(Chicago, IL) Rehearsals begin this week for The Upstairs Conierge, 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). A co-commission with Teatro Vista, The Upstairs Conierge was developed over three years through a series of improvisational workshops and a developmental production in the Goodman’s 2013 New Stages Festival. 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 García as BB; Mia Park 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. Headshots and bio information can be found in the Press Room. The Upstairs Conierge runs March 28 – April 26 in the Owen Theatre (opening night is Monday, April 6). Tickets ($10-$40; subject to change) are on sale now and can be purchased at GoodmanTheatre.org, by phone at 312.443.3800 or at the box office (170 North Dearborn). Edelman is the Major Corporate Sponsor for the Owen Theatre Season. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois is the Corporate Sponsor Partner. The Joyce Foundation is the Principal Support of Artistic Development and Diversity Initiatives.

“A special grant from the Time Warner Foundation enables Diaz to pen several scripts to accompany The Upstairs Conierge, produced into short films by Cap Gun Collective, a Chicago-based film company. Featuring cast members Newsome, Ruiz and Stokvis, the films function as both stand-alone comedic shorts as well as an invitation for audiences to delve deeper into the world of the play and the imaginations of the creative team and cast. Overall, Goodman Theatre’s New Work Initiatives are supported by The Davee Foundation, The Time Warner Foundation, The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, The Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation, The Glasser and Rosenthal Family, the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, and The Joyce Foundation. The Goodman also partners with Kimpton Hotels’ concierges—Sheila Garg, Chief Concierge at Hotel Monaco Chicago and Bobby Gonzalez, Concierge at Hotel Palomar Chicago—to serve as “concierge consultants” on the production, working with Newsome to inform her character. Goodman Theatre launches a new opportunity for social media insiders to go behind the scenes of The Upstairs Conierge for an intimate glance into the process of new play development. On Wednesday, March 4 from 6-7pm, guests sit in on a rehearsal and meet the cast and creative team during a Q&A. Applicants who are interested in applying to be a part of the new program can do so here. Participants will be notified by February 27.

“It's been amazing developing The Upstairs Conierge with the Goodman over the last few years; it's not possible to write a farce alone in a room, and Bob Falls and [Director of New Play Development] Tanya Palmer have let my imagination run wild in putting this together,” said Diaz. “Actors of color don’t often get cast in big, broad, silly comedies. I wanted to write this play for these people and with them. Everyone who participated in its development over the years left a real mark on the play.”
Set in Chicago, *The Upstairs Concierge* follows Ella Elizondo (played by Newsome, who collaborated with Diaz on the production since the beginning) on her first day of work at The Hotelman Arms, a boutique hotel owned by Jeffrey and Dia Hotelman (*Young and Park*). 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 (Ruiz) and Kaz (Stokvis), 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. The creative team includes Todd Rosenthal (set designer), Rachel Healy (costume designer), Marcus Doshi (lighting designer) and Mikhail Fiksel (sound designer). Kimberly Osgood is the production stage manager and Tanya Palmer is the production dramaturg.

**Kristoffer Diaz** returns to the Goodman, where his play *The Upstairs Concierge* ran during the 2013 New Stages Festival. Diaz’s full-length plays include *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (2011 *New York Times* Outstanding Playwright recipient, Pulitzer Prize finalist, Lucille Lortel Award, Obie Award, Drama Desk nominee and Jeff Award winner for Best Production and Best New Work), *Welcome to Arroyo’s* and #therevolution, among others. He is a playwright-in-residence at Teatro Vista, as well as a recipient of the Jerome Fellowship, the Future Aesthetics Artist Regrant and the Van Lier Fellowship (New Dramatists). Diaz is also a former member of the Ars Nova Play Group and is currently working on commissions for the Goodman/Teatro Vista and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

**KJ Sanchez** is making her Goodman Theatre directorial debut. Other Goodman credits include Thyona in Charles L. Mee’s *Big Love*. Her directing credits include ReEntry (Urban Stages, co-creator); Private Lives and Mere Mortals (Two River Theater Company); *The Diary of Anne Frank* and Noises Off (Milwaukee Repertory Theater) and Water by the Spoonful (Studio Theatre). She is an artistic associate at Cincinnati Playhouse, where she directed Venus in Fur, Seven Spots on the Sun and Joan, the Girl of Arc. Sanchez has also directed at Baltimore’s CENTERSTAGE, Round House Theatre and Actors Theatre of Louisville, as well as over 30 military bases throughout the country and abroad. She is founder/ CEO of American Records and provides the voice of many characters in the cartoons *Dora the Explorer* and *Go, Diego, Go!*

### EVENTS AND SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

- **Social Media Insiders** – March 4 from 6-7pm (Apply [here](http://www.GoodmanTheatre.org/Upstairs))
- **Artist Encounter featuring Diaz and Sanchez** – April 5 at 5pm ($5 general public, FREE Subscribers, Donors, students)
- **College Night** – April 8 ($10 w/promo code COLLEGE; 6pm pre-show pizza party, 7:30pm show, w/student ID)
- **Audio Described Performance** – April 15 at 7:30pm
- **Post-Show Discussions** – Every Wednesday and Thursday evening immediately following the performance

### TICKETS ($10 - $40) AND DISCOUNTS

Tickets: [www.GoodmanTheatre.org/Upstairs](http://www.GoodmanTheatre.org/Upstairs) or 312.443.3800 (telephone); 312.443.3825 (fax); 312.443.3829 (TTY/TDD). Box Office Hours are 12noon - 5pm; on performance days, the office remains open until 30 minutes past curtain.

- **MezzTix** – Half-price day-of-performance mezzanine tickets available at 10am online (promo code MEZZTIX)
- **10Tix** – Student $10 tickets for any performance; limit four, with valid student ID (promo code 10TIX)
- **Group Sales** – Discounted tickets for parties of 10+ – 312.443.3820
- **Subscribe** – Four-Play Albert Theatre subscriptions start at $90 ([GoodmanTheatre.org/Subscriptions](http://GoodmanTheatre.org/Subscriptions))
- **WILD Card** – A flex pass including four mix/match Albert/Owen tickets ([GoodmanTheatre.org/WildCard](http://GoodmanTheatre.org/WildCard))
- **Gift Certificates** – Available in any amount ([GoodmanTheatre.org/GiftCertificates](http://GoodmanTheatre.org/GiftCertificates))
Rehearsals Underway for Kristoffer Diaz’s The Upstairs Concierge
KJ Sanchez Directs the World-Premiere Production in the Owen Theatre, March 28 – April 26, 2015

THE UPSTAIRS CONCIERGE
BY KRISTOFFER DIAZ
DIRECTED BY KJ SANCHEZ

In the Owen
MARCH/APRIL 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>4/4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>4/7</td>
<td>4/8</td>
<td>4/9</td>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>4/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/26</td>
<td>GoodmanTheatre.org</td>
<td>312.443.3800</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. The season includes Two Trains Running by August Wilson, directed by Chuck Smith, in conjunction with a citywide celebration of August Wilson (March 7 – April 12, 2015 in the Albert); The Upstairs Concierge by Kristoffer Diaz, directed by KJ Sanchez, a world premiere co-commission with Teatro Vista (March 28 – April 26, 2015 in the Owen); The Little Foxes by 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 (Summer dates TBA 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 Chairman 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 began with an All-New Fall of works fostered and developed in the Goodman’s new play development programs followed by
the 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, GoodmanTheatre.org/90, to see famous faces who’ve worked at the theater, browse photos of classic productions and read interviews with noted artists.

— 30 —