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The Theatre School Launches Undergraduate Sound Design Program

After Ten Years of Development, Classes Will Begin This Fall

The Theatre School at DePaul University is delighted to announce that starting in the 2008-2009 school year the degree of **Bachelor's in Fine Arts in Sound Design** will be added to the specialized list of conservatory training programs currently offered. New faculty member Toy DeIorio has been appointed Head of Sound Design, and will work with Linda Buchanan (Head of Design/Technical Studies) to set the standards of excellence for this new program.

The program will add another layer of collaboration in production practice for the school. John Culbert, Dean of The Theatre School, is excited about the opportunities the sound design program offers. He comments that “this new program is unique in many ways. There are very few undergraduate sound design programs in the country, and now we are able to offer young artists from around the country the opportunity to receive specialized sound design training.” Additionally, Culbert adds that “it enables the school to provide newly trained sound designers to the Chicago and national theatre communities. The Chicago community has taken a lead role in the development of theatrical sound design in this country and we are proud to now contribute to that artistic leadership.”

The incoming students will enter the highly structured program in the fall and will quickly understand the tradition of excellence that has come to define The Theatre School. According to Buchanan, “the program has been under discussion for almost ten years,” and the development of the curriculum “involved discussions among the design and technical faculty, in conjunction with several local professional theatre sound designers and technicians...and the Music School sound recording faculty.” Students will study the principles, technology and artistic aspects of sound design, and will understand the core values of collaboration and production practice, all of which are essential to the vision and goals for the program.

Toy DeIorio has worked in many disciplines of the theatre, which has resulted in her 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.” According to DeIorio, a graduating sound design

student will have the “ability to analyze a script, find the flow of theatrical production, build an aural landscape, collaborate with other team members, find the acoustic precision in every room they work in, and they will do it all with their own perspective of the artist.”

The flexibility and adaptability of students who graduate from The Theatre School are shared qualities throughout all of the BFA and MFA programs. The Theatre School now offers Bachelor’s degrees in Acting, Costume Design, Costume Technology, Lighting Design, Scenic Design, Sound Design, Stage Management, Theatre Technology, Dramaturgy/Criticism, Playwriting, Theatre Arts and Theatre Management, as well as a Master of Fine Arts in Acting, Directing, and Arts Leadership.

More information about the Sound Design program and The Theatre School is available online at <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu> . Interviews are available upon request. Please contact Andrea Tichy, at atichy@depaul.edu.

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.