

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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PRESS RELEASE

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DATE: August 19, 2010

THE STUDIO THEATRE ANNOUNCES REMARKABLE ENSEMBLE FOR *CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION!*

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

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**

Opening September 8, 2010

In the Mead Theatre

The extraordinarily talented playwright **Annie Baker** took New York by storm this past year with her stunning originality and quirky humor. The 2010 Obie Award Winner for Best New American Play, *Circle Mirror Transformation* invites the audience into an amateur theatre class in rural Vermont. In this intoxicating new play, theatre games and acting exercises mirror the real drama taking place between the students. The Studio Theatre, founded as an acting conservatory and now in its 36th year, finds a perfect match with a play about the life lessons learned and relationships forged in acting class.

Circle Mirror Transformation will be directed by **David Muse**, The Studio Theatre’s new Artistic Director and the director of such recent Studio Theatre hits as *Reasons to Be Pretty* and *Blackbird*, the 2009 Helen Hayes Award recipient for Outstanding Resident Play. The Theatre is thrilled to announce this production’s incredible ensemble, which brings together some of Washington and New York’s finest actors.

Jennifer Mendenhall plays Marty, the acting class teacher. Ms. Mendenhall returns to The Studio Theatre after recent appearances in The Studio’s 2ndStage productions of *A Beautiful View* and *Crestfall*. Other recent credits include *Clybourne Park*, *Measure for Pleasure* and *Dead Man’s Cell Phone* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, *Major Barbara* at The Shakespeare Theatre Company and *Ambition Facing West*, *The Monument* (Helen Hayes Award nomination) and *You Are Here* (Helen Hayes Award nomination) at Theatre Alliance.

Playing Marty’s husband James is **Harry A. Winter**, whose appearances at The Studio Theatre include *The Slab Boys Trilogy*, *The Birthday Party* and *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom*, among others. Other DC credits include Helen Hayes nominated performances of *110 in the Shade*, *Allegro*, *Pacific Overtures* and *Show Boat* at Signature Theatre; and *Sunday in the Park*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *Mame* at The Kennedy Center.

Jeff Talbott plays Schultz, a recent divorcé. His Broadway credits include *Sly Fox* and *Fortune’s Fool* and he has been seen Off Broadway in *Such Good Friends* and *Home of the Brave*. Mr. Talbott has appeared at theatres across the country including The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Paper Mill Playhouse, Missouri Repertory Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre and Yale Repertory Theatre. He has also been seen in such movies and television shows as *Julie & Julia*, *Law & Order*, *The Sopranos* and *As the World Turns*.

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Making her Washington debut, **Kathleen McElfresh** plays Theresa, a former New York actress. Ms. McElfresh performed on Broadway in Noel Coward's *Present Laughter*. Other New York credits include *One Slight Hitch*, *Greek Holiday* and *Frugal Repast*. She has appeared in productions at The Old Globe, The Huntington Theatre Company and Dallas Theater Center, as well as on television in *Law and Order* and *Royal Pains*.

Mackenzie Meehan makes her Washington debut as Lauren, an angst-ridden teenager who dreams of playing the lead role in her high school's musical. A recent graduate of NYU's Graduate Acting Program, Ms. Meehan's New York credits include *The Sacrifices* at the Public Theatre, *Stella* at New York Theatre Workshop and *Tact* at the NY International Fringe Fest.

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 The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Stanley and Rosemary Marcuss, and Vicki and Roger Sant.

This production of Circle Mirror Transformation is generously underwritten by Gerald and Laura Rosberg.

Starring: Jennifer Mendenhall (Marty), Harry A. Winter (James), Kathleen McElfresh (Theresa), MacKenzie Meehan (Lauren) and Jeff Talbott (Schultz).

Director and Designers: David Muse (Director), Debra Booth (Setting), Colin K. Bills (Lighting), Alex Jaeger (Costumes) and Neil McFadden (Sound).

CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION INFORMATION

Where: The Mead Theatre

Dates: September 8–October 17, 2010

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

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday: 2:00pm

Select Tuesdays: September 21, 28, October 12: 8:00pm

Signed Interpreted Performance: September 19: 2:00pm

Ticket Prices: \$35-\$65

Press Opening: Sunday, September 12

THE STUDIO THEATRE INFORMATION:

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. The Studio Theatre was founded in 1978 by Joy Zinoman, whose recent work has been called **"riveting," "beautifully orchestrated"** and **"inspired"** by *The Washington Post*. David Muse was named Artistic Director of The Studio Theatre, beginning with the 2010-2011 season, following Zinoman's retirement. Before being named Artistic Director, Muse had great directorial successes with The Studio Theatre and beyond. The leadership team also includes 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 new four-theatre complex, a major landmark that anchors the 14th Street Arts District. The four-theatre complex with its soaring atrium was quickly hailed as **"a magnificent theatre space that promises more memorable evenings to come"** (*Washington City Paper*). The Studio 2ndStage creates edgy, explosive 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 35th 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 Studio Theatre is deeply invested in the eclectic vitality of its community.

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DISCOUNTS

Student, senior citizen (62+) and military discount: \$5.00 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.

Pay What You Can: Saturday, September 11, 2:00pm.

Studio District Night: Wednesday, September 8, 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.

Contact Information: Tickets: 202-332-3300 V/TTY: 202-667-8436 Fax: 202-332-1187
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