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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Texas Wesleyan's theater troupe to perform at 2004 regional festival
*Wesleyan's production the only student-written, short play to advance***

FORT WORTH, Feb. 5 – Texas Wesleyan University's Department of Theater will perform at the 2004 Kennedy Center American College Regional Theater Festival on Feb. 26 at 4 p.m. at the Starr Theatre inside the Walton Arts Center, 495 W. Dickson St. in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The troupe will perform "A Night at the Theatre/Theater," the only student-written, short play in the region to be invited to attend the competition.

The one act play is an unusual look at the theater and how people perceive it. Having made its first appearance at the regional festival in 2003 as a workshop, the play explores a type of parallel universe, where two audiences face each other instead of the stage. The actors are strategically placed within the audience to make it seem like there is no theater company and no play.

Jonathan Mendoza, the author of "A Night at the Theater/Theatre," says he created the play during one of his theater classes, while contemplating how an audience would look and act if placed in front of a giant mirror. The play is Mendoza's second to

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be honored at the regional festival. His first, a ten-minute play called “Kids say the Darndest Things,” is set on a playground. It is a satirical reenactment of WWII, featuring child-versions of major political figures, such as Hitler and Churchill.

Mendoza began playwriting when he started attending Texas Wesleyan University in 2000. He also has written for the *Rambler*, a Texas Wesleyan student publication. A 2003 December graduate of Texas Wesleyan with a major area of study in theater and an emphasis in playwriting, Mendoza says he plans to continue his theater education at graduate school, possibly in New York or at the University of Texas at Austin.

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