

PRESS RELEASE

The Studio Theatre
The Studio Theatre 2ndStage
The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory
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STUDIO THEATRE

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DATE: June 1, 2011

THE STUDIO 2NDSTAGE DELIGHTED TO PRESENT *POP!* THE NEW ANDY WARHOL MUSICAL

“Filled with glamour, wit, intrigue, sex, and several pistols, *POP!* is vibrant, hip, fresh, and a hell of a lot of fun.” —*Variety*

POP!

books and lyrics by **Maggie-Kate Coleman**, music by **Anna K. Jacobs**

direction by **Keith Alan Baker** and **Hunter Styles**

music direction by **Christopher Youstra**

choreography by **Helanius Wilkins**

starring **Tom Story**

featuring **MaryLee Adams, Matthew Delorenzo, Deborah Lubega, Sean Maurice Lynch, Luke Tudball, and Rachel Zampelli**, with **Sogdiana Azhiben, Aaron Bliden, Dan Mori, Danielle Davis, and Rob Watts**

opening July 13, 2011
in Stage 4

Who shot Andy Warhol? This musical murder-mystery extravaganza recreates the freewheeling atmosphere of Andy Warhol’s infamous Factory, complete with a cast of colorful characters—and suspects. An adrenaline-driven spectacle, *POP!* sizzles with energy and style, embodying the crackling zeitgeist of the late 1960s. The Studio 2ndStage’s wild new staging of this musical will bring audiences directly into the Factory, where anything is possible and anyone could find themselves in the middle of the action.

In the vein of Studio 2ndStage summer musicals *Jerry Springer: The Opera* and *Reefer Madness: The Musical!*, *POP!* merges high art with low in this fun-filled musical comedy. 1968. New York. The Factory. The fabulous drag queen Candy Darling hosts a happening whodunit in which the famous—and infamous—denizens of Warhol’s legendary Factory all have motives to pull the trigger. But the pop art icon unravels an even bigger mystery as he confronts not only the prime suspects, but also his art and his own greatest creation: himself. In this wildly interactive staging, *POP!* explores just how dangerous (and fun) fame can be.

POP! will be directed by The Studio 2ndStage Artistic Director, **Keith Alan Baker**, director of *Passing Strange*, *Jerry Springer: The Opera*, *Reefer Madness: The Musical!* and *Hair*, among others. He will be joined by assistant director **Hunter Styles**, music director **Christopher Youstra**, and choreographer **Helanius Wilkins**. Creating the physical world of *POP!* will be an all-star team of designers, including set designer **Giorgos Tsappas**, lighting designer **Colin K. Bills**, video/projections designer **Erik Trester**, costume designer **Ivania Stack**, and sound/live mix designer **Aaron Fisher**.

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Tom Story stars as Andy Warhol. Recent Studio Theatre credits include *Legends!*, *Moonlight*, *The Pillowman*, *A Number*, and *The Invention of Love* (Helen Hayes Award nomination). He has been seen in Washington in *Sabrina Fair* at Ford's Theatre; *Twelfth Night* (Helen Hayes Award nomination) and *Design for Living* at The Shakespeare Theatre Company; and *1 Henry IV* at the Folger Theatre, among many others.

Playing beautiful transvestite Candy Darling is **Matthew Delorenzo**, who appeared at The Kennedy Center in *The Music Man*. For The Studio 2ndStage, **Rachel Zampelli** (Valerie Solanas) has appeared in *Jerry Springer: The Opera* and *Reefer Madness: The Musical!*, as well as in numerous productions at Signature Theatre. **Deborah Lubega** (Viva) returns to The Studio 2ndStage where she recently appeared as Renata/Desi in *Passing Strange* and in *Fucking A*. A 2011 Helen Hayes Award nominee for her role as Penny in *Hairspray*, **MaryLee Adams** plays the gorgeous Edie Sedgwick. **Sean Maurice Lynch** (Ondine) recently appeared in *Passing Strange* for The Studio 2ndStage; *A Year with Frog and Toad* at Adventure Theatre; and *[title of show]*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Showboat* at Signature Theatre. Rounding out the cast is **Luke Tudball** (Gerard Malanga) who has appeared on stage and television in both the United States and England.

This extraordinary ensemble also includes **Sogdiana Azhiben**, **Aaron Bliden**, **Dan Mori**, and **Rob Watts** as artists and scenesters within Warhol's Factory.

The 2010-2011 Season of The Studio 2ndStage is generously underwritten by Don and Nancy Bliss and A. Fenner Milton. This production of POP! is underwritten by The Meredith Foundation.

POP! INFORMATION

Where: Stage 4

Dates: July 13–August 7, 2011

Performances: Wednesday-Saturday: 8:30pm, Sunday: 7:30pm

Ticket Prices: \$38-43

Press Opening: Sunday, July 17, 2011

Starring: Tom Story as Andy Warhol.

Featuring: MaryLee Adams (Edie Sedgwick), Matthew Delorenzo (Candy Darling), Deborah Lubega (Viva), Sean Maurice Lynch (Ondine), Luke Tudball (Gerard Malanga), and Rachel Zampelli (Valerie Solanas).

With: Sogdiana Azhiben, Aaron Bliden, Danielle Davis, Dan Mori, and Rob Watts.

Directors and Designers: Keith Alan Baker (Director), Hunter Styles (Assistant Director), Christopher Youstra (Music Director), Helanius Wilkins (Choreographer), Giorgos Tsappas (Set/Props Designer), Colin K. Bills (Lighting Designer), Erik Trester (Video/Projections Designer), Ivania Stack (Costumer Designer), and Aaron Fisher (Sound /Live Mix Designer).

THE STUDIO 2NDSTAGE INFORMATION:

Under the leadership of Keith Alan Baker, The Studio 2ndStage creates edgy, extreme and electrifying productions that complement The Studio Theatre's season, all presented in its flexible raw space, Stage 4. *The Washington Post* stated 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."

DISCOUNTS

Student, senior citizen (62+) and military discount: \$5 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.

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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 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 Line: U Street/Cardozo.

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