GOODMAN SCHOOL TO SAVE SELF

On April 1, 1977, representative faculty of the Goodman School of Drama, a School of the Art Institute of Chicago, filed papers with the Illinois Secretary of State incorporating The Goodman School of Drama as an independent school. The new school is scheduled to open in the Fall of 1978. Included in the group were James Maronek, Joseph Slowik, Estelle Spector and Bella Itkin Konrath. The school is being established to perpetuate a tradition of theatrical training for aspiring professionals that has been a feature of the Chicago art scene for 51 years.

This tradition became endangered two years ago when the Art Institute of Chicago suddenly announced its intention to phase out the Goodman School over a three year period ending in the Spring of 1978. The school had gained such an international reputation over its 51 years that the announcement of its closing was carried in such distant journals as the London Times. More to the point for Chicagoans, the long established series of lavishly mounted productions for children known as the Goodman Children's Theatre seemed destined to close with the school. Three generations of many families recalled their involvement with the school through these productions.

There is urgent need now to inform the public that a Goodman School of Drama will exist in the Fall of 1978 and after. Further, those people who offered their help on hearing of the school's potential closing can now work through the organization of the new school to make a meaningful contribution. The Goodman School of Drama

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Alumni Association which was founded two years ago is providing seed money for initial mailings and is still seeking current names and addresses of persons who have attended the school.

TWO YEAR ATTEMPT AT AFFILIATION INCONCLUSIVE

The school has been actively seeking its future over the past two years. Recognizing the value of the school to metropolitan Chicago, several area institutions have explored with the faculty and administration of the school the feasibility of a mutually beneficial affiliation. These institutions have included Shimer College, University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, Roosevelt University and the Consortium of Colleges. While some of these avenues remain open to the planned school, the intricacies of integrating the needs of two institutions cannot be rushed through. Time is of the essence with less than 17 months before the first class begins in the new school.

Planning for independent operation is now underway, and the drive for necessary funding will begin in the near future.

Inquiries should be directed to Kenneth F. Peters, interim coordinator at 443-3833.

End of Release

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