

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Theatre School at DePaul University Presents: IN THE HEIGHTS

CHICAGO, IL, (September 15, 2014) – The Theatre School at DePaul University is pleased to present *In the Heights*, music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda, book by Quiara Alegría Hudes, and conceived by Lin-Manuel Miranda, in the Fullerton Stage Theatre in the new Theatre School building located at Racine and Fullerton. The production, directed by Lisa Portes, premieres on Friday, October 3, and runs through Sunday, October 12, 2014. Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2 PM. Previews are on October 1 and 2, at 7:30 PM.

About the play: *In the Heights* tells the universal story of a vibrant community in New York’s Washington Heights neighborhood—a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open, and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. It’s a community on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams, and pressures, where the biggest struggles can be deciding which traditions you take with you, and which ones you leave behind.

Winner of the 2008 Tony Awards for Best Musical and Best Score, this freestyle coming of age story blends questions about the future with hip-hop and salsa in the barrio.

Tickets are \$15, preview tickets are \$10, and student tickets are always \$5. Subscriptions and group rates (6 or more people) are available. All tickets are reserved seating. Tickets are available by calling (773) 325-7900 or visiting the online box office at <http://theatre.depaul.edu>.

The Theatre School at DePaul University is located at 2350 N Racine Ave (at Fullerton). The school is easily accessible via the Fullerton CTA Station and the Fullerton (74) bus. Visitors and audience members can park in DePaul University’s Clifton Parking Deck, located at 2330 N Clifton Avenue. Please call the Box Office for more information or for help in planning your trip.

For patrons who are blind or have low-vision, the performance will be audio described on Friday, October 10 (7:30 PM) with a pre-performance touch tour. Call 773.325.7900. The performance on October 12 (2 PM) will be interpreted in American

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Sign Language. TTY: 773.325.7975. Wednesday, October 8 (7:30 PM) is USO of IL Night, U.S. Armed Forces personnel and their families can attend the performance for free. Visit www.tixfortroops.org to reserve tickets, or call 773.325.7900 for more information. Additional special events include an Opening Night Reception following the performance on October 3, and post-show discussions on October 5 and 9.

The cast features **Victoria Allen** (Carla), **Madeline Baird** (Ensemble), **Trevor Bates** (Ensemble), **Lucy Blehar** (Vanessa), **Michael Sebastian Buono** (Sonny), **Denzel Irby** (Ensemble), **Christopher Jones** (Piragua Guy), **Craig Ketchum** (Ensemble), **Juwan Lockett** (Benny), **Jeri Marshall** (Claudia), **Lauren Mitchell** (Ensemble), **Krystal Ortiz** (Nina), **Paola Sanchez** (Camila), **Talia Payomo** (Graffiti Pete), **Jeremy Pfaff** (Kevin), **Max Stewart** (Ensemble), **Sofia Tew** (Daniela), **Gail Tierney** (Ensemble), and **Wesley Toledo** (Usnavi).

The production staff includes **Lisa Portes** (Director), **Elyse Balogh** (Scenic Designer), **Courtney Schum** (Costume Designer), **Dan Friedman** (Lighting Designer), **Rachel Boissevain** (Sound Designer), **Maureen Kuhl** (Dramaturg), and **Dana Stringer** (Stage Manager).

Lisa Portes (Director) serves as the Head of Directing and the Artistic Director of Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences for The Theatre School. Recent project include *Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West* (TimeLine Theatre), *Ghostwritten* (Goodman Theatre), and *After A Hundred Years* (Guthrie Theatre), all by Naomi Iizuka; *Night Over Erzinga* (by Adriana Sevahn-Nichols), *Ski Dubai* by Laura Jacqmin and *Spare Change* by Mia McCullough (First Look Repertory of New Plays, Steppenwolf Theatre). Primarily a director of new plays and musicals, her work has been seen regionally at the Kennedy Center, South Coast Repertory Theatre's Hispanic Playwrights Project, McCarter Theatre Lab, A Contemporary American Theatre Festival, Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., the Sundance Theatre Lab, the Cape Cod Theatre Project, the Santa Barbara Theatre Lab, and the Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference; in New York her work has been seen at Playwrights Horizons, Soho Rep, New York Theatre Workshop, the Public Theatre, the Flea Theatre and the Cherry Lane Alternative Theatre. Lisa mounted the international productions of the Tony Award-winning musical *The Who's Tommy*, as its Associate Director, and also served as Associate Director for the 1st National Tour of *Titanic*. Lisa is an artistic associate at Next Theatre and Chicago Children's Theatre. Awards include the Drama League and NEP/TCG Directors' Fellowship as well as a Fulbright/Hays Fellowship. Lisa lives in Bridgeport with her husband, playwright Carlos Murillo, and their two children Eva Rose and Carlos Alejandro.

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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.