

N E W S R E L E A S E

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The New Playwrights Series Presents
Mark Mason's HURRAH FOR THE NEXT WHO DIES
Violence and Media in Chicago's History Take Center Stage

The Theatre School at DePaul University presents ***HURRAH FOR THE NEXT WHO DIES***, written by Mark Mason and directed by Damon Kiely, as the 2007-2008 New Playwrights Series production. This harrowing tale of media corruption opens May 9 and runs through May 18, 2008, with previews on May 7 and May 8, at the Athenaeum Studio Three. The play is performed Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2 PM.

On June 9, 1930, *Chicago Tribune* reporter Jake Lingle was gunned down. Set in the "separate and lonely places" of Capone's Chicago, ***HURRAH FOR THE NEXT WHO DIES*** examines the scandals, killings and betrayals surrounding Lingle's death. Mason's thought-provoking new play reveals the dangerous pairing of violence and corrupt media that defined a dark time in Chicago's not-too-distant history, and serves as a warning for the future of truth in the Windy City.

Admission is FREE, reservations are recommended. Call the Box Office at (312) 922-1999. The Athenaeum Studio Three is located at 2936 N Southport Ave., in Chicago. Street and lot parking are available, and the theatre is accessible via public transportation (CTA Southport Brown Line 'El' Station or #11 Lincoln Bus).

New Playwrights Series productions feature a new play written by a current Theatre School student or recent graduate. To learn more about ***HURRAH FOR THE NEXT WHO DIES***, The Theatre School or the curriculum visit <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu>.

MARK MASON (Playwright) graduated from the Theatre School in 2007 with a BFA in Playwriting. He is a native of Joliet, Illinois, where he was a columnist for the *Joliet Herald-News*. He has had his work performed as part of The Theatre School's 24-Hour Theatre Festival. His play, ***SUPERMARKET SCANDAL SHEET RAG***, is scheduled to premiere in April as part of the Joliet Junior College's Festival of One-Acts. ***HURRAH FOR THE NEXT WHO DIES*** was originally developed through The Theatre School's Wrights of Spring Festival in May 2007. Previously, Mark has worked with Collaboraction, Timeline Theatre Company and Harpo Studios.

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DAMON KIELY (Director) served as the Artistic Director of American Theater Company from 2002 to 2007. Directing credits at American Theater Company include *OKLAHOMA!* (Nominated for 6 Joseph Jefferson Awards including Best Musical and Best Direction of a Musical), *THE DARK AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS*, *ORPHEUS DESCENDING*, *KID-SIMPLE*, *A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE*, *STRICTLY DISHONORABLE* and *THE HARIY APE*. He will direct TimeLine Theatre's season opener, *WEEKEND* by Gore Vidal. At The Theatre School he has directed *THERE'S A BOY IN THE GIRLS' BATHROOM*, and looks forward to directing *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE*. 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.

The cast of *HURRAH FOR THE NEXT WHO DIES* features **Blake Dalton Bagby** (The Bum), **Ian Paul Custer** (Jake Lingle), **Edward Karch** (Jack Zuta), **Zach Kenney** (Rusty McHugh), **Jason T. Love** (Chief Michael Slattery), **Matthew Olson** (Murray "The Camel" Humphrey), **Victoria Oman** (Rebecca Vogel), **Adrian Snow** (Leona Byrd) and **Kyle Wallace** (Ferdy Dormitzer).

The staff includes **Alex Banuelos** (Scene Design), **Chase Corman** (Lighting Design), **Cristina DeRisi** (Sound Designer), **Ari Fulton** (Costume Design), **Damon Kiely** (Director), **Mark Mason** (Playwright) and **Margaret Morton** (Stage Manager).

SPECIAL EVENT: A post-show discussion with the cast and members of the staff will take place on May 15, 2008.

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.