

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Theatre School Showcase: Contemporary Plays and Classics Presents: SPRING AWAKENING directed by Damon Kiely

The Theatre School at DePaul University's Showcase Series of Contemporary Plays and Classics presents *Spring Awakening*, book & lyrics by Steven Sater, music by Duncan Sheik, based on the play by Wedekind, with musical direction by Mark Elliot, and directed by Damon Kiely. This rock musical premieres on Friday, September 28, and runs through Sunday, October 7, 2012, at DePaul's historic Merle Reskin Theatre. Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2 PM. Previews are on September 26 and 27, at 7:30 PM.

1890s Germany. Winner of eight Tony Awards, this rock musical adaptation proves that Wedekind's coming-of-age tragedy still has the power to shock. *Spring Awakening* pits the radiance of youth against the apathy of adulthood with a powerful score by Duncan Sheik. Due to adult situations and content, parental supervision is recommended for ages 17 and younger.

Tickets are \$15. Subscriptions and group rates (6 or more people) are available at (312)-922-0999. Seniors (over 60), DePaul employees and alumni, and college students receive a discount (with ID). Previews are FREE for any college student (with ID). Tickets are available by calling the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

DePaul's historic Merle Reskin Theatre is located at 60 E. Balbo Drive at Michigan, Chicago. There are several parking lots near the theatre, and the theatre is also accessible via numerous CTA bus and train routes. Please call the Box Office for more information, directions, and suggestions to help plan your trip.

Damon Kiely (Director) is a professional director and writer, as well as a full time professor of directing and acting for DePaul's Theatre School. He has directed for Next Theatre, TimeLine Theatre Company, A Red Orchid Theatre, American Blues Theatre, Chicago Dramatists, and Route 66. His world premiere adaptation of *Thieves Like Us* was produced by the House Theatre of Chicago and The Theatre School. He served as the Artistic Director of American Theater Company from 2002 to 2007. Directing credits at ATC include *Oklahoma!* (Nominated for 6 Jeff Awards including Best Musical and Best Direction of a Musical), *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*, *Orpheus Descending*, *A View from the Bridge*, *Strictly Dishonorable*, and *The Hairy Ape*. He also recently directed *Weekend* by Gore Vidal for TimeLine Theatre. At The Theatre School he has directed *There's a Boy in the Girls Bathroom*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Medea*, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, and his original adaptation of *Nancy Drew and the Sign of the Twisted Candles*. Prior to moving back to Chicago he produced, directed, and taught in New York City. In New York he directed for the Public Theatre, New York Theatre

Workshop, the Ontological Theater, Adobe Theater Company, PS122, Ensemble Studio Theater and New Dramatists. Damon also served as the Artistic Director for Real Time Theater and was a Producing Director at the Ontological-Hysterical Theater as well as the Associate Artistic Director for the Children's Theater of Maine. He is a winner of the 2000-02 NEA/TCG Career Directing Program, the 2000 Drama League Fall Directing Program and the 1997 Princess Grace Award. He lives in Edgewater with his wife Jennifer and their children, Isabella and Finnegan.

The cast features **Brenton Abram-Copenhaver** (Otto), **Jack Ball** (Moritz), **Cameron Benoit** (Georg), **David Giannini** (Hanschen), **Lauren Guglielmello** (Ilse), **Sonaz Izadi** (Wendla), **Joe Keery** (Melchior), **Clayton Louis** (The Adult Men), **Maureen Mizener** (Thea), **Louie Rinaldi** (Ernst), **Kelsey Ann Wacker** (Martha), **Alissa Walker** (Anna), and **Marie Weiss** (The Adult Women).

The production staff includes **Damon Kiely** (Director), **Mark Elliott** (Musical Director), **Julia Neary** (Choreographer), **Kirk V. Hughes** (Scenic Design), **Lissa Lamona** (Costume Design), **Nick Belley** (Lighting Design), **Jack Hawkins** (Sound Design), **Mike Doyle** (Dramaturgy), and **Todd Boger** (Stage Management).

SPECIAL EVENTS: An **Opening Night Party** will be held after the performance on **September 28**. **October 5** is **Greater Chicago Food Depository Night**; patrons will receive a \$5 ticket for bringing 2 or more non-perishable goods to the theatre. Active U.S. Armed Forces Personnel and their families are invited to attend for free on **October 6** for **USO Night**. The performance on **Sunday, October 7** (2 PM) will be interpreted in **American Sign Language and will include an Audio Description**. TYY call (773) 325-7975. For details, photos, or more information visit theatre.depaul.edu or call (773) 922-1999.

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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.