

KCACTF Region VIII Student Directing/NPP Observership

Overview and Guidelines

KCACTF, the Region VIII Student Directing program, and NPP are pleased to sponsor an opportunity for student directors (graduate or undergraduate) to observe professional NPP directors during the new play development process. Although this opportunity is offered as a silent observership, mentoring and assisting opportunities between NPP and student directors may arise at the discretion of the NPP director, depending upon availability of the participants involved. Selected directors will be invited to observe the process of directing a reading of a new play from the start of the process (prior to festival) through the completion of the staged reading at festival.

Candidates: Student directors interested in exploring the new play development process. Ideal candidates will be involved in a maximum of one other activity at festival. Because the rehearsal process for a play at festival is an intense and intimate endeavor, it will not be possible to accommodate student directors who cannot attend a majority of rehearsals or meetings scheduled by the NPP director. Student directors involved with the SDC Student Directed Scenes must make that event a priority in order to be eligible to participate in that event, however, there will be an effort to minimize conflicts between the two student directing events.

Application: Interested student directors should fill out a student directing questionnaire (available online). Participating NPP directors will have the opportunity to peruse these documents and select directors to observe their process.

Event: Once a student director is selected by one of the NPP directors, the student will be contacted directly by that director, and will be invited to observe their process of directing a new play that will receive a public reading at the regional festival. Although designed as a silent observership, ultimately the director/student director relationship will be defined by the NPP director and student director, therefore the student director may also be asked to participate in the process in the following ways:

- Give feedback to the NPP director on the play, auditions, and the rehearsal process.
- Assist the director with auditions.
- Take notes for the director.

Rehearsal Room Etiquette & Guidelines:

Unless otherwise requested, the student director should assume that they are a silent observer to the director's process. If the NPP director feels at any time that the student director is interfering in the process, or not complying with the guidelines below, the student director may be asked to leave the rehearsal room.

- Be a silent observer, unless asked to do otherwise.
- Be fully present and attentive in the rehearsal room.
- Never talk to the actors about the play unless invited by the director to do so.
- Never give acting notes directly to the actors.
- Keep notes on any questions, ideas, or suggestions you have so that you can discuss them with the director when the opportunity arises.
- Take the opportunity to really observe how the director works – is it similar or different than you work? This will be interesting information to discuss with the director when the opportunity arises.