

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 2009-2010 SEASON

### SEASON ANCHORED BY TWO EXCITING SERIES – *THE MONEY PLAYS AND THE BROTHER/SISTER PLAYS!*

With remarkable writers tackling the most provocative topics, The Studio Theatre is thrilled to announce their 2009-2010 Season. This season, The Studio Theatre will produce not one, but two electrifying clusters of plays. Throughout the season, audiences will have the chance to see *Money Plays*, a trio of three very different plays—*Adding Machine: A Musical*, *The Solid Gold Cadillac* and *American Buffalo*—that examine and skewer the world of money and business. With *Money Plays*, The Studio Theatre will present a season of theatre that isn't afraid to ask challenging and timely questions. In 2010, Tarell Alvin McCraney returns with a duo of plays that will transport audiences back to the stunning world of his 2008 hit, *The Brothers Size*, with *The Brother/Sister Plays*. With two plays running simultaneously in two theatres as well as a reading of *The Brother Size* in 2ndStage, this will be a can't-miss event.

This extraordinary season is sure to delight and enflame audiences. With ten Washington-area premiers, it's an eclectic mix with everything from high comedy to a meditation on family by one of the masters of twentieth-century playwriting. With something for every theatre lover, The Studio Theatre presents a season astonishingly diverse in nature.

### GREAT WRITERS: BIG ISSUES

The subscription series begins with the late Harold Pinter's hauntingly beautiful *Moonlight*. Plucked from the great American repertory, **George S. Kaufman** and **Howard Teichmann's** period farce, *The Solid Gold Cadillac*, lampoons the world of corporate bigwigs. Drumbeats will be heard again in two plays by the phenomenally talented writer of *The Brothers Size*, **Tarell Alvin McCraney**, in *The Brother/Sisters Plays: In The Red and Brown Water* and *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet*. Studio Theatre favorite, **Neil Labute** goes for the jugular once more in another darkly, comic play attacking contemporary American life. The subscription series concludes with the last of the three *Money Plays*, *American Buffalo*, **David Mamet's** masterpiece about the dangers of American business.

### SPECIAL EVENTS: MONEY AND EVENING GOWNS

With **Joshua Schmidt** and **Jason Loewith's** *Adding Machine: A Musical* and the return of **Lypsinka**, the two 2009-10 Special Events present two very different takes, yet equally exciting directions. Part of *Money Plays*, *Adding Machine*, a fantastically stylistic musical adapted from one of the great plays of American Expressionism, takes a caustic view of American Capitalism. In the spring of 2010, **Lypsinka** will once again remind Washington audiences why "watching a Lypsinka show is like channel-surfing in Heaven" (*Daily Variety*).

### STUDIO 2NDSTAGE: BOLD THEATRE, EDGY WRITERS

The Studio 2ndStage goes where few other theatres dare to go, presenting some of the newest and hottest playwrights in the raw, flexible Stage 4. Starting things off is the quirky *Sixty Miles to Silver Lake*, **Dan Lefranc's** wild father-son road trip where nothing is for certain and the tiniest utterance can change everything. In conjunction with the two *Brother/Sister Plays* in The Studio Theatre subscription series, The Studio 2ndStage will present a reading of **Tarell Alvin McCraney's** *The Brother Size*. From the

cutting-edge repertoire of London's Royal Court Theatre, comes prodigy **Polly Stenham's** *That Face*, a violent look at a British upper middle class family. The Studio 2ndStage season comes to a powerful close with *Passing Strange*, a dazzling and eclectic rock musical by **Stew** that catapults the genre far into the twenty-first century.

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### **The 2009-10 Subscription Series:**

*Nobel Winning Playwright!*

#### **MOONLIGHT**

**by Harold Pinter**

Directed by Joy Zinoman

Starring Ted van Griethuysen

**Opening September 9, 2009**

In the Metheny Theatre

*"There is no playwright his equal... This is classical playwriting, make no mistake about it."*

– The New York Post

After his recent death, this master playwright's poetic meditation on familial love, estrangement and mortality emerges as a heartbreakingly relevant tale of startling proportions. As a stern patriarch lays dying, his wife desperately tries to bring his two estranged sons to his bedside. Holding the two sides of the family together is the dead girl haunting all of their memories. Both comical and melancholy, *Moonlight* hovers in the space between life and death, family and isolation.

*Hilarious Farce!*

#### **THE SOLID GOLD CADILLAC**

**by George S. Kaufman and Howard Taichmann**

Directed by Serge Seiden

In the Metheny Theatre

*"The characters are fun to watch, the one-liners elicit chuckles and guffaws."*

– Centerstage Chicago

Written in 1953, George S. Kaufman and Howard Teichman's lost American classic percolates with startling contemporary resonance. A "fairy tale" disguised in farce, this play follows the trials and travails of Mrs. Laura Partridge, a minor stockholder in a major corporation. In this farcical Cinderella story, big business meets its match when Mrs. Partridge takes on the big, bad, board of directors, ultimately bringing the executives to their knees. A true David and Goliath story, *The Solid Gold Cadillac* underscores the power of the individual in the face of corporate corruption.

*Two Sexy Plays, One Hot Writer!*

#### **THE BROTHER/SISTER PLAYS:**

***IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER AND MARCUS; OR THE SECRET OF SWEET***

**by Tarell Alvin McCraney**

**Opening January 6, 2010**

*"...An exciting new voice. It's one you will want to hear from again, and soon."*

– The Washington Post

Following the success of The Studio Theatre's 2008 hit, *The Brothers Size*, two more steamy plays about coming-of-age in the Louisiana Bayou bubble out of a gumbo of rhythm and sensuality. With *In the Red and Brown Water* and *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet*, Tarell Alvin McCraney returns to a world driven by intense music, enflamed passions and spiritual Yoruban myth. The Studio Theatre productions of these two plays will run simultaneously in two different theatres.

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*Sizzling and Shameless!*

**NEIL LABUTE PLAY!**

**Opening March 24, 2010**

In the Mead Theatre

*“Bold, unapologetic and willing to go where others don't dare...”*

– Time Magazine

The “bad boy of American theatre,” and writer of Studio Theatre favorites, runaway hits *The Shape of Things* and *Fat Pig*, returns with a play sure to scintillate and enflame audiences. Labute once again takes no prisoners, tackling the taboos and unspoken truths of contemporary American life. Fearless, unrepentant and darkly comic, this writer will go for the jugular in a play so sizzling that it has to stay a secret!

*A Contemporary, American Classic!*

**AMERICAN BUFFALO**

by **David Mamet**

Directed by Joy Zinoman

**Opening May 5, 2010**

In the Mead Theatre

*“American Buffalo is one of the best American plays”*

– The New York Times

Arguably David Mamet’s greatest work, this modern classic about petty crooks and the pitfalls of American business percolates with Mamet’s unmistakable style. In a Chicago South Side junk shop, three smalltime thieves, Don, Teach and Bobby, conspire to steal a valuable coin collection from a wealthy man. As these self-defined entrepreneurs plot a crime that never happens, they prove to be dark soul mates to those making headlines today.

**THE 2009-2010 SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**ADDING MACHINE: A MUSICAL**

by **Joshua Schmidt and Jason Loewith**

Directed by Jason Loewith

**Opening October 14, 2009**

In the Milton Theatre

*"A BRILLIANT MUSICAL! Jet black, uncompromising and REMARKABLE!"*

– The New York Times

Elmer Rice’s expressionistic masterpiece re-imagined in a stunning new musical! After losing his job to a machine, Mr. Zero’s monotonous life swirls into chaos. With jangling, percussive music reflecting period influences – including early-20th-century modernists, Tin Pan Alley and gospel – this work conjures a vision of American life in the 1920s at odds with that decade’s popular image as a happy-go-lucky era ended only by the Depression. It is a vision that feels eerily in tune with our own unsettled economy.

**LYPSINKA RETURNS!**

**Opening June 16, 2010**

In the Milton Theatre

*“The fabulousness of Lypsinka has been established so definitively that it could be cited in case law.”*

– The Washington Post

The wigs are ready, the heels are out and the claws are sharpened. The diva herself returns to The Studio Theatre for a hilarious evening of glitz and glamour. After previously taking Washington by storm in such riotous affairs as *Lypsinka: As I Lay Lip-Synching* and *The Passion of the Crawford*, John Epperson – also

known as Lypsinka –couldn't stay away. With unforgettable style and pizzazz, Lypsinka will give the audience a performance to remember!

— MORE —

**THE 2009-2010 STUDIO 2NDSTAGE SEASON:**

**SIXTY MILES TO SILVER LAKE**

by Dan Lefranc

In Stage 4

*"LeFranc has a golden ear...in this painfully honest two-hander"*

– Variety

A father and son barrel down a highway in a car where nothing is what it seems and everything can change in an instant. In this new play by one of America's fastest rising young writers, a sixty mile drive can be the ride of a lifetime.

**READING:**

**THE BROTHERS SIZE**

by Tarell Alvin McCraney

**Six Performances Only!**

In Stage 4

*"Listen closely, and you might hear that thrilling sound that is one of the main reasons we go to the theater, that beautiful music of a new voice."*

– The New York Times

The thrilling Louisiana tale, *The Brothers Size*, returns in a brand, new reading, presented in conjunction with *The Brother/Sister Plays*.

**THAT FACE**

by Polly Stenham

**Opening February 17, 2010**

In Stage 4

*"One of the most astonishing debuts I have seen in more than 30 years of theatre reviewing"*

– The Daily Telegraph

Causing a national sensation, London playwright Polly Stenham was just 19-years-old when she wrote this shocking story about a violent encounter at an all-girls school and its startling ramifications. With a pitch-black sense of humor, *That Face* skewers the nastiness hidden within the British upper middle class.

**PASSING STRANGE**

by Stew

Directed by Keith Alan Baker

**Opening July 14, 2010**

In Stage 4

*"Smashes Broadway clichés with an electric guitar and the funniest libretto I can remember."*

– New York Magazine

Rocking last year's Broadway season with soulful songs and funky harmonies, *Passing Strange* follows a rock musician on his quest for authenticity. From singer-songwriter and performance artist Stew comes a new kind of musical full of sex, drugs, and rock'n'roll and unlike anything you've seen before.

ALL PLAYS, DATES AND CASTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

MORE —

## 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 state-of-the-art four-theatre complex, a major landmark that anchors the 14th Street Arts District. With four theatres, the critics hailed that **“The Studio Theatre now qualifies as a one-troupe theatre boom on 14<sup>th</sup> Street”** (*Washington City Paper*). The award-winning Studio 2ndStage creates edgy, explosive, extreme 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 34th 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 community and in neighborhood revitalization.

## 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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