

N E W S R E L E A S E

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

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The Theatre School's Showcase of Contemporary Plays & Classics Presents:
THE BURIAL AT THEBES, by Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney
Contemporary Political Issues Intersect With Ancient History

The Theatre School at DePaul University's Showcase Series of Contemporary Plays and Classics presents Seamus Heaney's ***THE BURIAL AT THEBES***, directed by Barry Brunetti. Charged with current-day political relevance while rooted in an ancient story, ***THE BURIAL AT THEBES*** runs Friday, February 8 through Sunday, February 17, 2008 at DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre. Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2 PM.

THE BURIAL AT THEBES was hailed by The Irish Times as a "beautifully transparent contemporary idiom" upon its debut at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. In this literary masterpiece, Irish poet and Nobel Prize-winning author Seamus Heaney retells Sophocles' classic *Antigone* and explores the eternal struggle between the rights of the individual and the security of the state. When Antigone defies the King of Thebes over the burial of her brother, she is faced with violent and tragic consequences.

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).

BARRY BRUNETTI (Director) has studied acting with David Downs here in Chicago and with Stephen Strimpell at the Herbert Berghof Studio in New York where, in a previous life, he appeared Off-Broadway in featured roles in *IRMA LA DOUCE* and *CITY OF LIFE*. Regionally, favorite roles include Salieri in *AMADEUS*, Nathan Detroit in *GUYS AND DOLLS*, Richard in *THE LION IN WINTER* and Jaspers in *KEEP TIGHTLY CLOSED IN A COOL, DRY PLACE*. In Chicago, he has appeared as George in American Theatre Company's remounting of *SCAPIN* at Theatre on the Lake, Tom French in Element Theater's production of *THE SECRET RAPTURE* at Victory Gardens, and Frank in Element's production of *PRIVATE EYES* at the Theatre Building. Regional directing credits include *WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?*, *EQUUS*, *CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF*,

and *DRACULA*. At The Theatre School, his directing credits include *HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES*, *CHILDE BYRON*, *DANNY AND THE DEEP BLUE*, *PINOCCHIO 3.5* and *THE KINGDOM OF GRIMM* for Chicago Playworks, *DINNER AT EIGHT* with Donald Ilko, and *LIFE'S A DREAM*. Chicago directing credits include critically acclaimed productions of Naomi Wallace's *ONE FLEA SPARE* (Chicago premiere); for TimeLine Theatre Company, Howard Barker's *NO END OF BLAME* and Ariel Dorfman's *DEATH AND THE MAIDEN*; and *DIFFERENCES IN JEALOUSY* for Collaboraction Theatre. He is a member of the Jeff Committee's Artistic and Technical Team and currently is a full-time faculty member at The Theatre School at DePaul University, where he heads the Theatre Arts program.

SEAMUS HEANEY (Playwright) was born April 13, 1939, at Mossbawn, about thirty miles northwest of Belfast, in Northern Ireland. His first book, *Death of a Naturalist*, was published in 1966. Heaney is the author of numerous collections of poetry, three volumes of criticism, and *The Cure at Troy*, a version of Sophocles' *Philoctetes*. He is a Foreign Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and held the chair of Professor of Poetry at Oxford from 1989 to 1994. In 1995, he received the Nobel Prize in Literature. A resident of Dublin since 1976, he spends part of each year teaching at Harvard University, where he was elected the Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory in 1984. *More information can be found at <http://www.Nobelprize.org>.*

The cast of ***THE BURIAL AT THEBES*** features **Jared Dennis** (Creon), **Zachary Kenney** (Paulie/Messenger), **Jason T. Love** (Haemon), **Victoria Oman** (Tiresias), **Courtney Payne** (Antigone), **Samantha Perry** (Ismene), **Joshua M. Rowe** (Chorus 2), **Hudsen Cy Schuchart** (Guard), **Dustin Valenta** (Chorus 1).

The staff includes **Barry Brunetti** (Director), **Lauren M. Angelopoulos** (Scenic Design), **Christopher Burpee** (Lighting Design), **Coral Gable** (Costume Designer), **Kristin Idazak** (Dramaturg), **Kelsey Lamm** (Stage Manager).

SPECIAL EVENTS: A Post-show discussion with the cast and members of the staff will be held on Sunday, February 10, following the 2 PM performance. The performance on Sunday, February 17 (2 PM) will be interpreted in **American Sign Language**. TYY call (773) 325-7975. On **DePaul Night**, February 13, tickets are \$3 for all students carrying valid ID 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.

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.