



NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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February 13, 2015

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Novato Drama Students win at Lenaea Festival

(Novato, CA)... Students from the Marin School of the Arts Theatre Department at Novato High School and the Drama Department at San Marin High School won ensemble and individual awards at the Lenaea Theatre Festival Feb. 6-8, 2015. MSA student Mia Klenk won the Gold Award for her monologue from Iphigenia at Aulis. In the One Act Play, MSA won the Bronze Award for their performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream and Megan Winnett won for Outstanding Actor in a One Act, for her role with the ensemble cast.

From San Marin High School, Toran Moriyama Gurish and Sarah Danziger won the Bronze Award for their excellent scene from **"It's a Wonderful Life."** San Marin Music Tech Theater student Sophie Block was a finalist for her set design for "For Once On This Island."

According to MSA Theatre Director Rodney Franz, the festival experience offers students a worthwhile experience on many levels. "We had a great time at the Lenaea Festival. Our students performed at their best. They worked very well with the respondents. Our play was a great crowd pleaser and earned kudos from our peers."

San Marin Drama teacher, Linda Kislingbury, said, "Our One Act play got a standing ovation from the 200+ in the audience and that was gratifying for the cast. However, the best part of the weekend were the workshops. Each monologue and scene gets to work and rework their performances with the judges. This is where the real learning happens. This is the only competition in the United States that offers this kind of feedback. The whole weekend is a great bonding experience for the entire Advanced Drama Class."

The Lenaea High School Theatre Festival began in 1955, evolving over the years to include Command Performances of the top scoring groups and individuals; educational workshops during the festival given by experienced theatre professionals (including former "An Equal Opportunity Employer"

West End Producer/Director Jack Lynn and Broadway musical veteran Jim Poulos); and networking opportunities for teachers and students. The festival draws participants from high schools throughout the state, performing hundreds of monologues and dozens of ensemble performances. More information about the festival can be found at lensea.org.

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