pamela

Sergel, Karin

Shaton, Theresa

Smith, Robert

Steber, Dr. John

Toomey, Carol

Unger, Reno

VanEns, Dr. Claire

Weckerle, Dr. Lisa

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
Department of Speech Communication and Theatre Presents

Hay Fever

By Noel Coward

Director

Paul Gilbert

Scenic Design

Robert L. Smith

Costume Design

Johanna Forte

Lighting Design

Charles Chapman

Technical Director

Austin Davidheiser

Stage Manager

Jessica Lembo

Photographs and recording devices are prohibited
during the performance.

Please silence pagers and cell phones
while inside the theatre.

*Poster and Cover design by
Madeline Snyder and Daniel Brumbach*

Hay Fever

Cast

Judith Bliss.....	Laura Byrne
Sorel Bliss.....	Sam Freier
Simon Bliss.....	Scott Ward Abernethy
David Bliss.....	Nicholas McCartney
Myra Arundel.....	Joanna Stevens
Richard Greatham.....	James Mohamdien
Jackie Coryton.....	Eva Marie Wasko
Sandy Tyrell.....	Peter Phillips
Clara.....	Whitney Phelan

Setting

The action of the play takes place in the Hall of the Bliss's House at Cookham, England, in June.

ACT I– Saturday Afternoon

ACT II– Saturday Evening

ACT III– Sunday Morning

Approximate running time 2:15

There will be two 10 minute intermissions

Please note: there is active smoking in this production.

Director's Notes

Hay Fever was selected for the KU Theater's 07 – 08 season to expose our students and audiences to the work of Noel Coward. Many of his plays were considered, but *Hay Fever* was chosen for its unique blend of Comedy of Manners and High Farce. While working on the play, the cast and I have come to respect the excellent craftsmanship and fun-loving comedy of the script.

The play was first performed in 1925 at the Ambassadors Theater, London and was an enormous success. Later the same year a production at the Maxine Elliott Theater in New York marked the play's American debut. It has been revived numerous times around the world since. During the 1960s, renewed interest in Coward's work prompted a BBC television production of the play, starring Edith Evans, Maggie Smith, Derek Jacobi and Lynn Redgrave. It was so popular that Noel Coward himself was asked to direct the same cast in a live performance at the famous National Theater. Most recently a 2006 production at the Haymarket Theater in London, starring Judi Dench and Peter Bowles, grew so popular it prompted a 2007 British national tour. Even 80 years after it was written, *Hay Fever* has the ability to delight audiences.

For all its success, *Hay Fever* is not without its problems. It is difficult for a modern American audience to recognize, by their dress and manners, the strict separation of social classes that is the basis for the play's action. It is also important to recognize how Noel Coward was twisting the traditional Comedy of Manners style, by ridiculing the behaviors of those born into high-society, as well as the desperate social climbing of the middle and lower classes. The cast has spent a great deal of time and effort in the study of dialects, history, literary styles and comedic techniques. Coward himself once said, "... *Hay Fever* is far and away one of the most difficult plays to perform that I have ever encountered." Even with the difficulties involved, it has been a joy and a privilege to work with this production team, cast and crew. They have given generously of their time, efforts and creativity.

Coward said, "*Hay Fever* is considered by many to be my best comedy. Whether or not this assertion is true, posterity will be able to judge with more detachment than I...I have enjoyed writing it and producing it, and I have frequently enjoyed watching it." We hope you enjoy watching our production of *Hay Fever* and continue to support KU Theater in its ongoing efforts to bring the joys of live theater to you.

Noel Coward

Born in 1899, Noel Peirce Coward was the second son of a British clerk. He began studying theater at the Italia Conti Academy stage school, and had his first professional acting role at age 12. He became one of the most popular child-stars of the English stage. Coward was introduced to British high-society by painter Philip Streatfeild, who arranged for Coward to live at the country estate of Mrs. Astley Cooper. By 14 he became the apprentice of Victorian actor/comedian Sir Charles Hawtry, from whom Coward learned comic techniques and playwrighting.

With the outbreak of WWI, Coward was drafted into the British army, but discharged due to poor health. He wrote reviews, plays and comic songs to earn his living. He wrote and starred in several comic plays in London's West End, but in 1924 gained notoriety on both sides of the Atlantic with the controversial play *The Vortex*. He followed this with a string of major hits, including *Hay Fever*. He expanded his diverse talents by writing large-scale operettas, along with his signature drawing.

When WWII broke out, Coward took time away from writing to entertain Allied troops. But he was often publicly criticized for his glamorous life-style. He was apparently living the high life while England was in serious jeopardy of invasion by Nazi Germany. He complained to his frequent painting companion, Winston Churchill, that he felt he wasn't doing enough to support the war effort. Recently discovered documents revealed that Noel Coward was engaged by the British Secret Service MI5 to conduct intelligence work among the high society and he was used as a covert operative for Her Majesty's Secret Service as well. He also wrote, starred in, composed music for, and co-directed a patriotic naval movie, *In Which We Serve*.

In the 1940s, Coward's popularity as an actor/playwright grew when he wrote and starred in three simultaneous West End productions: *This Happy Breed*, *Present Laughter* and *Blithe Spirit*. The last of these set box office records for a British comedy that was not broken until the 1970s. His popularity as a playwright declined in the 1950s, but he continued to perform in England and America, including a solo cabaret act in Las Vegas and several American television specials. He left England in the '50s for tax reasons and settled in Jamaica, where he was the neighbor of James Bond creator Ian Fleming. Noel Coward's advancing age, and a revival in the popularity of his plays and music during the 1960s, led to a knighthood conferred by Queen Elizabeth.

Coward died of a heart attack in 1973 at the age of 71. Besides being an accomplished painter and actor, he had written over 50 plays, several volumes of short stories and poetry, a novel, three volumes of his autobiography, and several albums of popular songs. During his life he was a valued friend of Vivian Leigh and Judy Garland, Princess Margaret, Queen Elizabeth, and Winston Churchill. His unique style and wit has made him and his plays a favorite of theatre audiences for generations.

Notes on Smoking

As indicated on all publicity for this show, and at the ticket table, active smoking occurs during this performance. In the world of Noel Coward's plays smoking is a vital part of the action, and is performed here to remain true to the playwright's vision. Smoking of cigarettes, cigars and pipes was a common leisure activity for both men and women during the early half of the 1900's. In the '20, ornamental cigarette cases were frequently carried by gentlemen and long cigarette holders were commonly used by ladies in an attempt to keep the smell of the smoke at a distance from their expensive clothing. In an attempt to protect the actors and the audience, the cigarettes used by our cast on stage are herbal cigarettes that contain no tobacco and have no nicotine. Every attempt has been made to reduce the number of cigarettes smoked and address the safety issues involved. We do not endorse or encourage the use of tobacco products, but recognize our obligations to the work of the playwright.

Acknowledgements

*The Director, cast and production staff gratefully
acknowledge the following individuals for their guidance and assistance.*

Marge Emerich of Zimar's Hair Fashions

Jennifer Santos, for her time and professionalism.

Pierre De Ragan

Lynette Griswold

Becca Schaeffer

Production Crews

Scene Shop Manager

Austin Davidheiser

Set Construction

Mary Chuhinko

John Curcio

Kate Diem

Billy Dobinson

Amy Ernst

Samantha Freier

Tabitha Giovanni

Latoya Lark

CJ Mellon

Wendy Mirto

Matthew Morrison

Alexander Myers

Clover Panik

Pete Philips

Amanda Prescott

Jack Rogers

Jennifer Santos

Tyler Schnabel

Kristyna Smulligan

Joanna Stevens

Matthew Walsh

Jessica Webster

Public Relations

Laura Byrne

Sara DiSciaccia

Jenna Laczkowski

Jessica Moy

Jen Santos

Tad Schlegel

Electrics

Thomas Bangert

Amy Ernst

Soren Ersbak

Sam Freier

CJ Mellon

Matthew Walsh

Props Run

Cassidy Coleman

David Krater

Merrill Rodgers

Light Board Operator

CJ Mellon

Sound Board Operator

Charles Wiegold

Production Coordinators

David Pfeiffer

Roxane Rix

Prop Procurement

Mary Chuhinko

Emily Ray

Joanna Stevens

Scene Painters

Tabitha Giovanni

Whitney Phelan

Mike Smith

Joanna Stevens

Jessica Webster

Costume Shop Manager

Megan McGinty

Costume Shop

Becca Brunskill

Mary Chuhinko

Zullie DeLalgesia

Brittany Fellenbaum

Nicholas McCartney

Peter Phillips

Hair Execution

Marge Emerich

Shop Assistants

Emily Bahlinger

Karina Johnson

Makeup

Thomas Bangert

Scott Abernathy

Amanda Ackerman

Makeup Designer

Clover Panik

Assistant Makeup Designer

Sara Griswold

Dressers

Emily Bahlinger

Karina Johnson

Clover Panik

Cheryl Schreib

Ashley Stephany

Wardrobe Mistress

Emily Bahlinger

Wardrobe Mistress Assistant

Karina Johnson

Who's Who in the Cast

Scott Ward Abernethy (Simon Bliss) – Scott is a senior Theatre Major at Kutztown University. This summer he performed as “Jerry Lukowski” in *The Full Monty*, “The Pirate King” in *Pirates of Penzance*, and “Kenickie” in *Grease* at the Northern Lights Playhouse in Wisconsin. On the KU stage, he has appeared as Radius in *Rossum's Universal Robots*, and was nominated for an Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship for his work as Trachalio in *The Rope*, and Harry Witherspoon in *Lucky Stiff*.

Laura Byrne (Judith Bliss)- Laura is taking her final bow on the Kutztown Stage with the cast of *Hay Fever*. Her favorite roles at Kutztown include “Rita” in *Lucky Stiff* and “Flo” in *Picnic*, both of which earned her Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Nominations from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. She was also seen as “Lily Mortar” in *The Children's Hour*, and in *She Stoops to Conquer*. She has performed with Sunshine players, and was nominated for Homecoming Queen this year.

Sam Freier (Sorel Bliss)- Sam is thrilled to be playing the role of Sorel in Kutztown's production of *Hay Fever*. She is a sophomore Theatre major who also has been seen as “Palaestra” in *The Rope* and as “Veruca Salt” in Sunshine Players' *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. She looks forward to future roles in Kutztown and beyond.

Nicholas McCartney (David Bliss)- Nicholas is thrilled to be playing the role of “David” in his first mainstage production. He most recently was seen as “Augustus Gloop” in the Sunshine Players' *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Nicholas has been in productions in the area including *Les Miserables* (“Javert”) & *Ten Little Indians* (“Sir Lawrence Wargrave”). He has been in the films *Lady in the Water* and *Annapolis* and looks forward to years to come on the Kutztown stage.

Jamie Mohamdein (Richard Greatham)- Jamie is delighted to be appearing in his sixth mainstage production. Previous Kutztown University credits include *Picnic*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Rossum's Universal Robots* and *The Rope*. He was most recently seen in *Pump Boys and Dinettes* at Muhlenberg College.

Whitney Phelan (Clara)- Whitney is a junior Theatre major in her second appearance on the mainstage. She was last seen as “Peggy Rogers” in *The Children’s Hour*. She has played “Mrs. Teavee” in the Sunshine’s rendition of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. She has performed in various workshops for Sunshine and directing scenes. Whitney is honored to be working again under the direction of Professor Gilbert and with another amazing cast.

Peter Phillips (Sandy Tyrell)- Peter has been in numerous mainstage productions at Kutztown University. His favorite roles so far have been the several ensemble characters in the musical *Lucky Stiff*. He appeared last spring in *The Rope* as the hero, “Plesiddipus.” He is a fourth year Theatre major.

Joanna Stevens (Myra Arundel)- Joanna is pleased to join such a talented and energetic group of artists for her return to mainstage. Previous favorite roles include “Mrs. Potts” in *Picnic* (Irene Ryan nomination), “Antigone”, “The Wicked Witch” and “Dolly Tate.”

Eva Marie Wasko (Jackie Coryton) – Eva is thrilled to be making her Kutztown Mainstage debut in this production of *Hay Fever*. A freshman Theatre Major and a 2006 graduate of the L.V. Charter High School for the Performing Arts, her previous credits include *Picnic* (“Rosemary”), *South Pacific* (“Liat”), and numerous television, print and local film productions.

Artistic and Production Staff

Professor Paul Gilbert (Director) is a temporary Assistant Professor of Theatre who holds a B.F.A. degree in Acting from Southwest Missouri State University and an M.F.A. degree in Acting & Directing from the University of Arizona. This is his second production at Kutztown, last Spring directing, *The Children's Hour*. Prof. Gilbert has been on the theatre faculties of the University of Texas El Paso, New Mexico State University and Arkansas State University. As an actor he has won awards for his performances as the title role in *Macbeth*, "The King" in *The King and I*, and "Big Daddy" in *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*. As a director, his award winning productions include *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Rainmaker*, and *The Imaginary Invalid*. As an educator, Prof. Gilbert specializes in the training of young actors, teaching such subjects as Acting, Voice, and Shakespeare.

Professor Robert L. Smith (Scenic Design) has spent thirty-plus years teaching design and designing for academic theatres in New York, Virginia, Maryland, and Washington. Before coming to KU, Professor Smith designed scenery for Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre in Missouri, where he designed the set for Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Other professional credits include designs for New York's AMAS Musical Theatre, The New Dramatists, Westbeth Theatre, Syracuse Stage (formally known as the Syracuse Repertory Theatre), the Arkansas Repertory Theatre, A Contemporary Theatre, Theatre Center Philadelphia, the Jersey Lyric Opera, and the New Jersey Ballet. KU Mainstage credits include *Rhinoceros*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *Olympus on My Mind*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *The Hot I Baltimore*, *The Seagull*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Baby with the Bathwater*, *Iphigeneia at Aulis*, *Arms and the Man*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Picnic*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Italian American Reconciliation*, *Lucky Stiff*, *RUR*, and *The Children's Hour*.

Professor Johanna Forte (Costume Design) is an Associate Professor of theatre at Kutztown. Originally from Michigan, Professor Forte came to KU with a wide range of professional experience, including designing at Meadow Brook Theatre, SUNY Purchase, two years as a resident costumer at Allentown's PA Stage Company, and assisting New York-based costume designers. The Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival has recognized Professor Forte for her costume designs in *Crimes of the Heart*, *The Lion in Winter*, and *All My Sons*. Presently, she is the faculty advisor for the Sunshine Players. Professor Forte's most recent KU productions include Robert Brustein's adaptation of Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *The Baby with the Bathwater*, *Iphigeneia at Aulis*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Picnic*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Italian American Reconciliation*, *Lucky Stiff*, and *RUR*. She resides in Bowers, PA with her husband, Randall, and their two children, Melina and Byron.

Austin Davidheiser (Technical Director) Austin has been a production manager, technical director, and master electrician, as well as a freelance designer and technician, for various theaters, events companies, and colleges in the Philadelphia area. In the summers, he is the Technical Director/Production Manager for the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts, an intensive interdisciplinary arts program for gifted high school students. His recent design credits include *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Italian American Reconciliation*, *Lucky Stiff*, *RUR*, and *The Children's Hour* at KU, as well as *Laundry and Bourbon/Lone Star* at Camden County College, *Disengaged* at Ohio University, and *Pipeline* [sets] for the PGSA Dance Concert.

Professor Charles E. Chapman (Lighting Design) - has more than 250 productions to his credit as a scenic, lighting or costume designer, director or performer, including professional children's opera and academic theatre. He joins KU's design faculty after a two year stint as Artist in Residence at Washington University in Saint Louis and previous faculty appointments across the country including Millikin, Valparaiso and head of theatre at Gonzaga. He has his MFA from Southern Illinois University and a BA in theatre from Wentworth Institute. Recent design credits include lighting for *House of Desires*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Violet*, *Kokoshka*, and *Hickory Dickory* for Washington University, and scenic designs for *A Little Night Music*, *Bastien and Bastienne*, *Dido and Aeneas*, *Secret Garden*, and *Damn Yankees* for Millikin. Charlie and his wife Casey are painters, miniaturists and bag pipers and share their home with two very tolerant cats.

Jessica Lembo (Stage Manager) – Jessica is happy to be working with such a wonderful cast and crew in this production of *Hay Fever*. Jessica is a Clinical Psychology major but still holds a strong passion in the arts. Previously, she has assistant stage managed last year's production of *The Children's Hour* and worked on makeup for *Rossum's Universal Robots*.

Mandy Prescott (Assistant Stage Manager)- Mandy is excited to be part of her first mainstage show. She is a sophomore Theatre major active in Sunshine Players shows. She assistant stage managed *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and stage managed for *Cinderella*. She has done minor roles in plays such as *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat*. She looks forward to working on many more shows in the future.

**2007-2008 Kutztown University
Performing Artists Series**

Mingus Big Band

Wednesday, January 30, 7:30 p.m.

Israel Chamber Orchestra

Sunday, February 24, 7:30 p.m.

Paul Taylor Dance Company

Thursday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.

Children's Series

Sign Stage on Tour

James and the Giant Peach

Sunday, February 3 at 2:00 p.m.

Galumph

Sunday, March 30 at 2:00 p.m.

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The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival XXXX

Presented and Produced by
The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Supported in Part by

The U.S. Department of Education

Dr. and Mrs. Gerald McNichols

The Laura Pels International Foundation

The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund

The National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants, and awards for actors, playwrights, designers, stage managers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2008.

Last year more than 1,400 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

