

Contact: Andrea Tichy  
Manager of Public Relations and Special Events  
(773) 325-7819, [atichy@depaul.edu](mailto:atichy@depaul.edu)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 2, 2008

**Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences Presents**  
**STILL LIFE WITH IRIS**

*John Jenkins Opens the 2008-2009 Season with Pirate Ships, Hot Cocoa and Mozart*

The Theatre School at DePaul University presents *STILL LIFE WITH IRIS*, written by Steven Dietz and directed by John Jenkins, as the first installment of the 2008-2009 Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences Series. This homeward-bound story opens Thursday, October 28 and runs through Saturday, December 6, 2008, at DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre. Performances are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 AM and Saturdays at 2 PM.

In a wonderful world of snowflake pairs, ladybug spots, and teaching the wind to whistle, *STILL LIFE WITH IRIS* celebrates the seeking and finding of personal history. With the help of Poe's Annabel Lee (½ pirate, ½ sea), and an 11-year-old Mozart, Iris and her friends set out on a touching adventure in search of a ship, a song, the way home, and the recovery of lost and treasured memories. *Recommended for ages 9 and up.*

Tickets are \$8. Subscriptions and group rates (15 or more people) are available at (312)-922-0999. DePaul employees, alumni, and college students receive a discount (with ID). Tickets are available online at <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu> or by calling the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre is located at 60 E. Balbo Drive at Michigan, in Chicago. For information about parking, please contact the Box Office. 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).

A wide range of events will be held in conjunction with this production including Community Partner Days, as well as an Ice Cream Social, Opening Day Autographs, Post Show Discussions and much more! For details visit or for a free Teacher Guide highlighting curriculum connections visit <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu> or call (312) 922-1999.

**STEVEN DIETZ** (Playwright) has authored many plays for young audiences including *HONUS AND ME* (adapted from Dan Gutman), *GO, DOG. GO!* (adapted from P.D. Eastman; co-written with Allison Gregory), *STILL LIFE WITH IRIS* (awarded the Kennedy Center's Fund for New American Plays Award) and *THE REMEMBERER* (adapted from Joyce Simmons Cheeka). These plays have been seen at some of America's leading theatres for young people, including Seattle

Children's Theatre, The Children's Theatre Company (Minneapolis), Childsplay (AZ), Dallas Children's Theatre, Honolulu Theatre for Youth, and the Chicago Children's Theatre. Mr. Dietz has directed the world premieres of Kevin Kling's *LILLY'S PURPLE PLASTIC PURSE* (CTC) and Allison Gregory's *EVEN STEVEN GOES TO WAR* (Childsplay), among many others. He lives with his wife, playwright Allison Gregory, and their two children in Austin, where he teaches playwriting at the University of Texas.

**JOHN JENKINS** (Director) has performed and directed professionally in England, Germany, Switzerland, and Australia, as well as throughout the United States. As a member of the San Quentin Drama Workshop, he worked with Samuel Beckett as an actor in Mr. Beckett's direction of *Waiting for Godot* and *Endgame*, and served as movement advisor for Mr. Beckett's production of *Krapp's Last Tape*. In Minneapolis, he worked for eight years as an actor, director and teacher for the Children's Theatre Company. John's film credits include a starring role in the independent feature film *Patti Rocks*, which he co-wrote. He is a qualified teacher of the Alexander Technique, and serves as the Head of Undergraduate Acting at The Theatre School at DePaul University.

The cast features **Josef Bette** (Man/Mister Matternot/ Dad), **Kevin Bigley** (Elmer/ Grotto God), **Joseph I. Bunke** (Bolt Bender/Mister Himtoo), **Tosha Fowler** (Mom/ Miss Overlook), **Loresa Yvonne** (Iris), **Kay Kron** (Leaf Monitor/ Annabel Lee), **Mal Darcey** (Hazel/Gretta Good), **Hudsen Cy Schuchart** (Memory Mender/Mister Otherguy) and **Zachary Spencer Shornik** (Flower Painter/Mozart).

The production staff includes **John Jenkins** (Director), **A.J. Tarzian** (Scenic Design), **Samantha Umstead** (Costume Design), **Chase Corman** (Lighting Design), **Lindsay Jones** (Sound Design), **Matthew Ducey** (Dramaturgy), and **Christina Kay Pretsch** (Stage Management)

*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.*