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Perry High Teacher Wins Regional Playwriting Instruction Award



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA - Perry High School Theatre Teacher and Performing Arts Director, Joe Sendek, received the 2020 Innovative Playwriting Instruction Award from the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC), which covers 10 states. Sendek was honored during the annual SETC Convention virtual awards ceremony on Mar. 6, 2021. He received convention registration, one-year SETC membership and a \$250 cash award.

The SETC honors a high school teacher annually for innovation in teaching playwriting as part of their curriculum, regardless of discipline. Key factors are quality of instruction, the philosophy behind the use of playwriting instruction in the classroom, and successful realization of student work. Sendek's past projects include monologues written and performed by his students at Perry's historic Evergreen Cemetery in honor of those buried at Evergreen.

"Receiving this award is a humbling experience to be sure," commented Sendek. "I always enjoy hearing what my students create. When they take a part of history - especially local history - and develop a monologue or scene, it makes me incredibly proud. Being selected by the Southeastern Theatre Conference for this award is an amazing achievement!"

Susie Prueter, SETC Executive Director, commented that Sendek created, "wonderful, inspiring work in the classroom and beyond!"

The SETC 10-state region includes: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. All award nominations are reviewed by the Chair of the Innovative Playwriting Instruction Award Committee and a panel of advisers.

Sendek received his BFA in Theatre and MEd in Theatre Education from the University of Montevallo in Alabama. His specialties include puppetry, playwriting, physical performance and theatre for young audiences. He has written a number of plays. Recently Sendek has delved deeper into

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puppet building and a puppetry project for area students and the performing arts community. He enjoys traveling around the world with his wife, Melissa, and their son.

Perry High School is located at 1307 North Avenue in Perry. Principal Wesley "Del" Martin may be reached at 478-988-6298 or Wesley.Martin@hcbe.net. Sendek may be contacted at Joseph.Sendek@hcbe.net. For more information about SETC and the Innovative Playwriting Instruction award, [click here](#).

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