

NEWS RELEASE

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Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences Presents
NANCY DREW AND THE SIGN OF THE TWISTED CANDLES
World Premiere Adaptation of the Beloved Detective-Heroine Comes to Chicago

The Theatre School at DePaul University proudly presents *Nancy Drew and the Sign of the Twisted Candles*, based on the book by Carolyn Keene, adapted and directed by Damon Kiely, as the next installment of the 2011-2012 Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences Series. This production opens Saturday, January 14, and runs through Tuesday, February 28, 2012, at DePaul's historic Merle Reskin Theatre. Performances are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 AM and Saturdays at 2 PM. There will be no performances on January 21, 24, 26, or 28.

Nancy Drew must search every corner of a spooky mansion to solve the mystery of a 100-year-old man's disappearing fortune. Will solving the case jeopardize her friendship with best pals Bess and George? Will the fortune be taken by the bad guys, or will Nancy use her brain power (and some luck) to save the day? Don't miss this world premiere adapted and directed by Damon Kiely. *Recommended for ages 7 and up.*

Tickets are \$8. Subscriptions and group rates (15 or more people) are available at (312) 922-0999. DePaul employees, alumni, and college students receive a discount (with ID). Tickets are available online at <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu> or by calling the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre is located at 60 E. Balbo Drive at Michigan Ave., in Chicago. For information about parking, please contact the Box Office. The theatre is accessible via CTA busses (3-King Drive, 29-State Street, 146-Michigan/Museums and others), and CTA El stops (Red, Blue, Brown, Green, Orange, Purple and Pink).

A wide range of events will be held in conjunction with this production including Community Partner Days, as well as an Ice Cream Social, Opening Day Autographs, Post Show Discussions, and much more! For details or a free Teacher Guide highlighting curriculum connections visit <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu> or call (312) 922-1999.

The cast features **Krenee Alisha** (George Fayne/Mrs. Sidney), **Chelsea Angeletti** (Carol Wipple), **Camden Brown** (Ned Nickerson/Asa Sidney/Mr. Jemitt), **Dan Cobbler** (Carson Drew/Security Guard), **Libby Conkle** (Hanna Gruen/Mrs. Jemitt), **Olivia Douglas** (Nancy Drew), and **Lauren Guglielmello** (Bess Marvin/Mrs. Boonton).

The production staff includes **Damon Kiely** (Director), **Toni Kendrick** (Scenic Design), **Cara Adams** (Costume Design), **Patrick Stewart** (Lighting Design), **Jenna Moran** (Sound Design), **Anna Bosy** (Dramaturgy), and **Brae Singleton** (Stage Management).

Damon Kiely (Director) has directed for Next Theatre, TimeLine Theatre Company, A Red Orchid Theatre, American Blues Theatre, Chicago Dramatists, and Route 66. His world premiere adaptation of *Thieves Like Us* was produced by The Theatre School and the House Theatre of Chicago last year. He served as the Artistic Director of American Theater Company from 2002 to 2007. Directing credits at ATC include *Oklahoma!* (Nominated for 6 Jeff Awards including Best Musical and Best Direction of a Musical), *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*, *Orpheus Descending*, *A View from the Bridge*, *Strictly Dishonorable* and *The Hairy Ape*. At The Theatre School he has directed *There's a Boy in the Girls Bathroom*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Medea*, and *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*. Prior to moving back to Chicago he produced, directed and taught in New York City. In New York he directed for the Public Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, the Ontological Theater, Adobe Theater Company, PS122, Ensemble Studio Theater and New Dramatists. Damon also served as the Artistic Director for Real Time Theater and was a Producing Director at the Ontological-Hysteric Theater as well as the Associate Artistic Director for the Children's Theater of Maine. He is a winner of the 2000-02 NEA/TCG Career Directing Program, the 2000 Drama League Fall Directing Program and the 1997 Princess Grace Award. He lives in Edgewater with his wife Jennifer and their children, Isabella and Finnegan.

Media comps, photographs, and additional biographies are available upon request.

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The Theatre School at DePaul University educates, trains, and inspires students of theatre in a conservatory setting that is rigorous, disciplined, and culturally diverse. The school and its students strive for the highest level of professional skill and artistry. A commitment to diversity and equality in education is central to its mission. As an integral part of the training, The Theatre School produces public programs and performances from a wide repertoire of classic, contemporary, and original plays that challenge, entertain, and stimulate the imagination. The school seeks to enhance the intellectual and cultural life of the university community, the city, and the profession.