

**N E W S   R E L E A S E**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 21, 2008

**The Theatre School Welcomes New Faculty Members Victoria (Toy) DeIorio,  
Coya Paz and Natalie Turner-Jones**

*Change and Growth Attracts New Talent for an Already Stellar Faculty*

The Theatre School at DePaul University is pleased to announce the appointment of three new full-time faculty members: **Victoria (Toy) DeIorio**, regional award-winning sound designer and director, **Coya Paz**, cofounder and co-artistic director of Teatro Luna, and **Natalie Turner-Jones**, director and regional actress formerly of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

With these newest members of the faculty comes a renewed commitment on behalf of The Theatre School to offer a world-class conservatory setting with faculty and staff members from a wide variety of professional, cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Toy DeIorio has worked in many disciplines of the theatre which has resulted, in her words, in a “love of collaborating with other artists,” a passion which will translate daily into the curriculum of her students. Reflecting on her hopes for the young artists at the school, DeIorio notes, “I want them to surprise me with their ideas, execute them with richness and subtlety, and be eager to learn and grow beyond what they already know.” The Theatre School is also delighted to announce that DeIorio’s appointment coincides with the launch of the Undergraduate Sound Design Program, for which DeIorio will serve as Department Head. DeIorio was attracted to The Theatre School because of its reputation training. She has been “impressed with every alumnus” that she’s worked with, and looks forward to continuing The Theatre School’s tradition of specificity in training by “creating a standard of excellence for the field” of sound design.

In the Visiting Multicultural Faculty position, Coya Paz brings her extensive professional experience to The Theatre School, as well as a passion for the contributions of theatre in cultural dialogue and the desire to “speak to communities that don’t traditionally go to the theatre”. Having lived in seven countries before the age of twenty and being “a longtime admirer of DePaul University,” Paz is looking forward to “exploring race, gender, and nationality in ways that are accessible, challenging, and perhaps even fun” with the young artists at The Theatre School. Also, after having taught at both Northwestern and the University of Chicago, Paz looks forward to working “in a conservatory environment for the first time” with students that she expects will be “talented and driven and genuinely invested in honing their craft.”

Natalie Turner-Jones will be joining the movement faculty this fall as she continues The Theatre School's commitment to artistic risk-taking in the Performance Department. She asserts that "an actor who has a solid movement training...will approach a role with enthusiasm and a spirit of playfulness, able to explore without fear of failure." Turner-Jones joins DePaul from The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) where her London career of nine years involved numerous professional activities as a movement teacher, director and professional actress. Natalie's expertise will share with her students "a body of work and a set of skills which will enable them to thrive in any theatrical environment and which will ultimately support their continued growth and understanding throughout their career."

The Theatre School is also delighted to announce that faculty member Ann Wakefield will continue in the Visiting Assistant Professor position, and will teach Performance and Theatre Studies courses along with directing productions. An award-winning actress who has worked in England, South Africa, and France as well as with numerous regional theatres in the US, Wakefield continues to inspire and push her students' imaginations as they develop artistic courage.

*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*

For interviews, or more information about the BFA Sound Design program and The Theatre School please contact Andrea Tichy at [atichy@depaul.edu](mailto:atichy@depaul.edu). Biographies follow.

**Toy DeIorio** has a BFA in Musical Theatre from Syracuse University, and studied classical acting in London at RADA and LAMDA. Her compositions and sound design were heard Off-Broadway in productions including *The Bluest Eye* with Steppenwolf at The Duke Theatre and *Ophelia* at the NYC Fringe Fest at The Connelly. Regionally she has worked at Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, LA Theatre Works, Milwaukee Shakespeare, Renaissance Theaterworks, Milwaukee Repertory, Victory Gardens, Northlight Theatre, People's Light and Theatre, and Geva Theatre. She has designed productions with Writers' Theatre, Next Theatre, Remy Bumppo, Lifeline, Light Opera Works, Eclipse Theatre and other smaller storefront theatres. She has been nominated for four Joseph Jefferson Citations and a Jeff Award, winning Outstanding Sound Design for *Around the World in 80 Days* and *The Shadow*, both with Lifeline Theatre. She has also received two After Dark Awards for *Fiddler on the Roof* with Light Opera Works and *The Shadow* with Lifeline Theatre. Most recently she directed *Sunday on the Rocks* at Bailiwick Theatre and *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs!* at Lifeline Theatre. Victoria is a founding member of Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, a member of Lifeline Theatre, and an Artistic Associate with Next Theatre. She has produced two CD's of her original music with her band *ToyBand*.

**Coya Paz** is the cofounder of Teatro Luna, Chicago's first and only all-Latina theatre company. Coya was raised in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Columbia and Brazil, and moved permanently to the United States in the late 1980's. She is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Performance Studies at Northwestern University, where she also holds her M.A. She has collaborated with Teatro Luna on all of their ensemble projects (*Generic Latina*, *Dejame Contarte/Let Me Tell You*, *The Maria Chronicles*, *S-E-X-Oh!* and *Lunaticas*). She recently directed and developed the critically acclaimed *Machos*, a play performed by women based on conversations with 100 men across the country, and is currently at work on *Restaurant Spanish*, an original musical about the immigration debate. Additional Chicago credits include *Impassioned Embraces*, *Etta Jenks*, *Death of a Salesman* and *Baby Boom En El Paraiso*. Directing credits include *The Maria Chronicles* and *S-e-x-Oh!* (with Tanya Saracho), *Quita Mitos*, *The Drag King Rooftop Karaoke Hootchie Cootchie No Name Show* and *Musical Latin Extravaganza* (with Michelle Campbell), Diane Herrera's *The Dress*, and Marisabel Suarez's *Three Days* (part of Teatro Luna's Solo Latinas Project). Her solo *Bitter Ole Hag* appears as part of Teatro Luna's production of *Solo Tu*. She recently is the cofounder of *Proyecto Latina*, a monthly open mic celebrating Latina voices, and has been a featured poet at *Proyecto Latina*, *The HotHouse* and *Palabra Pura*. Coya's work has been profiled and/or featured in *The New York Times*, *Theater Journal*, *American Theater Magazine*, *Latina Magazine*, *Urban Latino Magazine*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Chicago Reader*, *The Chicago Sun-Times*, *UR Magazine*, *Windy City Times* and Chicago Public Radio's 848, among others. In 2004, she was named one of Chicago's 30 under 30, and in 2006, received a Trailblazer Award for outstanding service to the LBBTQ community. In 2007, *Go NYC!* designated her as one of the 100 Women We Love. Coya is a contributor to the *Oxford University Encyclopedia of Lation/as in the United States* and just published an article on lynching for the *California History Magazine*.

**Natalie Turner-Jones** is a movement teacher, director and professional actress who received her education in the London theatre scene, and has been working there for the last nine years. She has worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company, Theatre de Complicite, Channel 4 and BBC Radio and Television, and has worked with exemplary practitioners such as Di Trevis, Tony Harrison, Lawrence Boswell and John Russell Brown. She has taught at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and at Rose Bruford College for the past six years. Her movement practice is strongly influenced by Monika Pagneux (Feldenkrais), Litz Pisk, Sigurd Leeder (Laban) and Jacques Lecoq. Natalie is a member of Actor's Equity UK, The Spotlight, University and Colleges Union, British Wheel of Yoga Instructors and Yoga Alliance.

**Ann Wakefield** has worked in South Africa, England, France and in the U.S. as an actor, director and teacher. Ann has directed and written theatre for children and has created touring shows that have played to junior and senior schools and universities. In England, she worked with the Brian Way Theatre in Education Company and was Assistant Director to the highly acclaimed Zulu Macbeth, *Umamatha*, which was invited by the Royal Shakespeare Company to their World Theatre Season in London. In Chicago she has been awarded Jeff citations for her performances in *The Road To Mecca* and *Another Part Of The Forest*, and an After Dark Award for her performance in *The Lion In Winter*. She has been a teacher in the residency program for Lifeline Theatre; has collaborated on a translation of *The Barber of Seville* for Court Theatre; has served as a dialect coach for British and South African plays; and has worked as a dramaturg and vocal coach at Loyola University Theatre. For the Chicago Playworks series, Ann has directed *Alice In Wonderland*, *The Owl And The Pussycat Went To See*, *Tokoloshe*, *Mango Leaf Magic* and most recently wrote and directed *Tales as Old as Africa* for the 07/08 season.