

Contact: Maliwan Diemer
Manager of Public Relations and Special Events
(773) 325-7819, mdiemer@depaul.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 16, 2007

Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences
Presents *EINSTEIN IS A DUMMY*
E Equals More Than Just MC² in Karen Zacarías' Story of Einstein as a Young Boy

The Theatre School at DePaul University presents ***EINSTEIN IS A DUMMY*** by Karen Zacarías, with music by Debbie Wicks La Puma, directed by Phyllis E. Griffin, and musical direction by Mark Elliot, as part of its Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences, the city's oldest continuously operating children's theatre. This engaging musical about a fictional day in the life of young Albert Einstein opens Thursday, March 29 and runs through Saturday, May 26 at DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre. Performances are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m. This production is sponsored in part by ComEd, an Exelon Company. To purchase tickets, call the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

As an adult, Albert Einstein changed our view of the universe. As a child, he struggled with the same issues any young person might – keeping up with violin lessons, impressing the girl next door and, of course, exploring the relationship of space and time to the speed of light! A spirited score, a healthy dose of imagination and one creative cat take audiences through a scientific journey that confirms we can all be both ordinary and special. Join this great mind in a show that reminds us of life's atomic possibilities.

Recommended for ages eight and up.

Tickets are \$8. Group rates are available for 15 or more people. Seniors (over 60), DePaul employees and alumni, and college students receive a discount (with ID). Tickets for Saturday performances are available online at www.ticketweb.com.

Performances are at DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre, 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).

SPECIAL EVENTS: A wide range of events will be held in conjunction with this production including an ice cream social, post show discussion, autograph session, and more! For details visit

<http://theatreschool.depaul.edu> or call (773) 325-7819.

Karen Zacarías (playwright) is the winner of the 1998 D.C. Mayor's Award for Outstanding Emerging Artist. Her play *The Sins of Sor Juana* premiered at Theatre of the First Amendment in Washington D.C., winning her the prestigious Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play. *Sor Juana* was also the winner of the Hispanic Playwrights' Project at South Coast Repertory Theatre, and was developed by ArtWorks, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and the Trinidad Theatre Workshop in St. Lucia under the direction of Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott. Karen is the Founder and Artistic Director of The Young Playwrights' Theater of D.C. (YPT), an arts-outreach program that uses playwriting and theater for conflict resolution, dialogue and arts empowerment for inner-city youth.

Phyllis E. Griffin (director) is head of The Theatre School's voice and speech program, a Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner® and Certified Lessac Teacher. 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*.

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.