

DAILY NEWS

Starkville

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SCT's Catfish Moon wins MTA Festival *Theatre wins seven awards, advances to regional competition*

By BRIAN HAWKINS
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Starkville Community Theatre's entry in this year's Mississippi Theatre Association festival was named the state's best production and will advance to regional competition.

SCT's production of Laddy Sartin's play, "Catfish Moon," won the award for best production and captured numerous other awards at the MTA's annual convention in Natchez on Sunday.

Starkville High School's production of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" also captured two awards in competition.

The "Catfish Moon" cast — consisting of Paul Ruff, Marcus Vowell, Gabe Smith and Krista Vowell — won the award for best ensemble cast, as well as best actor honors for Ruff and best supporting actress honors for Krista Vowell.

Kris Lee, the show's director, won best director honors. The show also won awards for best technical excellence and for scenic design.

SCT's production was performed Saturday afternoon in Natchez, competing against seven other community theatres from around Mississippi.

With the win in Natchez over the weekend, the production of "Catfish Moon" will advance to regional competition at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Birmingham, Ala., in March. Should the show win there, it will advance to national compe-



Submitted photo/SDN

Above, the cast and crew of Starkville Community Theatre's award-winning production of *Catfish Moon* show off the many awards they won during the 2009 Mississippi Theatre Association Festival. In all, SCT won seven awards, including Best Production - an honor which earns them a chance to compete in the Southeastern Theatre Conference regional competition in Birmingham in March. Pictured, front, from left, are Thomas La Foe, director Kris Lee, Marcus Vowell, standing from left, Cary Huser, Andrew Watkins, Krista Vowell, Gabe Smith, Lyle Tate, Amanda Powers, Paul Ruff and Cindy Ruff.

tion in June.

This is the second time in three years that an SCT show has won the state competition and advanced to the regional level.

In 2007, SCT's produc-

tion of the musical "Smoke on the Mountain" won numerous awards, including the coveted best production.

SCT members also won numerous other awards for per-

formances in individual monologue, song and other competitions at the MTA convention, as did several SHS students. These awards will be published as soon as information is available.