

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 14, 2013

Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences Presents
THE CORAL KING
An Ocean Adventure for All Ages

The Theatre School at DePaul University proudly presents *The Coral King*, by James Ambrose Brown and directed by Ann Wakefield, as the closing production of the 2012-2013 Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences Series. This production opens Tuesday, April 2, and runs through Saturday, May 25, 2013, at DePaul's historic Merle Reskin Theatre. Performances are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 AM and Saturdays at 2 PM. There will be no performances on April 6, 9, 11, 13 or May 4, 7, 9, 11.

A magical postcard from the salty sea, this original fairy tale is an enchanting story about mermaids, a blue cat, an acrobatic octopus, and the Majesty of the Ocean. Pierre works all the time to please his lazy siblings who grow greedier on an island of many treasures. But when he meets an intriguing stranger, Pierre makes choices that prove he is true of heart and respectful not only to others, but also to his surrounding environment—the sea.

This production is for all ages. Educational themes of *The Coral King* include: Caring, Environment, Fairy Tales and Storytelling, Geography, Imagination, Respect, and Thinking of Others. For more information about pre-show and post-show educational activities and highlighted curriculum connections, please visit theatreschool.depaul.edu to download our free Teacher Guide. You can also request a Teacher Guide by calling the Box Office.

Tickets are \$10. Subscriptions and group rates (15 or more people) are available at (312) 922-0999. DePaul employees, alumni, and college students receive a discount (with ID). Tickets are available online at <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu> or by calling the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre is located at 60 E. Balbo Drive at Michigan Ave., in Chicago. For information about parking, please contact the Box Office. The theatre is accessible via CTA busses (3-King Drive, 29-State Street, 146-Michigan/ Museums and others), and CTA El stops (Red, Blue, Brown, Green, Orange, Purple and Pink).

A wide range of events will be held in conjunction with this production including Community Partner Days, as well as

an Ice Cream Social, Opening Day Autographs, Post Show Discussions, and much more! For details visit theatre.depaul.edu or call (312) 922-1999.

The cast features **Chris Ash** (Pierre), **Andrew Fleisher** (Napoleon), **Michael Foster** (Octopus), **Kayla Holder** (Blue Cat), **Sonaz Izadi** (Mermaid), **Meredith Johnston** (Fleurette), **Eric Staves** (William Bones), and **Zoe Leigh Tyson** (Octopus).

The production staff includes: **Ann Wakefield** (Director), **Emily Boyd** (Scenic Design), **Taylor S. Payne** (Costume Design), **Nick Belley** (Lighting Design), **Kami Siu** (Sound Design), **Mike Doyle** (Dramaturgy), and **Liz Fiala** (Stage Management).

Ann Wakefield (Director) has worked in South Africa, England, France and the U.S.A. as an actor, director and teacher. Ann has directed and written theatre for children and has created touring shows that have played to junior and senior schools and universities. In England, she worked with the Brian Way Theatre in Education Company and was assistant director to the highly acclaimed *Zulu Macbeth*, *Umamatha*, which was invited by the Royal Shakespeare Company to their World Theatre Season in London. In Chicago, she has been awarded Jeff citations for her performances in *The Road to Mecca* and *Another Part of the Forest*, and an After Dark award for her performance in *The Lion in Winter*. She has been a teacher in the Residency Program for Lifeline Theatre, has collaborated on a translation of *The Barber of Seville* for Court Theatre, has served as a dialect coach for British and South African plays and as dramaturg and vocal coach at Loyola University Theatre. At the Theatre School, she teaches a range of BFA and MFA Acting classes and World of Theatre and Acting Workshops and has directed *Introducing Mr. Charles Dickens*, *The Underground Lovers*, *The Butterfingers Angel*, *The Physicists*, *Bar and Ger and Others*, *The Idiot*, *The Illusion*, *The Blue Room*, *Vieux Carre*, *The Man Who*, *The Chekhov Machine*, *Antigone*, *4 by Chekhov* and *Black Comedy*. For The Theatre School Showcase, she directed *Lapin Lapin* and for Chicago Playworks she has directed *Alice In Wonderland*, *The Owl*, *And The Pussycat Went To See*, *Tokoloshe*, *Mango Leaf Magic* and most recently wrote and directed *Tales as Old as Africa* for the 07/08 season.

Media comps, photographs, and additional biographies are available upon request.

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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.