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The Theatre School Showcase of Contemporary Plays and Classics Presents:
***A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams**

The 2008-2009 Season Opens with Damon Kiely's Production of an American Classic

The Theatre School at DePaul University's Showcase Series of Contemporary Plays and Classics presents *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE*, written by Tennessee Williams and directed by Damon Kiely. Featuring a multicultural cast, this American masterpiece opens Friday, October 3 and runs through Sunday, October 12, 2008, at DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre. Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2 PM. Previews are on October 1, and October 2 at 7:30 PM.

In 1940s New Orleans on a street named Elysian Fields, the air is thick with jazz piano, whiskey, violence, love and desperate choices. A timeless classic of the American Theatre and winner of the 1948 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Tennessee Williams' poetic realism wears its heart on its sleeve. *For mature audiences.*

Tickets are \$15. Subscriptions and group rates (15 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 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).

DAMON KIELY (Director) Damon Kiely served as the Artistic Director of American Theater Company from 2002 to 2007. Directing credits at American Theater Company include *Oklahoma!* (Nominated for 6 Jeff Awards including Best Musical and Best Direction of a Musical), *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*, *Orpheus Descending*, *Kid-Simple*, *A View from the Bridge*, *Strictly Dishonorable*, and *The Hairy Ape*. At The Theatre School he has directed *There's a Boy in the Girls Bathroom* and *Hurrah for the Next Who Dies*, and looks forward to directing *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Prior to moving back to Chicago he produced, directed, and taught in New York City. In New York he directed for the Public Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, the Ontological Theater, Adobe Theater Company, PS122, Ensemble Studio Theater, and New Dramatists. Damon also served as the artistic director for Real Time Theater, and was a producing director at the Ontological-Hysteric Theater, as well as the associate artistic director for the Children's Theater of Maine. He is a winner of the 2000-02

NEA/TCG Career Directing Program, the 2000 Drama League Fall Directing Program, and the 1997 Princess Grace Award. He recently directed *Weekend* by Gore Vidal for Timeline Theatre Company. He lives in Edgewater with his wife, Jennifer, and their children, Isabella and Finnegan.

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (Playwright) is widely regarded as one of the most important and widely celebrated playwrights in American history. He wrote two Pulitzer Prize-winning plays: *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947) and *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* (1955). Other major works included *The Glass Menagerie* (1944), *Summer In Smoke* (1948), *The Rose Tattoo* (1957), *Camino Real* (1953), *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1959), and *The Night of the Iguana* (1964). He was nominated four times for the Tony Award for Best Play, winning once for *The Rose Tattoo*. He authored numerous short stories, one-act plays, two works of fiction, many screenplays, and numerous lesser-known plays. On February 25, 1983, Williams passed away at the age of 71 in his room at the Hotel Elysee in New York.

The cast of *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE* features **Nicholas Harper** (Young Man/Doctor), **Rashaad Hall** (Steve), **Erica Ikeda** (Woman/Matron), **Edward Karch** (Mitch), **Jonathan Kitt** (Stanley Kowalski), **Megan L. Kohl** (Blanche DuBois), **Lucy Sandy** (Stella Kowalski), **Joshua Torres** (Pablo) and **Jamila Turner** (Eunice).

The production staff includes **Damon Kiely** (Director), **Casey Diers** (Lighting Design), **Lauren M. Angelopoulos** (Scenic Design), **Kelly Hires-Greene** (Dramaturg), **Richie Fine** (Costume Design), **Toy DeIorio** (Sound Design), **Mark Elliott** (Musical Composition), **Stephen James Anderson** (Fight Choreography), **Phil Timberlake** (Dialect Coaching) and **Kristen Torgrimson** (Stage Manager).

SPECIAL EVENTS: A **post-show discussion** with the cast and members of the staff will be held on **Sunday, October 5**. The performance on **Sunday, October 12** (2 PM) will be interpreted in **American Sign Language**. TYY call (773) 325-7975. On **DePaul Night, October 8**, 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.