

2009 Theater Educator Award Nomination

Professor Rainee Angles
Southern State Community College
Nominated by: ««GreetingLine»»

Professor Rainee Angles brings the adage, “less is more,” to life through her work at Southern State Community College. With no house manager, light technician, sound technician, set director, costumer, make-up artist, or assistant, Rainee commands a one-woman army, marching to spread art and theatre throughout a small, rural community.

Professor Angles daily inspires and motivates students through her own drive, creativity, and determination. Rainee often serves as dramaturg, light technician, costume designer, and set designer for each production, in addition to her role as director. Additionally, during the 2008-2009 season, faculty member, Robert Brown, directed the school’s production of *The Insanity of Mary Girard*, in which Rainee portrayed the dramatic role of Mary Girard. Rainee’s strength, range of emotion, and heart-wrenching portrayal brought the struggle of Mary Girard to life, showing students how to construct a complex character of epic proportions.

In addition to directing and working on productions, Professor Angles teaches twelve different speech and theatre courses several times throughout the school year. When Rainee first started teaching at Southern State, only a few people would audition for productions. Now, enough students audition to cast productions many times. In fact, in 2007, Rainee collaborated with the local high school in order to co-direct *Fiddler on the Roof*. For this production, Rainee and the other directors cast the show twice, having an understudy performance as well as a regular-cast performance in order to accommodate the vast number of actors.

Mrs. Angles challenges each student to learn as many aspects of theatre as he or she can. Actors and crew often paint and construct the sets, while both actors and crewmembers collect props, construct costumes, execute make-up, and style hair. Moreover, with a limited budget, the theatre department reuses lumber, nails and screws, and costumes for each show. Plus, Rainee rehearses and builds sets not only at the discretion of her own schedule, but also in conjunction with a local church, Southern State, and any community events that may require the use of the auditorium.

Despite many limitations, Rainee still manages to create mesmerizing productions with inventive techniques. For instance, during *Fiddler on the Roof*, the dream sequence utilized black lights to illuminate white masks worn by the chorus, the character of Grandma Tzeitel sat on another person’s shoulders so that she actually rose into the air, and the character of Fruma-Sarah sat atop an 8-foot ladder so that she loomed over the scene. Furthermore, during both *Bloody Poetry* and the student-written original, *Squigglydickler*, a screen and projector were utilized to incorporate film and shadow into the productions. Rainee brings comparable creative visions and fresh ideas to each show she directs.

In the eight years I have known her, Rainee’s talent and dedication never ceases to amaze me. She has changed the lives of scores of students by encouraging them to carry a love of theatre wherever they may go. Most importantly, Rainee Angles shows me that if someone has a dream, anything is possible!

Please visit www.sscctheatre.com to view more information about SSCC, Rainee Angles, SSCC theatre, past and future productions, and production photos.