

**N E W S   R E L E A S E**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**The Theatre School Presents *LIKE A COW OR AN ELEPHANT***  
***Theodore Ward Prize Winning Play to be Directed by Goodman Theatre Resident Director***

The Theatre School at DePaul University presents Kara Lee Corthron's ***LIKE A COW OR AN ELEPHANT***, directed by Chuck Smith, as part of its Showcase Series. Winner of the **Theodore Ward Prize**, this socially charged work opens Friday, May 18 and runs through Sunday, May 27, 2007 at DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre. Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. with previews on May 16 and 17. To purchase tickets, call the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

*Like a Cow or An Elephant* is the story of Kreena, a woman around thirty years of age, who works a job as a janitor in an office building—a job she cherishes—and lives in a house with her eccentric, history-obsessed mother. Kreena's methodical, repetitive life is, in part, due to a mild developmental disability. Kreena also feels trapped by her mother's controlling influence. Despite the obstacles she must confront, which also include a brother in narcotics rehabilitation, a new co-worker invading the private sanctuary of her job, and a mysterious stranger with secrets, Kreena can't help but see the best in all people. In *Like a Cow or An Elephant*, Kreena must travel the difficult path from her safe shell to independence and self-actualization.

The **Theodore Ward Prize** – named for the African-American author, playwright and Chicagoan (1902-1983) – recognizes the outstanding individual accomplishments of African-American playwrights, as well as their importance to the shape and direction of American drama in our time. Winners are nationally renowned for holding a mirror up to a myriad of subject matter.

Tickets are \$15. 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 are available by calling the Box Office at (312) 922-1999 or online at [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com).

Performances are at DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre, 60 E. Balbo Drive, 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, Orange, Purple and Pink).

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** Post-show discussions with the cast follow the performance on Sunday, May 20 and Thursday, May 24. The performance on Sunday, May 27 will be interpreted in American Sign Language. Details for these and other events are available at <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu> or by calling (773) 325-7819.

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The cast features Wardell Clark (Levvy), Ashlee Jones (Kreena), Lauren Malara (Mama), Sarah Marcus (Cass), and Austin Talley (Michel). The crew includes John Holt (scenic design), Katie Cordts (costume design), Alec Bernstein (lighting design), Josh Horvath (sound design), Lenora Brown & Caitlin Hansen (dramaturgy), and Samantha Flint (stage management).

**Kara Lee Corthron** (*Playwright*) is a 2006 graduate of the Lila Acheson Wallace Playwriting Program at the Juilliard School. Her play, *Like a Cow or An Elephant*, was workshopped at ENVISION, Voice & Vision's summer lab/retreat, in 2005. *Like a Cow . . .* received a workshop production in February (2006) at Juilliard and a reading with Voice & Vision at MTC Studios in December of 2005. Kara is a nominee for the 2007 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. She is also the winner of the 2006 New Professional Theatre Writer's Award for her play *End-Zone Zephyr*, is a finalist for the New York Theatre Workshop Artists-of-Color Fellowship, and is a semi-finalist for the P73 Fellowship. She is also a two-time recipient of the Lecomte du Nouy Foundation Award, is a two-time nominee for the Cherry Lane Mentor Project, and received a Rodgers-Guettel Fellowship. Kara's most recent play, *Wild Black-Eyed Susans*, was developed in a lab reading at Juilliard and received readings in July with Circle East Repertory Theatre at SUNY, New Paltz and Ensemble Studio Theatre's Going to the River Festival. *Wild Black-Eyed Susans* was produced at Juilliard this past fall, directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton. Her one-act, *Cave Krewe*, was produced in October at Manhattan Theatre Source as part of Estrogenius 2006 and will be published in *Book of Estrogenius 2006*, due to be released next year.

**Chuck Smith** (*Director*) is a Goodman Theatre resident director, an artist-in-residence at Columbia College Chicago, and an associate producer of Legacy Productions, a Chicago-based touring company. Goodman credits include the Chicago premiere of *Proof and The Story*; the world premieres of *By the Music of the Spheres* and *The Gift Horse*; James Baldwin's *The Amen Corner*, which transferred to Boston's Huntington Theatre where it won the IRNE (Independent Reviewers of New England) Award for best direction; Lynn Nottage's *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*; Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*; Pearl Cleage's *Blues for an Alabama Sky*; August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*; the 1993 to 1995 productions of *A Christmas Carol*; *Vivisections from a Blown Mind* and *The Meeting*. He served as dramaturg for the Goodman production of August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*. At Columbia College, he is facilitator of the Theodore Ward playwriting contest and editor of the contest anthology *Seven Black Plays*. He is also a founding member of the Chicago Theatre Company, where he served as artistic director for four seasons. Mr. Smith is the proud recipient of the 1982 Paul Robeson Award, the 1997 award of merit presented by the Black Theatre Alliance of Chicago, and is currently a board member of Sullivan House, The League of Chicago Theatres and the African-American Arts Alliance of Chicago.

**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.