

N E W S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2006

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The Theatre School Showcase Presents Calderón's *LIFE'S A DREAM*
Loyalty and Honor Explored in Spanish Renaissance Classic

DePaul University's Theatre School Showcase presents ***LIFE'S A DREAM*** by Pedro Calderón de la Barca, adapted by Adrian Mitchell and John Barton, with original music and musical direction by Mark Elliott, directed by Barry Brunetti. The play opens on Friday, February 9 and runs through Sunday, February 18, at DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre, with preview performances on February 7 and 8. Performances are Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30 PM and Sunday at 2 PM. **For tickets, call the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.**

Ticket are \$15, and student tickets are \$6. Group rates are available for 15 or more people. Seniors (over 60), Corporate Partners, DePaul employees and alumni, and college students receive a discount (with ID). Preview tickets are \$10 or free to college students with ID. Tickets are available online at www.ticketweb.com and www.hottix.org.

Performances are held 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 buses (3-King Drive, 29-State Street, 146-Michigan/Museums and others), and CTA El stops (Red, Blue, Brown, Green, Pink, Orange and Purple).

In this Spanish Renaissance play, King Basilio puts the life-long imprisoned Prince Sigismund to a test of kingship, Lady Rosaura begins a quest to regain her honor, and Lord Astolfo and his cousin Estrella vie for their place on the throne. This sweeping saga reveals betrayals, political power struggles and ultimately the power of loyalty and love. Calderón's beautiful poetry weaves a tale about following destiny and walking the fine line between dreams and reality.

Pedro Calderón de la Barca (1600-1681) was a Spanish dramatist whose work was, in the beginning, focused on secular subjects, but he later turned toward religion following the death of his mistress. Calderón was commissioned by Philip IV to write a series of plays for the royal theater in the Buen Retiro and was honored as a Knight of the Order of Santiago in 1637. Many of his later writings focused on three main themes: loyalty to the King, devotion to the church and the protection or assertion of one's honor through revenge. The Golden Age of Spanish drama is said to have come to a close with the death of Calderón in 1681. *LIFE'S A DREAM* is probably the best known of his dramatic works.

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 WOLF?*, *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 SEA*, *PINOCCHIO 3.5* and *THE KINGDOM OF GRIMM* for Chicago Playworks, and *DINNER AT EIGHT* with Donald W. Ilko. Chicago directing credits include critically acclaimed productions of Naomi Wallace's *ONE FLEA SPARE* (Chicago premiere); Howard Barker's *NO END OF BLAME* and Ariel Dorfman's *DEATH AND THE MAIDEN* for TimeLine Theatre Company; and *DIFFERENCES IN JEALOUSY* for Collaboraction Theatre. He is a member of the Joseph Jefferson 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.

Production staff includes **Barry Brunetti** (Director), **Jack Magaw** (Scenic Design), **Christine Conley** (Costume Design), **Nic Jones** (Lighting Design), **Scotty Iseri** (Sound Design), **Rachel Shteir** (Dramaturg), and **Danielle Shindler** (Stage Manager).

Cast includes **Ian Custer** (Sigismund), **Jacqui Jackson** (Estrella), **Donald W. Ilko** (Clotaldo), **Jason Karasev** (Astolfo), **James Lusk** (Clarion), **Derek Peruo** (Basilio) and **Andrea Tichy** (Rosaura).

SPECIAL EVENTS: A post-show discussion with the cast follows the performances on Sunday, February 11 and Thursday, February 15. The performance on Wednesday, February 14 is "DePaul Night," and tickets are half price for all DePaul faculty, staff and students, as well as any high school and university student (with ID).

ROSEXPRESSIONS DAY: Audience members are eligible to win a valuable floral arrangement, a \$75 value, following the performance on Sunday, February 11.

INTERPRETED PERFORMANCES: The performance on Sunday, February 18 will be interpreted in American Sign Language. For further information about interpreted performances, call the Box Office or TTY (773) 325-7975.

For more information about The Theatre School at DePaul University, its programs, or performances, please visit <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu> or call the Office of Marketing and Public Relations at 773-325-7938.

The Theatre School at DePaul University educates, trains and inspires students of theatre in a conservatory setting that is rigorous, disciplined, culturally diverse, and that strives for the highest level of professional skill and artistry. A commitment to diversity and equality in education is central to the school's 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.

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