

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2016

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The Theatre School at DePaul University Presents Two World-Premiere Productions

CHICAGO, IL, (April 12, 2016) – New work will take center stage this spring, as The Theatre School at DePaul University offers two world premiere productions in Lincoln Park to conclude the conservatory's 2015-16 season. In addition, the school will host the annual **Wrights of Spring** festival of new work in late May. *The Translation of Likes*, by Theatre School alumna and Chicago-based playwright/actress **Nambi E. Kelley**, will feature the Master of Fine Arts in Acting candidates in the Class of 2016; and Theatre School student **Caroline Macon** (BFA Playwriting, Class of 2016) will debut her play *The Women Eat Chocolate*. Guest artists **Ron OJ Parson** (Resident Artist, Court Theatre) and **Heidi Stillman** (Artistic Director for New Work, Lookingglass Theatre) will direct.

The Translation of Likes by Nambi E. Kelley will open on May 6 in The Sondra & Denis Healy Theatre, and will run through May 15, 2016. Previews performances will be held on 5/4 and 5/5 at 7:30 PM. This world-premiere play about personal identity in the age of the internet is directed by **Ron OJ Parson**. For patrons who are blind or have low-vision, the performance on 5/13 will be audio described with a pre-performance touch tour. Post-show discussions will occur on 5/8 and 5/12.

The cast of *The Translation of Likes* features the Class of 2016 Master of Fine Arts in Acting candidates: **Bernard Gilbert, Charles Johnston, Christian Edwin Cook, Christopher W. Jones, Jeri Marshall, Jess Maynard, LaNora Terraé Hayden, and Leea Ayers**. The production team includes **Jessica Olson** (Scenic Designer), **Sydney Dufka** (Costume Designer), **Richard Latshaw** (Lighting Designer), **David Samba** (Sound Designer), **James Garrastegui** and **Danielle Szabo** (Dramaturgs), and **Jackson Walsh** (Stage Manager).

In *The Women Eat Chocolate*, written by Theatre School student **Caroline Macon** (BFA Playwriting, Class of 2016), two sisters struggle to reclaim love and innocence while navigating the ickiness of puberty. This world premiere piece is directed by guest artist **Heidi Stillman**, and will debut on May 20 in the Fullerton Stage Theatre, and will run through May 28, 2016. Previews performances will be held on 5/18 and 5/19 at 7:30 PM. The performance on 5/28 will feature a live audio description for patrons who are blind or have low vision, as well as a pre-performance touch tour. The performance on 5/28 will also be interpreted in American Sign Language. TTY: (773) 325-7975. An Opening Night Reception will be held following the performance on 5/20. 5/25 is USO of Illinois Night – visit www.tixfortroops.org. The performances on 5/22 and 5/26 will be followed by a post-show discussion.

About the play: At age 13, Alexandra Appleton is certain she's a poet. Her life spirals out of control when her younger sister, Dot, passes her in the race to womanhood. After a psychedelic trip, Alex struggles to distinguish fantasy from reality. Are the adults in Alex's life out to get her? Is her poetry teacher more than just a friendly mentor? And most importantly, will Alex's body catch up with her brains?

With this production, as part of the New Playwrights Series at The Theatre School, **Caroline Macon** (*The Women Eat Chocolate*) joins a list of alumni playwrights whose work has been chosen by the faculty, through the Wrights of Spring Festival, for production on the school's mainstage. Caroline is from Dallas, Texas. She will graduate in June with her BFA in Playwriting and her BA in English from DePaul University. Her 10-minute play, *The Bubble Machine*, was commissioned by Victory Gardens for College Night. She performs at reading series throughout Chicago, including Salonathon!, The Marrow, and The Mingle. She served as an editorial intern at Curbside Splendor Publishing, a multi-genre press. Her short story "Dead Mouse" was published in [PANK]. Another short story, "It Should Have Been Tragic," and a poem, "Sawn Off the Top" were published in DePaul's literary magazine, *Crook & Folly*. This year, the magazine will feature her 10-minute play, *So Your Mom Wants to Kill Herself*. She is a member of *Poems While You Wait*—a team of poets-on-demand to support the nonprofit publisher, Rose Metal Press.

The cast of *The Women Eat Chocolate* features **Talia Payomo, Nikhaar Kishnani, Jolie Lepselter, Michael Cohen, Ayanna Bakari, and Jack Disselhorst**. The production team includes scenic design by **Angela McIlvain** (Scenic Designer) **Courtney Rebecca Schum** (Costume Designer), **James Mitchell** (Lighting Designer), **Alyssa Kerr** (Sound Design), **Kaysie Bekkela** (Dramaturg), and **Mario E. Wolfe** (Stage Manager).

Performances for both *The Translation of Likes* and *The Women Eat Chocolate* will be Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2 PM. Tickets to both productions 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 Fullerton Stage Theatre and the Sondra & Denis Healy Theatre are located within The Theatre School at DePaul University, 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.

In addition to the two mainstage world-premiere productions, The Theatre School will present the **2016 Wrights of Spring Festival**, from **May 17 – 28, 2016**. This two week annual celebration of new plays by Theatre School Playwrights provides playwriting students an intensive developmental laboratory and showcase for their work. Since the first Festival in 1996, Wrights of Spring has presented works by over 180 playwrights. One of the productions featured in the 2016 festival will be chosen by the faculty for production at the conclusion of the school's 2016-2017 season. This festival is free and open to the public. No reservations for Wrights of Spring events are necessary. All performances are held at The Theatre School at DePaul University, 2350 N Racine Ave. in Chicago. You can learn more about the festival at theatre.depaul.edu.

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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.