

AU students enter theater competition

1/07/04

Alfred University students hope to continue their winning ways at the Region II Kennedy Center/American College Theater Festival to be held this week at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania. Students from Alfred University's Division of Performing Arts will be competing against those from colleges and universities throughout New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and portions of West Virginia and Ohio during the four-day festival, which starts Tuesday and continues through Saturday, Jan. 10. AU students have fared well in the past, bringing home regional, and even national, awards. This year is no exception: Senior Jeremy Carey of Candor, NY, already has been notified that a one-act play he wrote and produced this fall, *It's Only a Test*, is one of only nine original student works chosen for a staged reading at the festival. Other AU students entered in the regional competition include: Julie Shapiro, a senior art major from West Nyack, NY, who will be submitting her costume designs for *The Inspector General*. She will be competing for the Barbizon Design Ward and/or the American College Theater Festival Region II Award. Elizabeth (Betsy) Van Deusen, a sophomore art student from Brockport, NY, will be submitting her make-up designs for *The Inspector General*, competing for the Mehron Award. AU alumnus Josh First of Allegany, NY, won the national award two years ago when he was a junior. Lacey J. Holmes, a junior theater major from Cleveland Heights, OH, will also be competing for the Mehron Award for her make-up designs for *Stories to be Told*. Sara Schnick, a sophomore from Manchester, NH, will be submitting the production book she compiled as stage manager for *The Inspector General*. "There are no prizes in this category," said Dr. Becky Prophet, professor of theater, "but her work will be critiqued. It's a marvelous experience and opportunity for learning from professionals in the field." The cast of *Stories to be Told*, which was directed by Stephen Crosby, professor of theater, will be performing the "The Story of Panchito Gonzales Who Felt Responsible for the Bubonic Plague in South Africa," one of three tales featured in the work by Osvaldo Dragun. AU students were invited to present their scene, not for competition, but to demonstrate to other colleges and universities the caliber of the theater program at Alfred University. Students performing in "Panchito" are Carlos Bido, sophomore from the Bronx; Jaimie Pinkham, a freshman from Ellsworth, ME; Asia Pina, a sophomore from the Bronx; and Carey. Bido and Pinkham were nominated for the Irene Ryan acting competition. Additionally, the cast of *The Inspector General*, directed, by Prophet, will be presenting the final scene of the production on the first night of the invited scenes. Cast members for *The Inspector General* include: Shaminda Amarakoon of Alfred, NY, a senior who plays the mayor; Hannah Patterson, a senior from Ware, NH, as the mayor's wife; Schnick, who played the mayor's daughter; Lindsay Gilbert, a junior from Cazenovia, NY, who portrays the commissioner of health; Hailley Field of Malvern, PA, who is the commissioner of education; Chris Quinn of Annapolis, MD, who is the judge; Kara Dunne of Burlington, VT, as the postmistress; Andrew M. Shaw of Peekskill, NY, who is Bumchinsky with Michael Anderson of Industry, PA, as Dumchinsky; Vanessa Stipkovits of Lockport as the housekeeper; and Pinkham, who plays the constable. Amarakoon, with Carey as his scene partner; Patterson, with Dunne as her scene partner; and Shaw, with Field as his scene partner, are the cast members from *The Inspector General* selected for the Irene Ryan acting competition.