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FOR IMMEDIATE

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CALLING ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS! GOODMAN THEATRE ANNOUNCES <u>APRIL 8</u> \$10 COLLEGE NIGHT FOR *THE UPSTAIRS CONCIERGE*, A WORLD PREMIERE COMEDY BY KRISTOFFER DIAZ, DIRECTED BY KJ SANCHEZ

ALUMNI FROM DEPAUL, UIC AND NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY STAR IN THIS NEW FARCE

(Chicago, IL) Chicago college students will get an up close view into the world-premiere of *The Upstairs Concierge*, a classic farce with modern themes by Obie Award winner and Pulitzer Prize finalist **Kristoffer Diaz**, the "vibrant young playwright" (*The New York Times*) with a "talented new voice" (*The Los Angeles Times*). For \$10, less than the price of a movie, students enjoy pizza, pop and remarks from cast member, **Tawny Newsome**, an alum of DePaul University who appears in the title role: Ella Elizondo, aka the Upstairs Concierge. The event starts at 6pm, followed by the 7:30pm performance. DePaul University's award-winning radio station **Radio DePaul** is the college night media partner and will emcee the event. Students can purchase tickets by calling 312.443.3800, visiting <u>GoodmanTheatre.org/CollegeNight</u> or the box office at 170 North Dearborn using the promo code COLLEGE. A student ID must be presented at will call. Limit four tickets per student; tickets are subject to availability and handling fees apply.

Cast connections to Chicago colleges and universities in addition to **Newsome** include **Travis Turner** (Royals Guy), an alumni from Northwestern University, **Cedric Young** (Jeffrey Hotelman) and **Sandra Delgado** (Shivery Delicious), both graduates of The University of Illinois at Chicago.

The Goodman encourages students to sign up for **College Club---**a free eNewsletter with student discounts at local businesses, behind-the-scenes information about Goodman artists and productions and invitations to special events. Sign-up at <u>GoodmanTheatre.org/CollegeClub</u>. The date for the final College Night, *The Little Foxes* (May) will be released to College Club members first, who have the opportunity to purchase tickets before the general public. College Club and College Night are part of the Goodman's 10TIX program, which gives high school, college and graduate students access to \$10 tickets. Check <u>GoodmanTheatre.org/CollegeClub</u> for updates.

About The Upstairs Concierge by Kristoffer Diaz

Kristoffer Diaz's world-premiere comedy, *The Upstairs Concierge*, follows Ella Elizondo on her first day of work at The Hotelman Arms, a boutique hotel in Chicago owned by Jeffrey and Dia Hotelman. Taking self-sacrifice to new heights, the desperate-to-please Ella has signed on to be the "Upstairs Concierge;" a position that requires her to spend every waking and sleeping—moment serving her celebrity guests. With a rag tag staff that including two bellhops, Harvey and Kaz, it becomes hard to keep track of which guests are in which room, which guest is the biggest celebrity and party-loving guests need extra supervision. Director **KJ Sanchez**, in her Goodman directorial debut, brings together the all-Chicago ensemble cast, including **Theo Allyn** as Mark Merriman; **Sandra Delgado** as Shivery Delicious; **Alejandra Escalante** as Rebecca Oaxaca; **José Antonio Garcia** as BB; **Annie Henk** as Dia Hotelman; **Tawny Newsome** in the title role as Ella Elizondo; **Gabriel Ruiz** as Harvey; **John Stokvis** as Kaz; **Travis Turner** as Royals Guy; and **Cedric Young** as Jeffrey Hotelman.

About Goodman Theatre

The Goodman's 2014/2015 Season features nine productions on its two stages—six in the 856-seat Albert Theatre and three in the 400-seat flexible Owen Theatre, plus the annual *New Stages* Festival that includes additional developmental productions, and partner productions with The Second City and Albany Park Theater Project. On stage now through April 19 is August Wilson's *Two Trains Running*, directed by Chuck Smith. The season continues with *The Little Foxes* by

Goodman Theatre Announces College Night for Kristoffer Diaz's *The Upstairs Concierge* \$10 Tickets Now Available for the Special Event on April 8

Lillian Hellman, directed by Henry Wishcamper (May 2 – June 7, 2015 in the Albert); **stop. reset.** written and directed by Regina Taylor, a Chicago premiere (May 23 – June 21, 2015 in the Owen); **Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike** by Christopher Durang, directed by Steve Scott, a Chicago premiere (June 20 – July 26, 2015 in the Albert), and Albany Park Theater Project's **Feast** (July 24 – August 16, 2015 in the Owen).

Now celebrating its 90th year as Chicago's flagship theater, Goodman Theatre is an artistic and community institution dedicated to the art of theater and to civic engagement in the issues of the contemporary world. The Goodman has transformed over the past 35 years into a world class theater and premier Chicago cultural institution distinguished by the quality and scope of its programming and its culturally and aesthetically diverse creative leadership; artistic priorities include new plays, reimagined classics, culturally specific works, musical theater and international collaborations. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Robert Falls and Executive Director Roche Schulfer, achievements include the Goodman's state-of-the-art two-theater complex in the heart of the downtown Theatre District. Over the past three decades, the Goodman has generated more than 150 world or American premieres, and nearly 30 new-work commissions. Joan Clifford is Chair of Goodman Theatre's Board of Trustees, Swati Mehta is Women's Board President and Gordon C.C. Liao is President of the Scenemakers Board for young professionals. American Airlines is the Exclusive Airline of Goodman Theatre.

"A mainstay of Chicago and beyond" (*Chicago Sun-Times*), the Goodman is internationally acclaimed for its "fresh work of magnitude and ambition (and) bold, risky theatrical choices" (*Chicago Tribune*). From new plays to "first-class revivals" (*The New York Times*), the Goodman has earned numerous awards for its productions: two Pulitzer Prizes; 22 Tony Awards, including Outstanding Regional Theatre (1992); and nearly 160 Joseph Jefferson Awards.

The 90th Anniversary "Season to Celebrate" programming is rooted in the same spirit that launched the Goodman in 1925 an array of dramatic fare, from classics to noteworthy contemporary works, innovative and often controversial, embracing genres from farces to searing social dramas—honoring the theater's past and envisioning its future. The nine-play season begins with an *All-New Fall* of works fostered and developed in the Goodman's new play development programs followed by an "August Wilson Celebration" in spring 2015, the 10th anniversary of the playwright's death and the 70th anniversary of his birth. This city-wide Celebration honors the longstanding collaboration between Wilson and the Goodman, the first theater in the world to produce all 10 works in his "20th Century Cycle."

Visit the special anniversary website, <u>GoodmanTheatre.org/90</u>, to see <u>famous faces</u> who've worked at the theater, browse <u>photos of classic productions</u> and read <u>interviews with noted artists</u>.

- 30 -