Race Nominated and Selected for Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival’s Region Four Performance

GSU’s fall production of Race has been nominated and selected for a Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival’s Region Four performance.

Race, along with 3 other shows, will be a main stage production for national adjudication at the regional theatre festival. Region Four consists of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina and Southern Virginia.

All of the designers on Race are students from Georgia Southern University. Each was nominated separately for design work. The student stage manager, sophomore theatre major Sierra Clay, and the dramaturg, senior theatre major Teundra Oakes, were also nominated.

The entire cast and crew are busy rehearsing and will perform at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 5, 2015 at the Albany Municipal Auditorium.

Race follows the story of three attorneys, two black and one white, defending a white man charged with a crime against a black woman. The play is said to be “thought-provoking and challenging” as it raises questions about race in today’s society and how people perceive it.

The selection committee and nominating respondents said, "The play gives an insightful look into the legal challenges in preparing a defense in support of someone who may be guilty as charged. The two lawyers who take on the case are well played by V. Akil Jackson as Henry Brown and Whitacker Gardner as his white counterpart Jack Lawson. Both actors looked polished and professional as they wade deeper and deeper into this sordid case. The legal wrangling as they struggle to find a story that the jury will accept as an alternative to the facts is very well done. You can almost see the wheels turning in their heads to come up with something plausible."

The Kennedy Center American College Theater is a national theater program that involves 18,000 students from colleges and universities, and works to promote improving the quality of college theater in the United States. It was founded by Roger L. Stevens in 1969, and honors excellence in overall production, as well as providing students individual recognition through awards and scholarships.
Last Chance to Study Abroad This Summer

There’s still some time left to sign up for a study abroad trip this summer. Communication Arts Department Head, Dr. Bourland-Davis, is traveling to Montepulciano, Italy, and Professor Groover is traveling to London, England.

Both trips provide students with opportunities to knock out some classes while enjoying the beauty of another country. Research shows that studying abroad also looks good to future employers.

The trip to Italy with Dr. Bourland-Davis will take place from June 25 – July 26. Courses will be offered in public speaking, journalism, art and literature. Classes take place on Monday and Wednesday, while students participate in class-related field trips on Tuesday and Thursday. The cost for this trip, not including tuition, is $4,900 which includes airfare, housing, four dinners per week, field trips, museum entry fees and emergency health insurance. The deadline to apply for any remaining seats is Wednesday, March 4.

The trip to London with Professor Groover will take place from June 27 – August 1. Courses will be offered in public speaking, PR writing, theatre, history, art and psychology. Classes take place on Tuesday and Thursday, while students participate in class-related field trips on Monday and Wednesday. The cost for this trip, not including tuition, is $5,500 which includes airfare, housing, a weekly grocery card, unlimited travel in zones 1 and 2 on the metro system and primary health insurance. The deadline to apply is Monday, March 2, 2015.

For more information on these trips, contact Dr. Bourland-Davis at pamelagb@georgiasouthern.edu or Professor Groover at mgroover@georgiasouthern.edu.

PRSSA to Host Regional Conference

The Georgia Southern University chapter of Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) has been selected to host the regional public relations conference this year. The conference theme this year is “Brand Yourself: The Art of Reputation Management.”

The conference will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2015 and will be held on the Georgia Southern University campus in the College of Engineering and Information Technologies building.

The conference provides students and professionals the opportunity to gain important knowledge and skills for managing their reputations. Conference speakers, such as keynote Mickey Nall, will share their experiences in branding and reputation management. Along with the opening and closing remarks, the conference will include breakout sessions, a keynote speaker, lunch, and a networking mocktail.

The cost of the conference for PRSSA student members is $45. Non-PRSSA students and professionals can attend for $60. A conference kick-off event featuring guest speaker Tressa Robbins is also included with the ticket price. The kick-off event will take place from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m the night before the conference.