

**MEDIA ALERT**

Contact: Andrea Tichy  
Manager of Public Relations and Special Events  
(773) 325-7819, [atichy@depaul.edu](mailto:atichy@depaul.edu)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 17, 2009

**MICHAEL SHANNON, ANGELA BASSETT & DENNIS DUGAN to be Honored at**  
**The Theatre School's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Awards for Excellence in the Arts**  
*Theatre School Alumnus P.J. Byrne to Host*

The Theatre School at DePaul University is pleased to announce that **MICHAEL SHANNON** (actor, *Revolutionary Road, Before the Devil Knows You're Dead, Bug*) will join **ANGELA BASSETT** (actress, *Notorious, What's Love Got to Do With it, ER*) and Theatre School alumnus **DENNIS DUGAN** (director, *I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry, Big Daddy*) as a recipient of the 2009 Award for Excellence in the Arts on **Tuesday, April 28, 2009**.

Michael Shannon's work has graced the stage in London's West End as well as in NY. Shannon's career started in Chicago; where he appeared at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, the Goodman Theatre and A Red Orchid Theatre, among others. Some of his film credits include *8 Mile, Bug, Before the Devil Knows You're Dead, Vanilla Sky*, and *Revolutionary Road*, in which his work as John Givings earned him a nomination as Best Actor in a Supporting Role at the 2009 Academy Awards.

Theatre School alumnus **P.J. BYRNE** (actor *Be Kind, Rewind, Charlie Wilson's War*) will serve as the emcee for the evening's festivities. Mr. Byrne can also be seen in his current reoccurring role on the CW series *The Game*, and has extensive film, television and commercial credits. He received his Masters of Fine Arts in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University.

The Theatre School is pleased to present the Leadership Award for Excellence in the Arts to **BILL KURTIS** and **DONNA LA PIETRA** of Kurtis Productions, Ltd. David B. Speer will be accepting the 2009 Corporate Award for Excellence in the Arts on behalf of **ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS INC.**

The 2009 Awards for Excellence in the Arts will be held on April 28, 2009 at the Four Seasons Hotel, Chicago. All proceeds from the event directly benefit The Theatre School Scholarship Fund.

*To discuss interview or event coverage please contact Andrea Tichy, Manager of Public Relations and Special Events, at (773) 325-7819. For tickets to the event please contact PJH & Associates at (312) 553-2000.*

**Honoree biographies & photos are available upon request. Media availability subject to Honorees' schedule.**