

PRESS RELEASE

# The Studio Theatre

THE STUDIO THEATRE. THE STUDIO 2NDSTAGE. THE STUDIO THEATRE ACTING CONSERVATORY. 1501 FOURTEENTH STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20005. WASHINGTON DC

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## PRESS RELEASE

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**DATE:** February 24, 2010

## THE STUDIO THEATRE IS THRILLED TO INTRODUCE THE ALL STAR ENSEMBLE FOR NEIL LABUTE'S *REASONS TO BE PRETTY!*

*"Brutally entertaining! This taut, unexpectedly affecting play is one of LaBute's best."* – Variety

*Sizzling and Shameless!*

### REASONS TO BE PRETTY

by **Neil LaBute**

Directed by **David Muse**

Featuring **Ryan Artzberger, Thom Miller, Teresa Stephenson and Margot White**

Opening March 24, 2010

In the Mead Theatre

Neil LaBute once again takes no prisoners, tackling the taboos and unspoken truths of contemporary American life. *Reasons to Be Pretty* concludes LaBute's trilogy exploring America's obsession with physical beauty, a trilogy he began with two Studio Theatre favorites, runaway hits *The Shape of Things* and *Fat Pig*. In this fiercely dark comedy, the "bad boy of American theatre" takes us on a wild ride through the national obsession with what it means to be pretty.

**Ryan Artzberger** plays Greg, whose unfortunate choice of words tears his world apart. He has appeared at The Shakespeare Theatre Company in *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *Henry IV Part I* and *Henry IV Part II*, and played the title role in *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*. He also played the title role in Shakespeare Santa Cruz's *Hamlet*, and Bassanio in Heartland Actors' Repertory Theatre's *The Merchant of Venice*. Recently, he starred in Mary Zimmerman's acclaimed *The Arabian Nights* at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Mr. Artzberger is a frequent performer at the Indiana Repertory Theatre.

Playing Greg's fiery girlfriend Steph is **Margot White**, who last delighted audiences in the Studio's 2003 hit *The Shape of Things*, also by Neil LaBute. Ms. White recently performed on Broadway in Aaron Sorkin's *The Farnsworth Invention*, and *Bobbi Boland* at the Cort Theatre. Other New York appearances include *The Traveling Lady*, for which she received a Drama Desk nomination and *When They Speak of Rita*, both directed by Horton Foote. She has appeared in regional theatres throughout the country, and on television in *Ugly Betty* and *Law and Order*.

**Thom Miller** makes his inaugural Studio appearance as Kent, Greg's friend and coworker. He recently graced the stage in drag for the New London Playhouse's *Leading Ladies*. He has also appeared in *Mental* at the Cherry Lane Theatre in New York; *The Last Five Years* at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts; *Deathtrap*, *Dancing at Lughnasa* and *Moon Over Buffalo* at Northern Stage and *Hair* at the Prince Musical Theater.

**Teresa Stephenson** will play Greg's wife, Carly. Ms. Stephenson has performed in *The Tempest*, *As You Like It* and *Machinal* at the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey, and starred in numerous productions at Rutgers Theater Company. She recently appeared in The Ensemble Studio Theater's *W-E-L-L; Raquin Desire* at Stage Left NYC and has participated in the Dorset Theater Festival and the New Orleans Fringe Festival.

*Reasons to Be Pretty* will be directed by David Muse, director of The Studio Theatre's production of *Blackbird*, last year's Helen Hayes Award Recipient for Outstanding Play, as well as The Studio 2ndStage hits *Frozen* and *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*. He is also the Associate Artistic Director of The Shakespeare Theatre Company, where he has directed such productions as *Romeo and Juliet* and the currently running *Henry V*.

— MORE —

*This production of Reasons to Be Pretty is made possible through generous underwriting from Susan and Dixon Butler, and a gracious contribution from David and Jean Grier. Additional support was received from Kate Perry and George Dellinger.*

**Featuring:** Ryan Artzberger (Greg), Thom Miller (Kent), Teresa Stephenson (Carly) and Margot White (Steph).

**Director and Designers:** David Muse (Director), Debra Booth (Set Design), Michael Giannitti (Lighting Design), Kate Turner-Walker (Costume Design) and Neil McFadden (Sound Design).

### **REASONS TO BE PRETTY INFORMATION**

**Where:** The Mead Theatre

**Dates:** March 24–May 2, 2010

**Performances:** Wednesday–Saturday: 8:00pm, Sunday: 7:00pm,

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday 2:00pm

Select Tuesdays: April 6, 13, 20, 27: 8:00pm

**Ticket Prices:** \$35–\$63

**Press Opening:** Sunday, March 28

### **THE STUDIO THEATRE INFORMATION:**

**“Most of the best plays I saw last season were either presented Off Broadway or by such regional companies as... Washington's Studio Theatre. That's the new reality of drama in America.”**

— Terry Teachout, *Wall Street Journal*

The Studio Theatre is Washington's premiere venue for contemporary theatre, and is **“where local audiences will find today's edgiest playwrights...a place for innovation,”** according to *Variety*. The Studio Theatre's mission is to produce the best in contemporary theatre. Its restless, innovative spirit makes it a leader both in Washington DC, and in the nation. Artist-founded and artist-driven, The Studio Theatre demands the highest quality production values, bringing audiences provocative writing along with unparalleled artistry in performance, directing and design.

Founded in 1978, The Studio Theatre is led by the driving force of Joy Zinoman, Founding Artistic Director, whose recent work has been called **“riveting,” “beautifully orchestrated” and “inspired”** by *The Washington Post*; along with Keith Alan Baker, Managing Director/Artistic Director, 2ndStage; Serge Seiden, Associate Producing Artistic Director; and Morey B. Epstein, Executive Director of Institutional Development. In 2004, The Studio Theatre opened a new four-theatre complex, a major landmark that anchors the 14th Street Arts District. The complex was quickly hailed as **“a magnificent theatre space that promises more memorable evenings to come”** (*Washington City Paper*). The Studio 2ndStage creates edgy, explosive, extreme and electrifying productions that complement The Studio Theatre's season. *The Washington Post* proclaimed that 2ndStage **“has long been a playground for... directors and actors (and, naturally, some of its riskier experiments)”** and that a **“convention-defying approach informs many 2ndStage offerings.”** The Studio Theatre provides opportunities for developing theatre artists as year-long apprentices. The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory offers rigorous professional theatre training in close partnership with the working artists at The Studio Theatre. Now in its 35<sup>th</sup> year, it has been called **“the area's premiere professional training facility for actors and directors”** by *Variety*. The Conservatory has trained over 8,000 actors and directors, now performing on Broadway, Off Broadway and in theatre and film across the country. The theatre is deeply invested in the community and in neighborhood revitalization.

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

**Pay What You Can:** Saturday, March 27, 2:00pm.

**Studio District Night:** Wednesday, March 24, 8:00pm. Ticket Price: \$10 for residents of the Studio District, with proof of address.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Accessibility:** All performances are fully accessible to accommodate patrons with special needs. FM listening assistive system available. Call for schedule of sign-interpreted performances. Accessible seats available by reservation. Call the Box Office at 202-332-3300 or V/TTY 202-667-8436.

**Location:** 1501 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Line U Street/Cardozo.

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