

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2017

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Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences Presents JUNIE B. JONES IS NOT A CROOK

Based on the Beloved Book Series by Barbara Park

CHICAGO — The Theatre School at DePaul University presents *Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook*, written by Allison Gregory adapted from the book series by Barbara Park and directed by Krissy Vanderwarker. *Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook* is a part of The Theatre School's Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences Series.

Remember Junie B. Jones? She's back, and she's on stage! In the theatrical world of *Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook*, Junie B.'s everyday life is packed with amazing discoveries, cool new kids, and life-long lessons about being a good person and a good friend! Recommended for ages 5 and up.

Complimentary teacher guides for *Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook* are available online for educators and interested audience members. Guides include activities and discussions for before and after the performance, which highlight core learning goals. Themes from this production include fairness, friendship, honesty, integrity, and self-discipline.

Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook opens January 11, 2018, and runs through February 17, 2018, at DePaul's historic Merle Reskin Theatre. Performances are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 AM, and Saturdays 2 PM. Special Friday performances (10 AM) will occur on February 2 and February 9. A Sunday performance will be held on February 4 (2 PM). There is no Saturday performance on February 3.

The performance of *Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook* on February 8 will be audio described by Shayne Kennedy. The performances on February 9 and 10 will be interpreted in American Sign Language. Call TTY: 773.325.7975 for more information. Join the cast for an autograph session after the performance on January 13. The performances on January 25 and February 4 will be followed by a post-show discussion. Visit the website or call the box office for additional details.

Tickets are \$10. Subscriptions and group rates (15 or more people) are available. DePaul employees, alumni, and college students receive a discount (with ID). Active military and their families receive a discount (with ID). Tickets are available online or by calling the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

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DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre is located at 60 E. Balbo Drive at Michigan Avenue, in Chicago. For information about parking, please contact the Box Office. 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).

The cast features **Caroline Hendricks** (*Junie B. Jones*), **Rachel Blakes** (*Grace/Pink Fluffy Girl*), **Marian van Noppen** (*Lucille/Grouchy Typing Lady/Choir*), **Elizabeth Weiner** (*Mrs./Mother/Parrot*), **Jasper Johnson** (*Jim/Mitten Crook/Choir*), **Johnny Tran** (*Handsome Warren/Fireman/Choir*), **Noah Kurnik** (*Ricardo/Lucille's Grandpa/Choir*), and **Aidan Senn** (*Principal/Grampa Frank Miller/Choir*).

The production team includes scenic design by **Courtney O'Neill**, costume design by **Madeleine Byrne**, lighting design by **Katelyn Le-Thompson**, sound design by **Kendall Baron**, technical direction by **Tim Combs**, dramaturgy by **Mariah Schultz**, and stage management by **Ben Gates-Utter**.

About the Director: Krissy Vanderwarker (*Director*) is a freelance director and the Co-Artistic Director of Dog & Pony Theatre Co. D&P directing credits include *Breach*, *Counterfeiters*, *The Dinner Party Project*, *God's Ear*, *As Told by the Vivian Girls*, *Mr. Marmalade*, *Ape*, *Osama the Hero*, *Crumble (Lay Me Down, Justin Timberlake)* and *As Much As You Can*. Other professional directing credits include *Thaddeus and Slocum: A Vaudeville Adventure* (Lookingglass), *Harry & The Thief* (Pavement Group), *The Grown-Up* (Shattered Globe), *Bethany* (First Look Festival/Steppenwolf), *As Fat As You Can* (Next Theatre), *CLEAR* (About Face), *What Once We Felt* (About Face) and *As Much As You Can* (Hendel Productions West). She graduated with her MFA in Directing from The Theatre School at DePaul University and is currently a faculty member. Krissyvanderwarker.com.

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The Theatre School trains students to the highest level of professional skill and artistry in an inclusive and diverse conservatory setting.