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Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences Presents
BUD, NOT BUDDY

Based on the Award-winning Children's Book by Christopher Paul Curtis

The Theatre School at DePaul University presents *BUD, NOT BUDDY*, written by Christopher Paul Curtis, adapted by Reginald André Jackson and directed by Phyllis E. Griffin, as the final installment of the 2008-2009 Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences Series. This production is generously supported by Bank of America, and will open Tuesday, March 31 and run through Saturday, May 23, 2009, at DePaul's historic Merle Reskin Theatre. Performances are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 AM and Saturdays at 2 PM. There will be no performances on April 4, 7, 9, or 11.

Winner of the Newbery Medal and the Coretta Scott King Award, *BUD, NOT BUDDY* follows the journey of a young African-American orphan as he searches for his father. Clues kept in his suitcase lead him to adventures in Depression-era Michigan, where he finds community among a group of jazz musicians and, ultimately, an unexpected sense of home.
Recommended for ages 9 and up.

Tickets are \$8. Subscriptions and group rates (15 or more people) are available at (312)-922-0999. DePaul employees, alumni, and college students receive a discount (with ID). Tickets are available online at <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu> or by calling the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre is located at 60 E. Balbo Drive at Michigan, in Chicago. For information about parking, please contact the Box Office. 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 or a free Teacher Guide highlighting curriculum connections visit <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu> or call (312) 922-1999.

The cast features **Mitchell Duran** (Jake/Cop/Dirty Deed), **Mercedes L. Frierson** (Young Momma/Miss Thomas), **Kroydell Galima** (Mr. Amos/Deza's Dad/Jimmy), **Loresa Yvonne** (Mrs. Amos/Deza), **Rashaad Hall** (Bud), **Nicholas Harper** (Bugs/Todd/Doo Doo Bug), **Erica Ikeda** (Caseworker/Librarian/Lifeguard), **Jonathan Kitt** (Herman C. Calloway/Young

Mr. Calloway), **Jared Lorenzo** (Billy Burns/Lefty/Doug the Thug), **Shannon Matesky** (Deza's Mom/Steady Eddie), and **Lucy Sandy** (Momma/Tyla).

The production staff includes **Phyllis E. Griffin** (Director), **Nick Sandys-Pullin** (Fight Choreography), **Justin Longnecker** (Scenic Design), **Ari Fulton** (Costume Design), **Elizabeth Patterson** (Lighting Design), **Nicholas Gajary** (Sound Design), **Elizabeth Schmeski** (Dramaturgy) and **Kristen Torgrimson** (Stage Management).

PHYLLIS E. GRIFFIN (Director) is a Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner® and Certified Lessac Teacher. In addition, she has studied with Richard Armstrong of the Roy Hart Theatre Method, Patsy Rodenburg, Catherine Fitzmaurice, Dudley Knight and Kristin Linklater. She has served as vocal coach for The Goodman Theatre, assisting on *Gem Of The Ocean*, *Drowning Crow*, *King Hedley II*, *Blues For An Alabama Sky*, and *I Am A Man*. She was the vocal coach for Shakespeare on the Green's production of *Othello* and has previously worked for Disney Productions as the vocal coach to prospective actors for *The Lion King*. She was also dialect coach for Joan Plowright on the feature film *Dennis The Menace* and has provided vocal instruction to several private business leaders and narrated documentaries for PBS and NPR. In addition to her work as a voice and speech professor, Phyllis has directed several plays for The Theatre School including *Two Trains Running*, *Insurrection: Holding History*, *Flyin' West*, *Stamping, Shouting And Singing Home*, *Sleep Deprivation Chamber*, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When The Rainbow Is Enuf*, and *Curse Of The Starving Class*.

Media comps, photographs and additional biographies are available upon request.

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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.