

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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DAVID MAMET'S MASTERWORK *AMERICAN BUFFALO* STAMPEDES THE STUDIO THEATRE!

"American Buffalo is one of the best American plays." – The New York Times

A Contemporary American Classic!

AMERICAN BUFFALO

by **David Mamet**

Directed by **Joy Zinoman**

Starring **Peter Allas, Jimmy Davis and Edward Gero**

Opening May 5, 2010

In the Milton Theatre

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 junk shop, three small-time thieves, Donny, Teach and Bobby, conspire to steal a valuable coin collection. As these self-defined entrepreneurs plot a crime that never happens, they prove to be dark soul-mates to those making headlines today.

American Buffalo will be the final production that Joy Zinoman will direct as The Studio Theatre's Founding Artistic Director. This play has particular resonance for Zinoman. "*American Buffalo* is one of the great plays of the American canon," she explains. "It was written in the same year as the founding of The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory and is set in my hometown of Chicago." With its gritty characters and sharp comic language, *American Buffalo* officially put Mamet on the map when it first premiered in 1975.

All of the action in *American Buffalo* occurs in "Don's Resale Shop," a secondhand junk store run by Donny Dubrow. When the play opens, Donny is instructing Bobby, his young protégé, in the art of "good business." After Teach, Donny's rough-around-the-edges associate, enters, Donny recounts how a coin collector stumbled across a valuable buffalo nickel in the junk shop and purchased it for only \$90. Coming to believe that the coin was far more valuable, Donny becomes determined to steal the coin back. He elicits help from Bobby and Teach. After choosing Bobby to carry out the actual robbery, Donny and Teach later conspire to cut him out of the deal and split the money between the two of them. When Bobby returns to the shop, events take a vicious and frightening turn. As much a story of searing loneliness and aggression, *American Buffalo* cuts to the heart of the complicated nature of male friendship and the bond between fathers and sons.

This sizzling production stars Washington DC-favorite Edward Gero as Donny, Peter Allas as Teach and Jimmy Davis as Bobby. Zinoman will be joined by all four of The Studio Theatre's resident designers – Set Designer Russell Metheny, Lighting Designer Michael Giannitti, Costume Designer Helen Q. Huang and Sound Designer Gil Thompson.

American Buffalo is generously underwritten by *Jaylee Mead*, with additional underwriting from *Stanley and Rosemary Marcuss, Joan and David Maxwell and Steve and Linda Skalet*. Additional support was received by *Gerald and Laura Rosberg, Jerry and Patti Sowalsky and Henry von Eichel*.

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Starring: Peter Allas (Teach), Jimmy Davis (Bobby) and Edward Gero (Donny).

Director and Designers: Joy Zinoman (Director), Russell Metheny (Set Design), Michael Giannitti (Lighting Design), Helen Q. Huang (Costume Design) and Gil Thompson (Sound Design).

AMERICAN BUFFALO INFORMATION

Where: The Milton Theatre

Dates: May 5–June 13, 2010

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

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday 2:00pm

Select Tuesdays: May 18, 25, June 1, 8: 8:00pm

Ticket Prices: \$49-\$63

Press Opening: Sunday, May 9

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 new four-theatre complex, a major landmark that anchors the 14th Street Arts District. The complex 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 community and in the eclectic vitality of its neighborhood.

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).

Student Matinee: Thursday, May 13, 11:00am. Call the Group Sales Manager at 202-232-7267.

Groups: for parties of 10 or more. Call the Group Sales Manager at 202-232-7267.

Pay What You Can: Saturday, May 8, 2:00pm.

Studio District Night: Wednesday, May 5, 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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