

**MEDIA ALERT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Professor Janet C. Messmer Curates New Exhibit at the Evanston History Center**  
*A New Century Opens: Evanston Fashions, 1900-1910*

The Theatre School at DePaul University is pleased to announce that **Professor Janet C. Messmer**, who serves as the Head of The Theatre School's Costume Technology Program, is in the process of changing over her current exhibit at the Evanston History Center from spring and summer clothing to fall and winter garb. The title of the exhibit is "A New Century Opens: Evanston Fashions 1900-1910." The exhibit will be refreshed and ready for viewing November 1, 2009.

On November 5, 2009 at 7PM, at the Evanston History Center, Messmer will discuss the fashions from the first decade of the 20th century, in conjunction with the exhibit now on display at the Dawes House. Reservations to this lecture are recommended. Please email [jthompson@evanstonhistorycenter.org](mailto:jthompson@evanstonhistorycenter.org) or call (847) 475-3410. Admission for the lecture is free to EHC members, and \$5 for the general public.

Messmer serves as the Costume Curator for The Evanston History Center, which is located in the historic Charles Gates Dawes House, at 225 Greenwood St., in Evanston, Illinois. The mission of the organization remains the same as when it was founded: "...to collect, preserve and interpret the rich history of the City of Evanston and vicinity and all it's people through exhibits, educational programs and research facilities." More information can be found at <http://evanstonhistorycenter.org/>.

For The Theatre School at DePaul University, Professor Janet C. Messmer serves as the Head of Costume Technology, where she has generously shared her expertise and passion with design and technology students for three decades. She earned her MA from the University of Illinois-Champaign. Messmer has worked as a draper-cutter for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario, *Romeo And Juliet* at the American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisc., *Under The Biltmore Clock* for American Playhouse on PBS, and for many Chicago productions including *Die Fledermaus* for the Ruth Page Dance Company, *The Guilt Of Lilian Sloan* for the Lyric Opera School, *The Libertine* at Steppenwolf, and *Philadelphia Story* at the Court Theatre. She frequently lectures on fashion history and

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social custom. An expert on costume construction, she was commissioned by the Chicago Historical Society to make a reproduction of a suit worn by John Adams for "We The People," the permanent exhibition on the Constitution of the United States of America.

**Interviews, more information, and photos** regarding The Theatre School, Janet Messmer, and her upcoming exhibit are available upon request. Please contact Andrea Tichy, Manager of Public Relations and Special Events, at [atichy@depaul.edu](mailto:atichy@depaul.edu) or 773 325 7819 for more information.

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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, 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 our 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. We seek to enhance the intellectual and cultural life of our university community, our city and the profession.*