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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**The Theatre School Showcase of Contemporary Plays and Classics Presents:**

***Dancing at Lughnasa* by Brian Friel**

*Jane Drake Brody Brings Her Deft Director's Hand to a Tale of Love and Loss*

The Theatre School at DePaul University's Showcase Series of Contemporary Plays and Classics presents *Dancing at Lughnasa*, written by Brian Friel and directed by Jane Drake Brody. This Irish tale of family and resilience opens Friday, February 6 and runs through Sunday, February 15, 2009, at DePaul's historic Merle Reskin Theatre. Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2 PM. Previews are on February 4 and 5, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

Set in a small Irish town in County Donegal in 1936, this Tony Award-winning play follows the revelry of the five Mundy sisters during the ancient festival of Lughnasa. With dancing, bonfires, and a wild celebration of life, love and change, the sisters continue to shine on in the memory of their relatives.

Tickets are \$15. Subscriptions and group rates (6 or more people) are available at (312)-922-0999. Seniors (over 60), DePaul employees and alumni, and college students receive a discount (with ID). Previews are FREE for any college student (with ID). Tickets are available by calling the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

DePaul's historic Merle Reskin Theatre is located at 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).

**JANE DRAKE BRODY** (Director) Ms. Brody currently teaches both graduate and undergraduate acting at DePaul University. Formerly she was Head of Undergraduate Performance at Louisiana State University, where she received several university-wide awards for undergraduate teaching. Jane entered academia after a long career as an actress, director, professional acting coach and casting director. Her many film and TV casting credits include the Oscar winner *Fargo*, for which she received the Casting Society of America's Best Location Casting Award. In addition to casting hundreds of television commercials, she was responsible for casting Oprah Winfrey's TV series *Women of Brewster Place*. Her stage casting credits include The Actor's Theatre of Louisville, the Attic Theatre in Detroit, The Guthrie in Minneapolis and many others. She has worked as an actress in all media, winning the Los Angeles Weekly's Best Actress Award for her appearance in *Alan Ayckbourn's Absent Friends*. She founded and was Artistic Director of the Immediate Theatre in Chicago, where she directed the Joseph Jefferson nominated *Crimes of the Heart*. Jane is well known as a coach throughout the US and has

conducted workshops in over 40 universities and independent acting schools. She has had articles published in American Theatre Magazine and in the ATHE Acting Journal. She is a member of SAG, AEA, AFTRA and CSA. Her students can be seen nationally and internationally performing in all media.

**BRIAN FRIEL** (Playwright) was born in Omagh, County Tyrone in 1929 and , in 1939, moved with his family to Derry. He now lives in County Donegal. He has published two collections of short stories, *A Saucer of Larks* and *The Gold in the Sea*. In 1980 he co-founded the Field Day Theatre Company in Derry. Brian Friel served in the Senate from 1987 to 1989. He has received honorary doctorates from the National University of Ireland, Trinity College, Dublin, Dublin City University, Magee University and Queen's University, Belfast. He is an honorary fellow of University College, Dublin, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He was elected to Aosdána in 1982. His plays have premiered and been produced at prestigious venues such as the Abbey Theatre, London's West End and Broadway. His first major play, *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* was the hit of the 1964 Dublin Theatre Festival. In 1972 he was elected as a member of the Irish Academy of Letters. In 1981 *Translations*, one of his seminal pieces, was awarded the Ewart-Biggs Peace Prize. *Dancing at Lughnasa*, probably his most successful play to date, received three Tony Awards in 1992, including Best Play.

The cast of *Dancing at Lughnasa* features **Joseph Ettinger** (Michael), **Hannah Tuber** (Kate), **Meg Elliott** (Maggie), **Jessica Marks** (Agnes), **Kate Lane** (Rose), **Lucy Hoffman** (Christina), **Jordan Shappell** (Gerry) and **Dustin Whitehead** (Jack).

The production staff includes **Jane Drake Brody** (Director), **Christine Binder** (Lighting Design), **Emily Guthrie** (Scenic Design), **Dan Jakes** (Co-Dramaturg), **Peter Parsons** (Co-Dramaturg), **Chrissy Callan** (Costume Design), **Toy DeIorio** (Co-Sound Design), **Christina DeRisi** (Co-Sound Design), **Ellen Gahl** (Choreography), **Patrice Egleston** (Movement Coach), **Claudia Anderson** (Dialect Coaching) and **Margaret Morton** (Stage Manager).

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** An **Opening Night Party** will be hold after the performance on **February 6**. A **post-show discussion** with the cast and members of the production staff will be held on **Sunday, February 8**. The performance on **Sunday, February 15** (2 PM) will be interpreted in **American Sign Language**. TYY call (773) 325-7975. On **DePaul Night, February 11**, tickets are \$3 for all students and \$6 for DePaul alumni and employees with valid ID. For details, photos, or more information visit <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu> or call (773) 325-7819.

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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 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.*