

MEDIA ALERT

Contact: Andrea Tichy
Manager of Public Relations and Special Events
(773) 325-7819, atichy@depaul.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 17, 2008

SHARON GLESS, TRACY LETTS & ZACH HELM To Be Honored at
The Theatre School's 20th Annual Awards for Excellence in the Arts,
Hosted by Theatre School Alumna AMY PIETZ

The Theatre School at DePaul University is pleased to honor **SHARON GLESS**, actress (*Burn Notice*, *Nip/Tuck*, *Queer As Folk*, *Cagney & Lacey*), as well as **TRACY LETTS**, 2008 Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, and **ZACH HELM**, Theatre School alumnus and screenwriter (*Stranger Than Fiction*, *Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium*) at the 20th Annual Awards for Excellence in the Arts, **Tuesday, April 22, 2008**. The event will be hosted by Theatre School alumna **AMY PIETZ**, currently starring as 'Franny Tolchuck' in the CW's critically acclaimed series *Aliens In America*. She is also known for her portrayal of 'Annie Spadaro' on the NBC sitcom, *Caroline in the City* – for which she received a nomination from the Screen Actor's Guild for Best Actress in a Comedy.

The Theatre School is pleased to present the Leadership Award for Excellence in the Arts to **LOIS WEISBERG**, Commissioner, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs. David J. Rudis will be accepting the 2008 Corporate Award for Excellence in the Arts on behalf of **BANK OF AMERICA**.

Photo, film and interview opportunities are available during the VIP Media Reception from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. in The Four Seasons Hotel Chicago's State Room. Photo and film opportunities are also available during the on-stage awards presentation, which includes a Q and A session with the honorees, from approximately 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. Individual interview requests will be accommodated as honoree schedules permit.

Each year this event recognizes distinguished artists who have made significant contributions to the arts and celebrates exceptional professional accomplishments. The Annual Awards for Excellence in the Arts benefits The Theatre School's Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to students from across the country who come to train at the school, one of the leading conservatories in the nation.

For more information visit <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu>. To schedule photo or interview opportunities or to RSVP to the Media Reception, please contact Andrea Tichy, Manager of Public Relations and Special Events at (773) 325-7819. For tickets, call PJH & Associates, Inc., at (312) 553-2000.

Honoree biographies & photos are available upon request. Media availability subject to honorees' schedule.

###