

**N E W S   R E L E A S E**

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**THE THEATRE SCHOOL OPENS SEASON WITH SHAKESPEARE'S *HAMLET***  
*Trust No One. Believe Nothing. Question Everything.*

The Theatre School at DePaul University presents William Shakespeare's ***HAMLET***, directed by Lisa Portes, as the opening production of its 2007-2008 Showcase Series. A fresh take on a formidable classic, *Hamlet* runs Friday, October 5 through Sunday, October 14, 2007 at DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre. Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. To purchase tickets, call the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

A crumbling superpower is seized by Claudius, a new leader with a familiar face. His stepson Hamlet uncovers a secret that pits 21st century youth against their politically depraved elders. In this *Hamlet*, betrayal runs rampant, trust means nothing and, although a camera's eye catches the state's every action, no one is truly safe.

Tickets are \$15. Group rates are available for 15 or more people. Seniors (over 60), DePaul employees and alumni, and college students receive a discount (with ID). Tickets are available by calling the Box Office at (312) 922-1999 or online at [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com).

Performances are at DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre, 60 E. Balbo Drive at Michigan, Chicago. Discount parking is available with coupons from the Box Office, and 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).

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** Post show discussions with the cast will be held 10/7 and 10/11. A Theatre Thursday, presented in conjunction with the League of Chicago Theatres, will take place before the performance on 10/11. The performance on 10/14 will be interpreted in ASL. A special half-priced performance for the DePaul Community and all university students occurs 10/10. Tickets for this performance are \$3 for all students carrying valid ID and \$6 for DePaul alumni and employees with valid ID. Details for these and other events available at <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu> or by calling (773) 325-7819.

The cast includes Blake Bagby (Rosencrantz), Ellen Chambers (Gravedigger/Ensemble), Christopher Chmelik (Horatio), Andrew Gallant (Claudius), Matt Hune (Hamlet), Jeremy Kahn (Bernardo/Renaldo/Lord), Megan Kohl (Gertrude), Grace Lowman (Guildenstern), Mallory Nees (Marcellus/Player Queen/Ensemble), Christina Nieves (Laertes), Matteo Smith, (Polonius) and Mary Williamson (Ophelia).

The crew includes Anna Ashley (Stage Management), John Holt (Scenic Design), Samantha Umstead (Costume Design), Nic Jones (Lighting Design), Rick Sims (Sound Design, Composer), Liviu Pasare (Video Design), Kelly Kerwin (Dramaturg) and Jessica Galli (Dramaturg).

**Lisa Portes** serves as the Head of Directing and the Artistic Director of Chicago Playworks for Young Audience for The Theatre School. Recent projects include: *Spare Change* by Mia McCullough at Steppenwolf, *El Grito del Bronx* by Migdalia Cruz as part of the Goodman Theatre's Latino Theatre Festival, *Permanent Collection* by Thomas Gibbons at Northlight Theatre, *Far Away* by Caryl Churchill and *In the Blood* by Suzan-Lori Parks at Next Theatre, and the world premier of *Wilder: An Erotic Chamber Musical* by Erin Cressida Wilson, Jack Herrick and Mike Craver at Playwrights Horizons in NYC. Her work has been seen regionally at the Kennedy Center, Guthrie Theatre, South Coast Repertory Theatre's Hispanic Playwrights Project, McCarter Theatre Lab, A Contemporary American Theatre Festival, Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., the Cape Cod Theatre Project, the Santa Barbara Theatre Lab and the Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference; in New York her work has been seen at Playwrights Horizons, Soho Rep, New York Theatre Workshop, the Public Theatre, the Flea Theatre and the Cherry Lane Alternative Theatre. Lisa mounted the international productions of the Tony Award-winning musical *The Who's Tommy* as its Associate Director and also served as Associate Director for the 1st National Tour of *Titanic*. Other Chicago productions include *Offspring of the Cold War* by Carlos Murillo at Walkabout Theatre, and for Chicago Playworks: *Cinderella Eats Rice and Beans* by Karen Zacarias and Debbie Wicks La Puma and *The Highest Heaven* by José Cruz González. Lisa is a resident director for Teatro Vista and an artistic associate at Next Theatre and Chicago Children's Theatre. Awards include the Drama League and NEA/TCG Directors' Fellowships as well as a Fulbright/Hays Fellowship. Lisa lives in Bridgeport with her husband, playwright Carlos Murillo and their two children Eva Rose and Carlos Pablo.

**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 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.