

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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## THE STUDIO THEATRE KICKS OFF THE 2010-2011 SEASON WITH ANNIE BAKER'S *CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION!*

“Absorbing, unblinking and sharply funny.” – *The New York Times*

*Downtown New York's Smash Hit!*

### CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION

by **Annie Baker**

Directed by **David Muse**

Starring **Jennifer Mendenhall, Harry A. Winter, Kathleen McElfresh, MacKenzie Meehan**  
and **Jeff Talbott**

Opening September 8, 2010

In the Mead Theatre

The extraordinarily talented playwright **Annie Baker** took New York by storm this past year with her stunning originality and quirky humor. The 2010 Obie Award Winner for Best New American Play, *Circle Mirror Transformation* invites the audience into an amateur theatre class in rural Vermont. In this intoxicating new play, theatre games and acting exercises mirror the real drama taking place between the students. The Studio Theatre, founded as an acting conservatory, finds a perfect match with a play about the life lessons stumbled across and relationships forged in acting class.

Annie Baker quickly grabbed the national spotlight last year with her hit production of *Circle Mirror Transformation* at Playwrights Horizons, which extended time and time again due to popular demand. It received the 2010 Obie Award for Best New American Play and was nominated for the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play. Her next play, *The Aliens*, which premiered Off Broadway at the Rattlestick Playwrights Theater in April 2010, was a finalist for the 2010 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and shared the 2010 Obie Award for Best New American Play with *Circle Mirror Transformation*. Her first play, *Body Awareness*, premiered at The Atlantic Theatre Company in 2008. She is also the writer of *Nocturama* which has had major readings at Soho Rep and Manhattan Theatre Club. Both audiences and critics have fallen in love with Baker, with critics calling her plays “heartbreaking works of staggering focus” (*Time Out New York*), “gentle and extraordinarily beautiful” (*The New York Times*) and full of “humor and empathy” (*The New Yorker*).

*Circle Mirror Transformation* will be directed by **David Muse**, in his first production as Artistic Director of The Studio Theatre. Muse most recently directed The Studio Theatre's hit production, *Reasons to Be Pretty*. His Studio Theatre and 2ndstage productions of *Blackbird*, *Frozen* and *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow* earned 10 Helen Hayes Award nominations and received four. A three-time Helen Hayes Award nominee for Outstanding Direction, he was a recipient of the DC Mayor's Arts Award for Outstanding Emerging Artist and the National Theatre Conference Emerging Artist Award. Other directing credits include *Henry V*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Julius Caesar* at The Shakespeare Theatre Company; *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* at Arena Stage, *The Bluest Eye* at Theatre Alliance and *Swansong* for the New York Summer Play Festival.

*The inaugural 2010-2011 season of new Artistic Director David Muse is generously underwritten by Jaylee Mead, and Robert and Arlene Kogod, with additional underwriting from The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Stanley and Rosemary Marcuss, and Vicki and Roger Sant.*

*This production of Circle Mirror Transformation is generously underwritten by Gerald and Laura Rosberg.*

— MORE —

**Starring:** Jennifer Mendenhall (Marty), Harry A. Winter (James), Kathleen McElfresh (Teresa), MacKenzie Meehan (Lauren) and Jeff Talbott (Shultz).

**Director and Designers:** David Muse (Director), Debra Booth (Set Design), Colin K. Bills (Lighting Design), Alex Jaeger (Costume Design) and Neil McFadden (Sound Design).

### **CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION INFORMATION**

**Where:** The Mead Theatre

**Dates:** September 8–October 17, 2010

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

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday: 2:00pm

Select Tuesdays: September 21, 28, October 12: 8:00pm

**Signed Interpreted Performance:** September 19: 2:00pm

**Ticket Prices:** \$35-\$65

**Press Opening:** Sunday, September 12

### **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 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 eclectic vitality of its community.

### **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, September 11, 2:00pm.

**Studio District Night:** Wednesday, September 8, 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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