

N E W S R E L E A S E

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 22, 2007

The Theatre School at DePaul University's
Annual Awards For Excellence In The Arts
Celebrating Outstanding Work in the Field for 19 Years

LaSalle Bank, Norman R. Bobins, President and CEO, to Receive Corporate Award
Shirley R. Madigan, Chair, Illinois Arts Council, to Receive Award for Leadership in the Arts

When was the last time you had cocktails with the star of a hit television series? Dinner with a notorious movie villain? Dancing with the head of a major corporation? Join **The Theatre School at DePaul University** for its **19th Annual Awards for Excellence in the Arts, Wednesday, April 18, 2007** for all this and more. An electric evening of film, television and theatre celebrities along with a one-of-a-kind auction and live entertainment make this one of the not-to-be-missed events of 2007.

This year, The Theatre School is pleased to honor long time Illinois arts advocate Shirley Madigan, generous arts supporter LaSalle Bank, and special celebrity honorees at the Awards for Excellence in the Arts. These distinguished guests will join The Theatre School at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, 120 E. Delaware Place, to celebrate the dedication and passion for the arts that thrives in our city because of the commitment of artists and leaders like these outstanding individuals. Celebrity honorees will be announced soon; information is to follow.

The ticket price for the benefit is \$500 per person, with tables for 10 available for \$5,000; \$10,000 or \$25,000. The evening begins at 6 p.m. and concludes at 10 p.m. For tickets or more information, call PJH & Associates, Inc., at (312) 553-2000. All proceeds benefit the school's Scholarship Fund.

Theatre School Board co-chairs are Joseph Antunovich, President, Antunovich Associates, Architects and Planners; Renée Crown, Civic Leader; Sondra A. Healy, Chairman, Turtle Wax, Inc.; and Monsignor Kenneth Velo, Senior Executive for Catholic Collaboration, DePaul University.

-- MORE --

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. In addition to the Awards for Excellence in the Arts presented to the select inspiring artists, a Corporate Award was established in 1998 to honor exemplary corporate philanthropy to the arts.

Since its inception in 1989, the Awards benefit has raised over \$2.5 million, making it the largest single source for The Theatre School's Scholarship Fund. All monies raised during the event go directly to this fund, which dispenses more than \$600,000 in financial aid each year, giving talented students the resources needed to continue their training. More than 400 guests attended in 2006, raising a record \$220,000 for the Scholarship Fund.

The award itself is a beautiful Wedgwood bowl or vase, a gift to The Theatre School for this purpose from Lord Piers Wedgwood of the legendary Wedgwood firm. Lord and Lady Wedgwood have served as honorary chairpersons and often attend the event. Major supporters of the 19th Annual Awards include American Airlines and Wedgwood USA.

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.

For more information visit <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu>. Photo and interview opportunities are available. Please contact Maliwan Diemer, Manager of Public Relations and Special Events for details.

Honoree Biographies Follow:

Shirley R. Madigan

Shirley R. Madigan has served on the Illinois Arts Council (IAC) since 1976 and has been Chairman for over 20 years. Ms. Madigan actively represents the Council to arts organizations, individual artists, government officials,

educators and the business and philanthropy communities. She has traveled extensively throughout Illinois, nationally and internationally in fulfilling this role.

Since being named IAC Chairman her many accomplishments include the commissioning of the "Hybrid Muse" by internationally acclaimed Illinois sculptor Richard Hunt which is awarded to Governor's Awards for the Arts recipients. She has been on steering committees for Gallery 37, After School Matters, Year of the American Craft, and the Abraham Lincoln Institute for Literacy in America. Shirley has served on the National Endowment for the Arts Advisory Board on Arts Education, the board of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Arts Midwest and the Illinois Ethnic Heritage Commission. She currently serves on the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and is a Trustee of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

Two governors have invited her to accompany them on official international missions as their Arts Ambassador. With Governor James R. Thompson she represented Illinois arts in Germany and Spain and with Governor George H. Ryan, she traveled to Cuba. In the fall of 2001 she was part of the official Illinois/Chicago-United Kingdom Culture, Tourism and Commerce Trade Mission to England and Ireland. Governor Rod Blagojevich recently appointed her to serve as Illinois' delegate to the U.S. Cultural Heritage & Tourism Summit in Washington, DC.

Shirley R. Madigan is the mother of Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Tiffany, Nicole and Andrew and the life-long partner of Illinois House Speaker Michael J. Madigan.

LaSalle Bank N.A.

LaSalle Bank N.A. is the largest bank headquartered in Chicago, with USD 72.9 billion in assets and USD 43.7 billion in deposits. LaSalle Bank serves individuals, small businesses, middle-market companies and institutions through 135 retail locations and 450 ATMs in Chicago and its suburbs, and online at lasallebank.com.

LaSalle Bank has retail and commercial operations in 20 states and 26 cities across the U.S. In addition, it offers specialty services through its direct and indirect subsidiaries, including LaSalle Financial Services, Inc., LaSalle National Leasing Corporation and LaSalle Business Credit, LLC.

Parent company LaSalle Bank Corporation, also headquartered in Chicago, has more than USD 124 billion in assets. It is an indirect subsidiary of Netherlands-based ABN AMRO Bank N.V., a leading international bank with total assets of EUR 999 bln. ABN AMRO operates more than 4,500 branches in 53 countries, and has a staff of more than 110,000 full-time employees worldwide.