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September 26, 2005

Dear Alumni and Friends:

I write with an invitation: Come this fall to see what's happening at The New School for Drama.

Theater can—should—awaken the soul. The experience of theater, with its immediacy and the connection between audience and artist, is profound and unparalleled. Theater sheds light on emotional, political, and ideological terrain that is both familiar and remote. It also simply, wonderfully entertains.

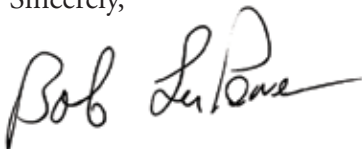
To accomplish that, theater demands inspired and technically trained players to assemble an audience and tell stories. The New School for Drama takes seriously its mission to produce just such professionals. Through the One-Act Festival instituted this year, playwrights are challenged within the context of real world conditions that will augment and enhance their individuality. Directors are encouraged to learn what the word “story” means and how to express, conceive, and create visionary theater.

This fall our acting students are performing in three plays that offer you a dozen opportunities to see them in action. October 20-23, under the direction of Keith Reddin, the students will perform *Life During Wartime*. November 3-6, with directing department chair Elinor Renfield, they will appear in *The Miracle Worker*. Arthur Penn is a consultant on the production. We are negotiating the rights for the play scheduled for December 15-18, and Obie Award Winner Erica Schmidt will direct.

Working on full-length productions with professional directors is a new opportunity for our students that is vital to their training. The school's mission is predicated on preparing students for the professional world. There is no substitute for experience. Going through auditions, finding their own distinct place within the company, collaborating to give life to the story, and most important, getting on stage to engage an audience will educate them in a way that cannot be accomplished in the classroom alone.

The productions this fall are important, and I am confident they will be compelling. I am also certain they will achieve greater success and meaning if our students connect with an audience that cares about theater and is invested in the art form's future. I hope you will be part of that audience.

Sincerely,



Bob LuPone

Performances are at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$10, available through Ticket Central at 212.279.4200.