

PRESS RELEASE

**STUDIO
THEATRE**

The Studio Theatre
The Studio Theatre 2ndStage
The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory
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WASHINGTON, DC 20005

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DATE: October 17, 2011

EXTENDED AGAIN!!

ALAN BENNETT'S COMEDY *THE HABIT OF ART* A RUNAWAY HIT—EXTENDED AGAIN MUST CLOSE OCTOBER 30

“A production so polished that it could open on Broadway as is.”—*The Wall Street Journal*

The Studio Theatre is pleased to announce the further extension of **Alan Bennett's** thoughtful comedy *The Habit of Art*. Critics and audiences alike are raving about the US premiere of the latest play by Alan Bennett (*The History Boys*, *Talking Heads*). With the highest ticket sales in the past five years, *The Habit of Art* is a runaway hit. Don't miss the show that critics are calling “wise” (*The Washington Post*) and “both entertaining and profound” (*Washington Examiner*).

The Habit of Art is an unvarnished look at the lives of two great artists—and a peak into the backstage joys and difficulties of making theatre. Deep in the bowels of London's National Theatre, rehearsals for a new play go apace: Benjamin Britten is having trouble with his latest opera and seeks out his collaborator, poet W. H. Auden, after a 25-year separation. Between visits by a rent boy and a biographer—whom Auden briefly mistakes for the rent boy—these aging artists wrestle with their desires, their jealousies, the ephemeral connection between creativity and inspiration, and all the reasons their friendship fell apart.

MORE PRAISE FOR *THE HABIT OF ART*

“Bennett's humor is learned and gentle.” — *The Washington Post*

“[*The Habit of Art*] is an extraordinarily funny, deeply revealing look at the creation of theater from start to finish. Bennett's sense of humor, as wistful and self-effacing as it is blindingly sharp, is unfailing.”—*Washingtonian*

“Delightful...an actorly home run. You'll have a grand time.”—*Washington City Paper*

“All elements click together precisely. [Paxton] Whitehead is touching as the gentle, wry, self-critical Britten, and [Ted] van Griethuysen gives a stellar performance.”—*Washington Examiner*

“Stellar performances, spot-on direction, a swift pace, and frequent laughs.” — *MD Theatre Scene*

*The Studio Theatre's 2011-2012 Season is generously underwritten by **Robert and Arlene Kogod**.*

Underwriting for the International Plays of the 2011-2012 Season was provided by an anonymous donor.

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*This production of **The Habit of Art** is underwritten by **Jaylee Mead and Judy and Stephen Hopkins**.*

Starring: **Ted van Griethuysen** (W. H. Auden) and **Paxton Whitehead** (Benjamin Britten)
With: **Randy Harrison** (Tim), **Margaret Daly** (Kay), **Cameron Folmar** (Humphrey Carpenter),
Matt Dewberry (George), **Wynn Harmon** (Neil), **Will Cooke** (Ralph), **Alfredo Palupa** (Tom),
and **Lynn Sharp Spears** (Joan).

Director and Designers: **David Muse** (Director), **James Noone** (Set Design), **Nancy Schertler**
(Lighting Design), **Alex Jaeger** (Costume Design), **Veronika Vorel** (Sound Design), and
Adrien-Alice Hansel (Dramaturg).

THE HABIT OF ART INFORMATION

Where: The Metheny Theatre

Dates: Extended, must close October 30, 2011.

Performances: Thursday-Saturday: 8:00pm, Sunday: 7:00pm.

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday: 2:00pm.

No Saturday matinee on October 22 or Sunday evening performance on October 23.

Ticket Prices: \$35-\$69

THE STUDIO THEATRE INFORMATION:

The Studio Theatre is Washington's premiere venue for contemporary theatre, "where local audiences will find today's edgiest playwrights" (*Variety*). Founded in 1978 by Joy Zinoman, the theatre is in its second season under the leadership of Artistic Director David Muse. Muse is joined by Keith Alan Baker, Managing Director/Artistic Director, 2ndStage; Serge Seiden, Associate Producing Artistic Director; and Morey B. Epstein, Executive Director of Institutional Development.

One of the most respected mid-sized theatres in the country, The Studio Theatre produces the work of today's greatest writers, augmented by occasional productions of modern classics, performed by acclaimed actors in intimate spaces. Studio's programming, while purposefully eclectic, emphasizes plays of sophistication and style with true literary and theatrical merit. The five plays of The Studio Theatre Season form the core of its work, and are complemented by its Special Events, which bring unique performances and one-of-a-kind events to Washington DC; the rawer, frequently irreverent productions of The Studio 2ndStage; and the Studio Lab, in its inaugural season, which is dedicated to stripped-down productions of invigorating new work. Housed in a landmark complex that anchors the 14th Street Arts District, each of Studio's four theatres seats fewer than 225 patrons, giving Studio productions their signature intimacy. Throughout the Theatre's 34-year history, the quality of its work has been recognized by sustained community support as well as with 271 nominations and 55 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in professional theatre. In addition, The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory has trained over 10,000 students, many of whom have gone on to acclaimed careers across the country. A premiere cultural organization in Washington DC, The Studio Theatre serves more than 75,000 people annually and is proud to make a vital contribution to its neighborhood and city.

DISCOUNTS

Student, senior citizen (62+) and military discount: \$5.00 off (except Saturday evenings).

Student Rush: \$19 tickets for full-time students are available one-half hour before curtain on a seating available basis (except Saturday evenings).

Groups: Call the Group Sales Manager at 202-232-7267 for parties of 10 or more.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Accessibility: All performances are fully accessible to accommodate patrons with special needs. FM listening assistive system available. Accessible seats available by reservation. Call to request sign-interpreted performances; two week notice is required. Call the Box Office at 202-332-3300 or V/TTY 202-667-8436.

Location: 1501 14th Street, NW (Northeast corner of 14th and P Streets).

Parking: Please call the Box Office for parking information.

Metro Stops: Red Line: Dupont Circle, Orange/Blue Lines: McPherson Square, and Green/Yellow Line: U Street/Cardozo.

Contact Information:

Tickets: 202-332-3300 V/TTY: 202-667-8436 Fax: 202-332-1187

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