

N E W S R E L E A S E

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THE THEATRE SCHOOL AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY'S
PROFESSOR EMERITUS BELLA ITKIN
RECEIVES 2006 CHILDREN'S THEATRE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA MEDALLION

Dr. Bella Itkin, Professor Emeritus of The Theatre School at DePaul University, received the 2006 Children's Theatre Foundation of American Medallion for over a half-century of contributions to the art, study and practice of theatre for all, and in particular for youth theatre education.

Theatre School Assistant Dean John Bridges accepted the award on Dr. Itkin's behalf on July 27, 2006, in a luncheon ceremony in Bethesda, MD. The three other Medallion recipients included Irene Lockridge Corey, designer and design author; Dr. Jonathan Levy, playwright, professor and author of youth theatre publications; and Dr. Joseph Robinette, playwright for young audiences, who acknowledged Dr. Itkin as a mentor in his acceptance speech.

Founded in 1958, the Children's Theatre Foundation of America (currently headquartered in Avon, IN) advances the artistic and professional interest of theatre for children and youth, and theatre education for the young. The Foundation pursues its goals by funding proposals of artists, scholars, and special projects of national import to the field. The Medallion of the Foundation honors significant achievement. Occasionally the Foundation originates programs of its own. This non-profit organization is managed by a national board of professionals and benefactors of theatre for children in the United States.

www.childrenstheatrefoundation.org

A former chair of The Theatre School's Performance Department, Dr. Itkin until recently continued to teach at the school, conducting Techniques classes for senior level and M.F.A. students. Dr. Itkin is known nationally as an acting coach whose past students include Kevin Anderson, Melinda Dillon, Ann Dowd, Linda Hunt, Harvey Korman, Concetta Tomei, Joe Mantegna, Kevin O'Connor, Elizabeth Perkins, the late Lee Richardson and the late Geraldine Page.

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Dr. Itkin has directed more than 200 productions for The Theatre School and the Goodman School of Drama, including THE SEA GULL, ROMEO AND JULIET, TOYS IN THE ATTIC, THE CHERRY ORCHARD, A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE and the Chicago premiere of Tennessee Williams' ECCENTRICITIES OF A NIGHTINGALE. During her 15-year term as Artistic Director of Chicago Playworks, formerly the Goodman Children's Theatre, she directed TREASURE ISLAND, PUSS IN BOOTS, A DOCTOR IN SPITE OF HIMSELF and A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, among numerous others, and accepted the prestigious Sara Spencer Award from the Children's Theatre Association of America in 1980 for long-term contributions to children's theatre in the U.S., and the Joseph Jefferson Lifetime Achievement Award. She has served as a visiting professor at University of Kansas in Lawrence, the Aspen Theatre Institute in Aspen, CO, and the Classical Theatre Foundation in Boulder, CO, was a producer and the Artistic Director of the Lake Zurich Playhouse, and has lectured extensively and conducted workshops at several theatre conventions and seminars. Dr. Itkin received her M.F.A. from the Goodman School of Drama (now The Theatre School, DePaul University), studied with the late Sanford Meisner and earned her doctorate from Western Reserve University. She received the Via Sapientiae Award from DePaul University in 1990, was named to the Chicago Women's Hall of Fame in 1990, the Chicago Tribune All-Professor Team in 1993, the Chicago Park District's 1993 Senior Citizen of the Year, and was honored by the Chicago Drama League. Her focus in teaching acting and directing is based on the sensorial life of the character, which is discussed specifically in her book, Acting: Preparation, Practice, Performance, originally published by Harper and Collins.

The Theatre School at DePaul University 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 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. More information about The Theatre School is available at <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu>

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