

PRESS RELEASE

The Studio Theatre
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The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory
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STUDIO THEATRE

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THE STUDIO THEATRE BRINGS TOGETHER A STUNNING ACTING COMPANY FOR ENDA WALSH'S *THE WALWORTH FARCE* AND *THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM!*

“The most exciting and original Irish writer of this time.” —*The Independent*, London

The Studio Theatre will produce **Enda Walsh**'s remarkable and acclaimed plays *The Walworth Farce* and *The New Electric Ballroom* this spring as a part of *New Ireland: The Enda Walsh Festival*. Walsh, a Dublin-born writer, has been called “a writer whose every line swaggers with imagination, humour, toughness or all three” (*The Times*). These two productions will bring together some of Washington and New York's finest actors, under the direction and design of a single production team.

THE WALWORTH FARCE
by **Enda Walsh**
directed by **Matt Torney**
Opening April 6, 2011
In the Milton Theatre

“A theatrical experience that claws at the imagination for days afterwards.” —*Variety*

A sinister twist on high farce, *The Walworth Farce* exposes a family's Sisyphean games as a father forces his two sons to reenact their troubled past through cross-dressing, slapstick, and denial. A young woman unwittingly intrudes into their farce, changing the family's life irrevocably. Enda Walsh's “ferociously entertaining” play (*The New York Times*) combines hilarious moments with shocking realism and delivers an achingly tender insight into what happens when we become stuck in the stories we tell ourselves about our lives. This comic and chilling tale has already been extended due to unprecedented advance sales.

A celebrated Washington actor, **Ted van Griethuysen** (Dinny) was most recently seen at The Studio Theatre in *Moonlight*. This multi-Helen Hayes Award recipient has appeared in other Studio productions, including *Rock 'n' Roll*, *A Number*, and *The Invention of Love*, as well as in numerous leading roles at The Shakespeare Theatre Company, including this season's *Cymbeline*.

Aubrey Deeker (Blake) was previously seen at The Studio Theatre in *The Cripple of Inishmaan*. Mr. Deeker has appeared on numerous Washington stages, including The Shakespeare Theatre Company, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, The Folger Theatre, Signature Theatre, Round House Theatre, Theatre J, and Theatre Alliance.

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Alex Morf (Sean) was recently seen in Washington in *Cymbeline* and *The Alchemist* at The Shakespeare Theatre Company. Off Broadway credits include *Women Beware Women* at Red Bull Theater and *Viva Los Bastarditos* at LaMaMa ETC. He has appeared at theatres throughout the country, including California Shakespeare Theater, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, and The Children's Theatre Company.

Azania Dungee (Hayley) has appeared in Washington at Rasa Arts Collective, The Folger Theatre, Journeyman Theatre, and the Discovery Theatre. She can be seen in the daily program "Join the Student Sit-ins" at the National Museum of American History.

THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM

by **Enda Walsh**

directed by **Matt Torney**

Opening April 13, 2011

In the Mead Theatre

"With *The New Electric Ballroom*, 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*

The New Electric Ballroom, Walsh's "most intoxicating and original piece of writing" (*The New York Times*), is a companion piece to *The Walworth Farce*. Two sisters on the far edge of middle age live together in a small Irish village. Cajoled by their younger sister, they tell and retell the story of a dance hall of their youth, a certain handsome rock star, and the night that changed their lives. The sisters' only visitor is a lonely fishmonger, who may ultimately offer them an escape from the stories they have let imprison them.

Nancy Robinette returns to The Studio Theatre after starring in *The Solid Gold Cadillac* last season. Ms. Robinette's 30-year history with The Studio Theatre includes numerous productions, recently *Souvenir* and *Frozen*. A beloved Washington actor and multi-Helen Hayes Award recipient, Ms. Robinette has performed with The Shakespeare Theatre Company, Ford's Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Arena Stage, and The Kennedy Center, among others.

Sybil Lines makes her second Studio Theatre appearance, after performing in last season's *Moonlight*. Ms. Lines has also worked in Washington at The Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Folger Theatre, and Signature Theatre. She has performed on Broadway, at The Royal Shakespeare Theatre, and at Manhattan Theatre Club, among many other venues.

Last seen at The Studio Theatre earlier this season in *Circle Mirror Transformation*, **Jennifer Mendenhall** is a Washington favorite, who has recently appeared at Arena Stage, The Shakespeare Theatre Company, Forum Theatre, and the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, where she is a company member. She has been nominated for 13 Helen Hayes Awards.

Liam Craig (Patsy) was last seen at The Studio Theatre in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. He has appeared Off Broadway in *The Internationalist* at Vineyard Theatre; *Two Noble Kinsmen* at The Public Theater; and *Juno and the Paycock* at Roundabout Theatre Company. Regional Credits include work at Yale Repertory Theatre and The Old Globe.

The Studio Theatre's productions of *The Walworth Farce* and *The New Electric Ballroom* join Druid's production of *Penelope* as a part of *New Ireland: The Enda Walsh Festival*. In addition to these three productions, The Studio Theatre is offering a wide range of free events to further explore Walsh's work, as well as his place in the past and future of Irish theatre. For more information, or to register for any of these events, visit www.studiotheatre.org/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 Susan and Dixon Butler, The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Stanley and Rosemary Marcuss, and Vicki and Roger Sant.



The New Ireland Festival is generously underwritten by **Culture Ireland**, **David and Helen Kenney**, **Virginia A. McArthur**, the **National Endowment for the Arts**, and an anonymous donor.

Additional support has been provided by **Hank and Carol Goldberg**, the **Humanities Council of Washington, DC**, an affiliate of the **National Endowment for the Humanities**; and **Toni Rützenberg**.

THE WALWORTH FARCE INFORMATION

Where: The Milton Theatre

Dates: April 6–May 1, 2011

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

Select Tuesdays: April 12, 19, 26: 8:00pm

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday: 2:00pm

Ticket Prices: \$44–\$65

Press Opening: Sunday, April 10, 2011

Starring: **Ted van Griethuysen** (Dinny), **Aubrey Deeker** (Blake), **Alex Morf** (Sean), and **Azania Dungee** (Hayley).

Director and Designers: **Matt Torney** (Direction), **Debra Booth** (Setting), **Helen Q. Huang** (Costumes), **Michael Giannitti** (Lighting), **Martin Desjardins** (Sound Design), and **Robb Hunter** (Fight Choreography).

THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM INFORMATION

Where: The Mead Theatre

Dates: April 13–May 1, 2011

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

Select Tuesdays: April 19, 26: 8:00pm

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday: 2:00pm

Ticket Prices: \$44–\$65

Press Opening: Sunday, April 17, 2011

Starring: **Nancy Robinette** (Clara), **Sybil Lines** (Breda), **Jennifer Mendenhall** (Ada), and **Liam Craig** (Patsy)

Director and Designers: **Matt Torney** (Direction), **Debra Booth** (Setting), **Helen Q. Huang** (Costumes), **Michael Giannitti** (Lighting), **Martin Desjardins** (Sound Design), and **Robb Hunter** (Fight Choreography).

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 first 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, and the rawer, frequently irreverent productions of The Studio 2ndStage. 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 33-year history, the quality of its work has been recognized by sustained community support as well as with 271 nominations and 54 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: \$15 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: *Walworth:* Saturday, April 9, 2:00pm.

Studio District Night: *Walworth:* Wednesday, April 6, 8:00pm. *New Electric:* April 13, 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 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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