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**The Theatre School at DePaul University's New Playwrights Series Presents
The World Premiere of *the gatekeeper* by Matthew Ducey, Directed by Coya Paz**

The Theatre School at DePaul University presents *the gatekeeper*, written by Matthew Ducey and directed by Coya Paz, as this year's New Playwrights Series selection. The production opens Friday, May 8 and runs through Sunday, May 17, 2009, at the Athenaeum Theatre Studio Three. Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2 PM. Previews are on May 6 and May 7 at 7:30 PM.

A coming-of-age story set in a small suburban town in Ohio, *the gatekeeper* follows four friends at the crossroads of loss and love as unexpected events unfold in the summer after high school graduation. With bright light bulbs in the sky and a teenage version of a childhood fort, Ducey's new play tackles memory and things left unsaid.

Admission is FREE but reservations are recommended. Call the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

New Playwrights Series productions feature a new play written by a current Theatre School student or recent graduate. To learn more about past projects, The New Playwrights Series or the BFA Playwriting curriculum, please visit <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu>.

The Athenaeum Theatre is located at 2936 N. Southport Ave., in Chicago. The theatre is accessible via public transportation, and parking options are available. For more information please contact the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

MATTHEW DUCEY (Playwright) is graduating in June of 2009 with his BFA in Playwriting from The Theatre School at DePaul University. Matthew comes to DePaul from North Canton, Ohio, where he worked on countless productions at the North Canton Playhouse, The Canton Players Guild and Young People's Performing Arts. At The Theatre School, he has served as the assistant stage manager for *The Swan*, the assistant director for *The Burial at Thebes*, the assistant dramaturg for *The Giver*, and was the dramaturg for the recent production of *Urinetown*. Matthew also served as the dramaturg for *Water Street*, part of the Bailiwick Director Festival 20.

COYA PAZ (Director) was raised in Peru, Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador, Brazil, and moved permanently to the United States in the late 1980's. She is the cofounder of Teatro Luna, Chicago's all-Latina Theater Company. Directing credits include *Tour Guides*, *Machos* and *The Drag King Rooftop Karaoke Hootchie Cootchie No Name Show and Musical Extravaganza*, as well as

numerous projects with Teatro Luna. Her solo projects include *Bitter Ole Hag*, *Malleus* and *Plain Old White Girl*. Upcoming projects include *Restaurant Spanish* and an as yet-untitled piece about race in the "post-racial" era. She is the Visiting Multicultural Faculty member at The Theatre School at DePaul University. Visit her on the web at www.coyapaz.com

The cast features **Katherine Cobb** (Kate), **Pascuala Mayorga** (Arcelia), **Hudsen Cy Schuchart** (Ben), **Arthur Luis Soria** (Dan) and **Kyle Wallace** (Bobby).

The staff includes **Coya Paz** (Director), **Matthew Ducey** (Playwright), **Kellen Drause** (Scenic Designer), **Bonnie Kooklin** (Costume Designer), **Rob Tolzien** (Lighting Designer), **Shane Kelly** (Sound Designer) and **Rose Streit** (Stage Manager).

A **post-show discussion** with the cast and members of the staff will be held on **Thursday, May 14** (performance starts at 7:30 PM). An **Opening Night Party** will be held on **Friday, May 8, 2009**, following the performance. Contact Andrea Tichy for details and more information.

MEDIA: Photos, media reservations, and interviews 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.