

N E W S R E L E A S E

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

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The Theatre School Showcase Presents *THE LAST FIVE YEARS*

Tony-Award Winner Jason Robert Brown's Musical
Explores a Failing Modern Romance

The Theatre School at DePaul University presents ***THE LAST FIVE YEARS***, written and composed by Jason Robert Brown and directed by Jason A. Fleece, as a part of the New Directors Series. An honest look at the mysteries of marriage, this contemporary musical opens Friday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m. and runs through Sunday, February 11, 2007, at Athenaeum Studio Three. Preview performances are January 31 and February 1 at 7:30 p.m. The production runs Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Admission is FREE but reservations are recommended; call the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

This one act musical, loosely based on Tony-Award winning composer Brown's real life, follows a young couple as their marriage comes to a close. In an unusual story-telling twist, Cathy's narrative starts from the conclusion of the relationship and travels backward to the smitten beginnings while Jamie tells his story from the first, promising date to the inevitable end. With music and subtle lyrics, this touching modern romance chronicles two people's journeys through life.

Performances of *The Last Five Years* are at Athenaeum Studio Three, 2936 N. Southport Ave., Chicago. Admission is FREE. Reservations are encouraged; call (312) 922-1999. The Athenaeum offers some street parking and is CTA accessible (Southport or Wellington El stops).

SPECIAL EVENT: A post-show discussion with the cast follows the performance on Thursday, February 8, 2007.

For further information about *The Last Five Years*, visit <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu>

New Directors Series productions are directed in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Fine Arts degree in Directing at The Theatre School and features the work of advanced students in the program.

Production staff includes **Jason A. Fleece** (Director), **Justin Longnecker** (Scenic Design), **Meghann Plummer** (Costume Design), **Alec Bernstein** (Lighting Design), **Matthew Didier** (Dramaturgy) and **Anna Ashley** (Stage Manager).

The cast includes **Stewart Calhoun** (Jamie) and **Jessica Rosenberger** (Cathy).

Jason A. Fleece (Director) is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he received his B.A. in Theatre Arts with a concentration in acting from Point Park University. In Pittsburgh, Fleece directed many productions; his favorites include David Mamet's *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* and the world premieres of *Rain in the Hollows* and *Pound* by Sean O'Leary. He has also directed workshop productions of *The Coming World*, *Fuddy Meers*, *Sympathetic Magic* and *Savage in Limbo* for The Theatre School.

Jason Robert Brown's (Composer and Lyricist) musical *The Last Five Years*, which debuted in Chicago, was cited as one of *Time Magazine's* 10 Best of 2001 and won Drama Desk Awards for Best Music and Best Lyrics. Brown won a 1999 Tony Award for his score to *Parade*, and subsequently won both the Drama Desk and New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards for Best New Musical. He is also the winner of the 2002 Kleban Award for Outstanding Lyrics and the 1996 Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Foundation Award for Musical Theatre. Brown's recent theatre project, *13*, a musical comedy written with Dan Elish, is on stage at the Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles.

The Theatre School at DePaul University 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.