

Two SWOSU Students Nominated for Acting Award

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Cierra Musick of Weatherford and Rusty Edwards of Kingfisher recently earned highly prestigious nominations for the 2008 Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Competition through their outstanding performances in the university's recent production of *Christmas Crisis at Mistletoe Mesa*.

The Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Competition is part of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

Both are students in the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Department of Communication and Theatre in Weatherford.

The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival was founded in 1969 to recognize and celebrate the finest and most exciting work produced in college theatre programs and provide opportunities for participants to develop their theatre skills. Conducted since 1972, the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship was established in the will of the late actress, best known for her role as the lovable and feisty 'Granny Clampett' on the TV hit show "The Beverly Hillbillies."

The Irene Ryan Acting Scholarships provide recognition, honor, and financial assistance to outstanding student performers wishing to pursue further education. The Irene Ryan Foundation awards 16 regional and two national scholarships annually. This year's regional competition will be in Huntsville, Texas hosted by Sam Houston State University. Winners of the regional competition will advance to the national auditions at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. in April, 2008.

Musick and Edwards will join three other theatre students from SWOSU nominated earlier in the year. The SWOSU students will be competing against other actors from colleges and universities in a five-state region comprised of Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico. The regional festival, to be held in late February, will have approximately 250 other actors competing for the two regional scholarships.