

NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 4, 2008

**The Theatre School's Lisa Portes to Direct Chicago Debut of *IN DARFUR* by Winter Miller**  
*Proceeds from Event to Increase Aid and Benefit the People of Darfur*

The Theatre School at DePaul University (John Culbert, Dean) is pleased to announce that Lisa Portes (Head of MFA Directing and Artistic Director of Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences) will be directing the upcoming staged reading of *In Darfur*, written by Winter Miller, presented by the American Refugee Committee. The staged reading of *In Darfur*, along with a photography exhibition about the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the war-torn region, will take place Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 7pm, at the Feinberg Theatre at the Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan Avenue. There will be a post-show discussion after the reading. Tickets are \$24 and can be purchased by calling the Spertus Box Office at 312-322-1773. Tickets proceeds will benefit the people of Darfur.

*In Darfur* tells the story of three intertwined lives at a refugee camp in Darfur: an aid worker, a journalist and a Darfuri woman. Playwright Winter Miller traveled with New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof to the region to hear the stories of survivors of the atrocities in Darfur. The result is a poignant play that Jerome McDonell, host of Chicago Public Radio's *Worldview*, celebrates as "a window into the complexities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century world in which we live."

Aside from her official titles, Portes serves as a mentor, advisor, collaborator and leader for the artists-in-training at The Theatre School at DePaul University. "Theatre is at core a civic form," asserts Lisa Portes, "We come together as a community to witness the enactment of the great stories of our times, and within every great story is a great conundrum. When we come together in the theatre we come to grapple with the unique dilemmas we face in our place and time." She adds, "I am moved by the

journey of all the characters in *In Darfur* as they attempt to fathom genocide. Carlos the doctor trying to treat the victims, Maryka the American journalist trying to get the word out “there’s a genocide happening!!!!” and most of all Hawa, a Darfuri woman and survivor trying to make it across the border to safety and purpose.”

The event will support the work of the American Refugee Committee (ARC) in Darfur. ARC’s relief programs last year alone provided clean water and critical health care services to nearly 450,000 displaced people in South Darfur. “We’re pleased to host this incredible event, which will raise funds to bring life-saving services to people who have lost everything in Darfur,” said ARC’s Acting President Karen Frederickson. ARC’s Darfur program is one of the largest relief operations in South Darfur.

For more information about the American Refugee Committee visit [www.ARCrelief.org](http://www.ARCrelief.org). For more information about The Theatre School at DePaul University visit <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu>. **Interviews, bios, photographs and press comps are available upon request.** Please contact Andrea Tichy (The Theatre School) at [atichy@depaul.edu](mailto:atichy@depaul.edu) or Therese Gales (ARC) at [ThereseG@archq.org](mailto:ThereseG@archq.org).

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*The Theatre School at DePaul University, founded as the Goodman School of Drama in 1925, educates, trains and inspires students of theatre in a conservatory setting that is rigorous, disciplined, culturally diverse and that strives for the highest level of professional skill and artistry. A commitment to diversity and equality in education is central to our 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. We seek to enhance the intellectual and cultural life of our university community, our city and the profession.*