

# PRESS RELEASE

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

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## WITH WRITING FROM THE U.S. AND BEYOND, THE STUDIO THEATRE'S 2011-2012 SEASON EXPLORES THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD WITH STYLE, WIT, AND PASSION.

The Studio Theatre is thrilled to announce the eleven plays of its 2011-2012 season. Half of these plays have never been seen in the United States, marking Artistic Director David Muse's plan to build on The Studio's core strengths—stunning performances of remarkable contemporary plays in intimate spaces—by expanding its attention to international plays and the development of new work.

**The Studio Season** features some of the best writing from the U.S. and beyond, including the U.S. premiere of German writer **Roland Schimmelpfennig**'s mesmerizing and theatrical *The Golden Dragon*. Studio will produce the U.S. premieres of two plays from London: Alan Bennett's wistful, filthily funny *The Habit of Art* and *Sucker Punch*, **Roy Williams**'s kinetic and emotionally bruising play about young black boxers in 1980s London. The season also includes DC premieres of two New York sensations: the Broadway hit *Time Stands Still* by Pulitzer Prize winner **Donald Margulies** and *Bachelorette*, **Leslye Headland**'s biting and surprisingly moving play about mean girls gone wild.

Artistic Director David Muse also launches a new series this year—**The Studio Lab**—dedicated to stripped-down productions of invigorating new plays. British playwright **Duncan Macmillan** inaugurates the series with his chamber drama *Lungs*, about a couple navigating their shifting relationship over the course of their lives.

The 2011-2012 **Special Events** include former *Daily Show* correspondent Lauren Weedman's dynamic solo show *Bust* as well as the U.S. premiere of *The Animals and Children Take to the Streets*, a sold-out phenomenon by London-based company **1927**.

**The Studio 2ndStage** continues its innovative and thrillingly eclectic tradition, with the world premiere of the retro-sci-fi multimedia piece *Astro Boy and the God of Comics* from **Natsu Onoda Power**. **Dan LeFranc**'s play *The Big Meal*, set at a single table at a chain restaurant, follows five generations of a family. 2ndStage closes out its season with the sexy and satiric Broadway musical *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*—just in time for election season.

### THE 2011-2012 SUBSCRIPTION SERIES:

*The Habit of Art*  
by Alan Bennett  
U.S. Premiere  
directed by David Muse  
starring Ted van Griethuysen  
September 7, 2011-October 16, 2011  
in the Metheny Theatre

“*The Habit of Art* is funny, moving, a whirligig of ideas.” —*The Daily Telegraph*

Deep in the bowels of London’s National Theatre, rehearsals for a new play go apace: Benjamin Britton is having trouble with his latest opera, and seeks out his collaborator, poet W. H. Auden, after a twenty-five year separation. Between visits by a rent boy and a biographer—briefly mistaken for the rent boy—these aging artists wrestle with their desires, their jealousies, the ephemeral connection between creativity and inspiration, and all the reasons their friendship fell apart. Wistful and filthily funny, the latest play from the award-winning writer of *The History Boys* examines creativity, desire, and the tenacity of the artistic spirit.

***The Golden Dragon***

**by Roland Schimmelpfennig, translated by David Tushingham**

**U.S. Premiere**

**November 2, 2011-December 11, 2011**

**in the Mead Theatre**

“Poetic, brutal, mysterious, and touching.” —*Theater und Medien*

In the cramped kitchen of an Asian restaurant, four cooks pull the tooth of a young Chinese co-worker. His tooth ends up in the Thai soup of a flight attendant—who overhears the fight of a young couple who live above the restaurant, whose fighting disturbs the shopkeeper of the dry goods store next door to the restaurant, who is more connected to the young Chinese man than anyone suspects.

A kaleidoscopic look at a globalized world, this play by one of Germany’s most innovative and adventurous writers unfolds in brief and fierce comic scenes. Five actors cross age, race, and gender to play fifteen characters in this vicious, poetic, and surprisingly moving investigation of how intertwined our lives really are.

***Time Stands Still***

**by Donald Margulies**

**starring Holly Twyford**

**January 4, 2012-February 12, 2012**

**in the Metheny Theatre**

“Intelligent, absorbing and moving...The jolts of heightened drama spring at you with unnerving ferocity.” —*The New York Times*

This searing drama follows Sarah Goodwin, a globe-trotting photojournalist, who returns home from the battlefields of Iraq after she’s badly injured while covering a story. When her reporter-boyfriend James makes a pitch for domesticity, Sarah must choose between the thrilling but dangerous life she craves and the physically safe but emotionally perilous life she doesn’t quite understand. This gritty and compelling story from Pulitzer Prize winner Donald Margulies questions whether certain desires and images can ever really be erased.

***Sucker Punch***

**by Roy Williams**

**U.S. Premiere**

**February 29, 2012-April 8, 2012**

**in the Mead Theatre**

“A fast, thrilling dramatic bout that packs a political punch.” —*Time Out London*

When Leon and Troy are caught breaking in to a north London boxing gym, the owner puts the aspiring black boxers to work rather than turning them over to the police. When race riots erupt in the neighborhood, a split-second betrayal changes both boys’ lives. From the north London streets to the World Championship, the two former friends must ultimately step into the ring and face who they’ve become—champions or sell outs? Kinetic, comedic, and emotionally bruising, Williams’s masterwork blasts open the experience of being young, black, and ambitious in 1980s London.

***Bachelorette***

**by Leslye Headland**

**May 23, 2012-July 1, 2012**

**in the Mead Theatre**

“Written with stiletto-sharp wit and an unsparing clarity... with incisive humor and insight.”  
—*The New York Times*

Ten years out of high school, three unhappy friends show up not-quite-invited to their classmate’s luxe hotel room the night before her wedding. Half a bathtub of champagne later, the former prom queen is melting down, the nice-girl cokehead is on a mission to mend the mauled wedding dress, and the mastermind behind the carnage is a lacerating maid of honor whose picture-perfect life is less stable than she’d have it seem.

A smash hit Off Broadway, Leslye Headland’s savage and insightful play is an aria to the anxiety and self-loathing of a generation.

#### **THE 2011-2012 LAB SERIES:**

##### ***Lungs***

**by Duncan Macmillan**

**World Premiere**

**September 28, 2011-October 16, 2011**

**in the Milton Theatre**

“An electrifying new voice.” —*BBC Radio 4*

In a time of global anxiety, terrorism, and erratic weather, a couple tries to face their future—but is running out of time. Duncan Macmillan’s chamber drama offers an intimate look at how two people navigate chance, change, and consequence.

#### **THE 2011-2012 SPECIAL EVENTS:**

##### ***Bust***

**written and performed by Lauren Weedman**

**directed by Allison Narver**

**November 30, 2011-December 18, 2011**

**in Stage 4**

“Breathtaking... a female Robin Williams.” —*LA Weekly*

Lauren Weedman’s one-woman show is a mostly autobiographical play based on her experiences working as a volunteer advocate in a Southern California prison for women. Weedman’s job is to listen, but talking is what she does best, with occasionally disastrous and frequently hilarious results. She plays dozens of characters, switching from prostitute to parole office, addict to editor with nuance and empathy. With one foot in Hollywood and the other in jail, the former *Daily Show* correspondent careens wildly between the two worlds, taking us on a poignant, entertaining, and completely unforgettable ride.

##### ***The Animals and Children Take to the Streets***

**written and performed by 1927**

**U.S. Premiere**

**June 13, 2012-July 1, 2012**

**in the Metheny Theatre**

“A mind-blowingly beautiful piece of theatre”—*Time Out London*

Trust no one. Suspect even your own shadow. Welcome to the infamous Bayou Mansions, a sprawling, stinking tenement block where curtain-twitchers and peeping toms live side by side. When Agnes Eaves and her daughter arrive to save the lost souls, is it a sign for hope? Or has the real horror only just begun?

With live music, witty performances, and stunning interaction between animation and live actors, *The Animals and Children Take to the Streets* is a charming, ghoulish, and otherworldly little show from acclaimed London company 1927—a graphic novel burst into life.

#### **THE 2011-2012 STUDIO 2NDSTAGE:**

##### ***Astro Boy and the God of Comics***

**created and directed by Natsu Onoda Power**

**World Premiere**

**February 15, 2012-March 11, 2012**

**in Stage 4**

“Writer-director Onoda has a rare mind’s eye and an even rarer ability to get her audience to see through it.”

—*Time Out Chicago*

A highly visual, retro-sci-fi performance about the 1960s animation series *Astro Boy* and its creator Osamu Tezuka. The play combines Tezuka’s life, the history of Japanese animation, and the fictional world of Astro Boy, a crime-fighting boy robot. This high/low-tech multimedia extravaganza, featuring on-stage drawing, interactive video, and 1960s-style animation is being created for Studio 2ndStage.

### ***The Big Meal***

by **Dan LeFranc**

**April 25, 2012-May 20, 2012**

**in the Milton Theatre**

“One of the more emotionally consuming experiences of recent decades.” —*Chicago Sun Times*

Five generations share the moments, both epic and intimate, that make a life. From the excitement and awkwardness of a first date to the grief of watching a parent fade, *The Big Meal* portrays the arc of a family’s experience from a single restaurant table at a chain restaurant. From one of America’s fast-rising playwrights, this quirky and heartfelt play took Chicago by storm last winter.

### ***Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson***

by **Alex Timbers, with music/lyrics by Michael Friedman**

**directed by Keith Alan Baker**

**July 11, 2012-August 5, 2012**

**In Stage 4**

“Bloody good! A provocative, scathing and topical satire with wild and zany humor.” —*Variety*

This rowdy and irreverent musical imagines President Andrew “Old Hickory” Jackson as a rock star, following young Jackson from his boyhood home to the spotlight of the White House and beyond. Whether fighting “injuns” or seducing the ladies, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* showcases one of the nation’s most notorious presidents in all his ass-kicking glory.

This political, satirical spectacle questions how important it is to be a great leader when you’re already hot and popular. American history has never been this sexy.

## **ALL PLAYS, DATES, AND THEATRES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

### **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 midsized 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.

**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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