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Alumna Director Soaring in Chicago's Robust Theatre Scene

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Alumna Director Soaring in Chicago's Robust Theatre Scene

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Illinois Wesleyan theatre alumna Marti Lyons '08 has been named the 2014-2015 Michael Maggio Directing Fellow at the Goodman Theatre, and is scheduled to direct several upcoming productions, including the Chicago premiere of *Title and Deed* by Will Eno.

As the Maggio Fellow, which is designed to be an immersive experience for Chicago-based directors, Lyons will serve as a member of Goodman's artistic team and assist on a production.

Beginning March 18, Lyons will direct *Title and Deed* at Lookingglass Theater Company. Praised by The New York Times as "a haunting and often fiercely funny meditation on life as a state of permanent exile," *Title and Deed* is a dramatic comedy about one man's journey. Written by Eno, whose play *Thom Pain (based on nothing)* was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in Drama, *Title and Deed* will star Michael Patrick Thornton, a Joseph Jefferson Award winner who appeared in the television drama "Private Practice."

Lyons is currently director of *The Sweeter Option*, a fast-paced and darkly funny psychological thriller, at Chicago's Strawdog Theatre Company, which runs through March 28. This summer, Lyons will direct *Body and Blood*, a new play about overcoming obstacles and following your heart, at The Gift Theatre Company in Chicago.

Since 2010, Lyons has worked for Lookingglass Theatre Company, a Tony Award-winning regional theatre in Chicago, where she is currently literary manager and company dramaturg. She has been a part of multiple productions at the theatre company, including *Still Alice*, for which she was associate director and understudy, and *Mr. Rickey Calls a Meeting*, for which she was associate director. Other recent productions include *9 Circles* and *Mine*, both of which she directed. Lyons was also a 2012 Ragdale Fellow at 3Arts, which works to sustain and promote Chicago artists.

At Illinois Wesleyan, Lyons directed a lab theatre production of *Woyzeck*, conducted a senior honors thesis on English playwright Sarah Kane and experimental theatre, and spent a semester abroad at the British American Dramatic Academy in London.



Marti Lyons '08

By Tia Patsavas '16