

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences Presents

T H E G I V E R

A 12 Year-Old Boy Seeks Answers about the Fullness of Life

The Theatre School at DePaul University presents *THE GIVER*, written by Lois Lowry, adapted for the stage by Eric Coble, and directed by Ernie Nolan, as the final production of the Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences 2007-2008 Season. The production opens Tuesday, April 1 and runs through Saturday, May 24 at DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre. Performances are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m. To purchase tickets, call the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

Based on the Newbery Award-winning book, *THE GIVER* takes place in a seemingly perfect world without pain, war, fear or inequality. But when young Jonas is selected as the Receiver of Memories, he begins to learn the difficult truths about his existence and the possibilities that a life full of choices can bring. *Recommended for ages 9 and up.*

Tickets are \$8. Group rates are available for 15 or more people. Seniors (over 60), DePaul employees and alumni and college students may receive a discount (with ID). DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre is located at 60 E. Balbo Drive at Michigan, in downtown 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).

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 <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu> or call (312) 922-1999.

Eric Coble (adapter) was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and bred on the Navajo and Ute reservations in New Mexico and Colorado. His plays have been produced Off-Broadway and on four continents, including productions at Manhattan Class Company, The Kennedy Center, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Cleveland Play House, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Alliance Theatre, Stages Repertory, and the Contemporary American Theater Festival. His

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awards include the AT&T Onstage Award and National Theatre Conference Playwriting Award. Mr. Coble is a member of the Cleveland Play House Playwrights Unit. He writes, acts, and plays with his family in Ohio.

Lois Lowry (author) has written over 30 books for children and young adults and is a two-time Newbery Medal Winner. She was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and attended junior high school in Tokyo, Japan. At the age of 17, Lowry attended Brown University and majored in writing. She left school at 19, got married, and had four children before her 25th birthday. After some time, she returned to college and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Maine. Lois Lowry didn't start writing professionally until she was in her mid-30s. Now she spends time writing every single day. One of her other hobbies is photography, and her own photos grace the covers of *NUMBER THE STARS*, *THE GIVER* and *GATHERING BLUE*. She has four children and two grandchildren. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. For more information visit <http://www.loislowry.com/>.

Ernie Nolan (director) is an Artistic Associate of Emerald City Theatre, where he has adapted and directed *SNOW WHITE*, directed and choreographed last season's world premiere of *THE JUNGLE BOOK* and directed and choreographed *SEUSSICAL*. He is also a Resident Artist at The Coterie Theatre in Kansas City, Missouri, recently named by TIME magazine as one of the top theatres for young audiences in the country. His credits include choreographing the world premiere of Stephen Schwartz's *GEPPETTO AND SON*, directing and choreographing the premiere of *THE DINOSAUR MUSICAL* and *TWICE UPON A TIME*. Ernie also adapted and directed *TREASURE TRUNK: AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 STORIES*, as well as *ONCE UPON A TREASURE TRUNK*. Ernie is a faculty member at the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts at the University of Indiana in South Bend. Ernie Nolan has an MFA in Directing from The Theatre School at DePaul University and a BA in Musical Theatre from the University of Michigan.

The cast features **Chance Bone** (Jonas), **Annie Calhoun** (Mother), **Jared Dennis** (Father), **Kate Lane** (Fiona), **Lauren Mayer** (Lilly), **Joshua M. Rowe** (Asher), **Clay Sanderson** (The Giver), and **Katie Spencer** (Chief Elder). The production staff includes **Richie Fine** (costume design), **Samantha Flint** (stage manager), **Emily Guthrie** (scenic design), **Nic Jones** (lighting design), and **Ray Nardelli** (sound design).

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.