

RUTH ECKERD HALL

RICHARD B. BAUMGARDNER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

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ECKERD THEATER COMPANY ACTOR, JACK HOLLOWAY WINS TOP HONOR FROM THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARTS & LETTERS

Winner of the local NSAL Drama competition takes first place at the national competition held in Washington D.C.

June 2, 2009, Clearwater, FL – Eckerd Theater Company actor, Jack Holloway, who won the local Clearwater/Tampa Bay Chapter National Society of Arts & Letters (NSAL) Drama competition earlier this year, took first place at the national competition held earlier this month in Washington, D.C.

Leslie Freedman, First Vice President and Chair of this year's Drama Awards for Clearwater/Tampa Bay chapter of NSAL said: "Our chapter could not be more elated for Jack. First to take our local top award for \$1,750 and then to go on to win \$10,000 at the national award level shows just how talented and deserving this young career actor is. It personifies our mission to support and foster career development. Jack is one of "our kids" now and we will be excitedly watching his future accomplishments".

Holloway, who is a native of Pensacola, Florida, studied at Florida School of the Arts and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Performance at the University of South Florida. He is currently with the Eckerd Theater Company which resides at Ruth Eckerd Hall. His credits at Eckerd Theater Company (ETC) include *Vote '06*, *Vote '08*, *Battledrum* and *Interrupting Vanessa*.

The Eckerd Theater Company writes, produces and presents performances for school age children. It is nationally recognized as a model for theater companies and travels throughout the United States performing and assisting in creating similar programs.

National Society of Arts & Letters is a national, not-for-profit organization that fosters education and recognition of young people in all the arts, music, and literature.

PHOTO: Jack Holloway

Designed by the prestigious Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Ruth Eckerd Hall celebrates its 26th season as the number six ranked venue in the world, according to the entertainment industry trade publication Billboard Magazine. Known for its 2,180-seat acoustically perfect auditorium, artists from America and around the world, ranging from classical, rock, opera, Broadway, Jazz, pop and more are included in the stellar lineup of more than 200 performances a year.

Ruth Eckerd Hall and the Ruth Eckerd Hall Foundation are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations.

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