

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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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## THE STUDIO THEATRE ANNOUNCES CASTING FOR ENTIRE 2010-2011 SEASON!

### DATE SET FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FIFTH PLAY OF THE STUDIO THEATRE SUBSCRIPTION SERIES AS WELL AS THE INAUGURATION OF A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE

The Studio Theatre's *2010-2011 Season* will feature today's hottest playwrights (**Annie Baker**, **Tracy Letts**, **Tarell Alvin McCraney** and **Enda Walsh**), stellar performers (**Nancy Robinette**, **Ted van Griethuysen**, **Philip Goodwin**, **Jennifer Mendenhall**, **Aubrey Deeker**, **Jimmy Davis**, **Harry A. Winter** and others), acclaimed directors (**David Muse**, **Serge Seiden**, **Timothy Douglas** and **Matt Torney**) and some brilliant, talented actors making their debuts on the stages of The Studio Theatre (including **Richard Cotovsky**, **Carlton Byrd**, **Kathleen McElfresh** and **Azania Dungee**).

The season kicks off with **Annie Baker's** simultaneously edgy and heartfelt *Circle Mirror Transformation*, directed by incoming Artistic Director **David Muse**. For this stunning ensemble piece, Muse has assembled a cast that includes two of Washington's favorite actors, **Jennifer Mendenhall** and **Harry A. Winter**. Joining them will be three extraordinary actors, all making their Washington debuts: **Kathleen McElfresh**, **MacKenzie Meehan** and **Jeff Talbot**.

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Tracy Letts's** newest work, *Superior Donuts*, directed by **Serge Seiden**, will star **Richard Cotovsky** as Arthur, a character he inspired and helped create in Chicago. Studio Theatre newcomer, **Carlton Byrd**, will play Franco, a young African American man who develops a life changing friendship with Arthur. The cast also features **Barbara Broughton** (last seen at The Studio Theatre in her hilarious and heartbreaking turn as Big Edie in *Grey Gardens*), **Chris Genebach** (The Studio Theatre's *Shining City*), as well as **Logan Bennett** and **Jason McIntosh**.

Following up on the success of last season's *In the Red and Brown Water* and 2008's *The Brother's Size*, The Studio Theatre continues its close relationship with playwright **Tarell Alvin McCraney** with *Marcus; Or The Secret of Sweet*. For the final play in McCraney's searing *Brother/Sister Plays*, director **Timothy Douglas** has brought together an incredible cast led by **J. Mal McCree**, a rising New York stage actor making his Washington debut. Joining McCree will be **Stephanie Berry**, **Shannon Dorsey**, **Rachael Holmes**, **Bianca Laverne Jones**, **Jonathan Peck**, **Nickolas Vaughn** and **Lance Williams**.

In the Spring of 2011, The Studio Theatre will produce *The Enda Walsh Repertory*, with two productions by the acclaimed playwright running simultaneously under the direction of **Matt Torney** and a single design team. *The Walworth Farce* features beloved Washington actor **Ted van Griethuysen**, **Aubrey Deeker**, **Jimmy Davis** (recently seen as Bobby in The Studio's Theatre's *American Buffalo*) and **Azania Dungee**. DC favorites **Nancy Robinette** and **Jennifer Mendenhall**, as well as **Sybil Lines** (last seen by Studio audiences in *Moonlight*) will play three sisters in *The New Electric Ballroom*.

Additionally, the two Special Events will each feature tour-de-force performances by a solo performer with the unparalleled **Philip Goodwin** in *Tynan* and writer-performer **David Cale** in *Palomino*.

On August 6, The Studio Theatre will make two major announcements. **David Muse**, the new Artistic Director, will unveil his choice for the final production of The Studio Theatre subscription season, a play certain to thrill and delight Washington audiences. Muse will also reveal an electrifying addition to the

– MORE –

2010-2011 season as part of his new international initiative for The Studio Theatre. Get ready for these exciting announcements.

**The 2010-2011 Subscription Series:**

*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

September 8, 2010 – October 17, 2010

In the Mead Theatre

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

Emerging playwright Annie Baker took New York by storm this past year with her originality and quirky humor. This charming new play invites the audience into an amateur theatre class in rural Vermont. 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.

*Hilarious and Heartwarming!*

**SUPERIOR DONUTS**

by Tracy Letts

directed by Serge Seiden

starring Richard Cotovsky and Carlton Byrd

with Logan Bennett, Julie-Ann Elliot, Chris Genebach and Jason McIntosh

November 10, 2010 – December 19, 2010

In the Metheny Theatre

“A wonderfully affecting and amusing work that reveals a playwright fully in command of his powers.”  
– *The Hollywood Reporter*

In this delicious new comedy from the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright of *August: Osage County*, an offbeat friendship grows between a cantankerous white shop owner and an ambitious black teenager with something to hide. As the two men bond over literature and entrepreneurship, they discover that family runs deeper than blood. Amidst the changing face of an old Chicago neighborhood, a local donut shop becomes the setting for old secrets and new beginnings.

*The Final Brother/Sister Play!*

**MARCUS; OR THE SECRET OF SWEET**

by Tarell Alvin McCraney

directed by Timothy Douglas

starring J. Mal McCree

featuring Stephanie Berry, Shannon Dorsey, Rachael Holmes, Bianca Laverne Jones, Jonathan Peck, Nickolas Vaughn and Lance Williams

January 12, 2011 – February 20, 2011

In the Mead Theatre

“Mr. McCraney’s plays...are pumped full of a senses-heightening oxygen that leaves you tingling.”  
– *The New York Times*

The sweltering final chapter of *The Brother/Sister Plays*, including The Studio Theatre hits *The Brothers Size* (2008) and *In the Red and Brown Water* (2010), cuts close to the bone. In this whimsical story of a young boy becoming a man and discovering his sexuality, Marcus risks alienating his loved ones in his own search for love. Past and present, obligation and desire, lust and friendship all collide in the sultry Louisiana heat.

*Two Masterpieces at Once!*  
**THE ENDA WALSH REPERTORY**  
**directed by Matt Torney**

“Walsh confirms himself as one of the most dazzling wordsmiths of contemporary theatre, and one who has a direct conduit to our wanting hearts.” – *The Guardian*

A brilliant duo of shocking stories from one of Ireland’s most powerful voices. These haunting plays excavate the darkest recesses of memory. See both when they run simultaneously in two different theatres. Each play complements the other, yet stands alone as an independent work. A truly one-of-a-kind event you won’t want to miss!

*Eye-opening and Unforgettable!*

**THE WALWORTH FARCE**

**by Enda Walsh**

**directed by Matt Torney**

**starring Ted van Griethuysen, Jimmy Davis, Aubrey Deeker and Azania Dungee**

**April 6, 2011 – April 24, 2011**

**In the Milton Theatre**

“Hugely entertaining and hugely horrifying.” – *The Guardian*

A sinister twist on the classic farce, this chilling tale exposes a family’s Sisyphean games as a father forces his two sons to reenact a shocking story from their troubled past. When a young woman from the outside unwittingly intrudes, things take a ghastly and irrevocable turn.

*Provocative and Lyrical!*

**THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM**

**by Enda Walsh**

**directed by Matt Torney**

**starring Nancy Robinette, Sybil Lines and Jennifer Mendenhall**

**April 13, 2011 – May 1, 2011**

**In the Metheny Theatre**

“Mordantly funny, weirdly transfixing...casts a powerful, macabre spell.” – *The New York Times*

Three aging Irish sisters, long past their prime, are imprisoned inside their reenactments of a tragic and pivotal night years ago. As the sisters faithfully rehearse these ancient scenes, a lonely fisherman interrupts, bringing both devastation and possible redemption to these three isolated women. In this beautiful and eerie family drama, the past is tyrannical.

*A Special Introduction!*

**Artistic Director’s Choice**

**May 25, 2011 – July 3, 2011**

**In the Mead Theatre**

Before planning his first full season, David Muse, the Artistic Director will choose a play to be in the 2010-2011 season as an introduction for Studio Theatre audiences.

**THE 2010-2011 SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**TYNAN**

**Based on the book *The Diaries of Kenneth Tynan* edited by John Lahr**

**Adapted for the stage by Richard Nelson with Colin Chambers**

**directed by Paul Mullins**

**starring Philip Goodwin**

**January 26, 2011 – February 13, 2011**

**In the Metheny Theatre**

Feed your inner voyeur with an inside look at the twisted and incisive mind of Kenneth Tynan. Starring Philip Goodwin as arguably the greatest theatre critic of the twentieth century, *Tynan* unapologetically divulges all – from this Englishman’s own scandalous love affairs to celebrity dirt.

## **PALOMINO**

**Written, directed and performed by David Cale**

**June 15, 2011 – July 3, 2011**

**In the Milton Theatre**

“David Cale...is a spellbinder. Fascinating as he is to watch, and exquisite as his verbal imagery can be, it is Cale’s gifts as a storyteller that hold an audience rapt.” – *San Francisco Chronicle*

One-of-a-kind performer David Cale returns to The Studio Theatre in his newest one-man show, a touching and comic glimpse into the world’s oldest profession. A carriage-driving gigolo and his female clients recount their experiences with sex and the search for human connection.

## **THE 2010-2011 STUDIO 2NDSTAGE SEASON:**

### **SONGS OF THE DRAGONS FLYING TO HEAVEN**

**by Young Jean Lee**

**directed by Natsu Onoda Power**

**September 29, 2010 – October 24, 2010**

**In Stage 4**

“Perverse, provocative and very funny...” – *The Village Voice*

A coterie of Korean women smash conventions of Asian-identity to bits and toss them up like confetti in this violent, explosive and hilarious theatrical event by one of New York’s hottest downtown playwrights.

### **MOJO**

**by Jez Butterworth**

**directed by Chris Gallu**

**December 1, 2010 – December 26, 2010**

**In Stage 4**

“The language, blunt and coarse and often hilarious, pours out of the characters with the force of the blaring jukebox rock that forms a leitmotif for the dark, violent action.” —*Chicago Tribune*

Underground rock-and-roll meets the London underworld in this fierce, hip comedy. Buzzing with music and the raucous energy of the 1950s, *Mojo* won the Olivier Award for Best New Comedy after its original run at the Royal Court Theatre in London.

### **POP!**

**Book and Lyrics by Maggie-Kate Coleman and Music by Anna K. Jacobs**

**directed by Keith Alan Baker**

**July 13, 2011 – August 7, 2011**

**In Stage 4**

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

Who shot Andy Warhol? A musical murder-mystery extravaganza that peeks inside the tumultuous artistic revelry of Warhol’s infamous Factory.

ALL PLAYS, DATES AND SPACES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

## **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.