

PRESS RELEASE



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**ESU Theatre Earns Acclaim at this year's KCACTF Regional Festival**  
*Senior Susan Samuelson earns trip to Washington, DC*

Emporia State University Theatre was very successful at the Region V meeting of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival held January 19 thru 24 on the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence, KS. ESU Theatre was one of only five universities selected in the region (Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota) to present a production at the festival.

ESU was represented by the department's December 2008 production of *Rabbit Hole* by David Lindsay-Abaire. For this production, Jim Bartruff received a commendation for outstanding direction and Susan Samuelson (senior, Burlington) received a commendation for outstanding costume design. In addition, Miss Samuelson won the National Barbizon Award in Costume Design for her *Rabbit Hole* designs. In recognition of this achievement, she will represent ESU at the national festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. this April.

The First Place award in Graphic Design was presented to Senior Benjamin Howard (Lenexa) for his design for *Rabbit Hole*. Earning a Sound Design Certificate of Merit was alum and former technical director Kyle Land (Overland Park) for last season's *Nickel & Dimed*. Senior Tricia Stogsdill (Pleasanton), Naoko Ishizuka (senior, Tokyo, Japan), Al Daugherty (sophomore, Leavenworth), Cassie Kay Hoppas (senior, Erie), Chris Lohkamp (junior, Wichita) and Ben Williams (senior, Elbing) also entered design projects into the Design Exposition hosted by the Lawrence Arts Center.

In the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship audition, ESU was represented by nine nominees: Dylan Lewis (Wichita), Kelsey Fredricks (Mandan, ND), Bob Hart (Overland Park), Lindsay Roland (Grand Island, NE), Ben Fleer (Olathe), Gabe Moyer (Olathe), Emily Warren (Wichita), Elise Blann (Newton) and Julie Soroko (Topeka).

Junior Bob Hart and Sophomore Dylan Lewis made the Semi-final round as two of only sixty-four students out of a field of 400 nominees. Ashley Kobza, a member of last year's ESU Summer Theatre, was one of two regional winners of the Irene Ryan competition and will also be going to Washington this April to represent the entire region at the national festival.

