

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

TELEPHONE 202.232.7267. BOX OFFICE 202.332.3300. FAX 202.588.5262. WEB STUDIOTHEATRE.ORG. EMAIL STUDIO@STUDIOTHEATRE.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Liane Jacobs, Director of Communications

(202) 232-7267 ext. 360 or liane@studiotheatre.org

DATE: August 20, 2009

THE STUDIO THEATRE 2009 - 2010 SEASON: FEATURING THE ELECTRIFYING SERIES – *THE MONEY PLAYS!* WITH FIVE SUBSCRIPTION SHOWS, TWO SPECIAL EVENTS AND THREE 2NDSTAGE PRODUCTIONS!

“The Studio Theatre now qualifies as a one-troupe theatre boom on 14th Street.”
– Washington City Paper

In its 2009-2010 Season, The Studio Theatre is delighted to produce writers tackling the most provocative and personal subjects. In the year to come, this extraordinary season is sure to delight and enflame audiences. With nine Washington-area premieres, The Studio Theatre will stage everything from the hottest British import by a nineteen-year-old phenom to a meditation on family by a master of twentieth-century playwriting. In its four theatres, The Studio Theatre will present a season astonishingly diverse in nature with unequalled performances and superior production values.

Capturing the current zeitgeist, The Studio Theatre will feature a thrilling cluster of plays. Throughout the season, audiences will have the chance to see *The Money Plays*, a trio of three very different productions—*Adding Machine: A Musical*, *The Solid Gold Cadillac* and *American Buffalo*—that examine and skewer the world of American money and business. With *The Money Plays*, The Studio Theatre will present a season of theatre that isn't afraid to ask challenging and timely questions.

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 a new play by the phenomenally talented writer of *The Brothers Size*, **Tarell Alvin McCraney**, in *In the Red and Brown Water*. Studio Theatre favorite **Neil LaBute** goes for the jugular once more in *Reasons to Be Pretty*. 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

Part One of *Money Plays*, **Joshua Schmidt** and **Jason Loewith's** *Adding Machine: A Musical*, brilliantly adapted from one of the great plays of American Expressionism, takes a caustic view of American capitalism. *Adding Machine* will be directed by one of its authors, Washington newcomer Jason Loewith. In the spring of 2010, **Lypsinka**, in her fifth Studio Theatre appearance, will once again remind Washington audiences why “watching a Lypsinka show is like channel-surfing in Heaven” (*Daily Variety*) as she transforms **James Kirkwood's** Hollywood comedy, *Legends!*.

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. From the cutting-edge repertoire of London's Royal Court Theatre comes prodigy **Polly Stenham's** *That Face*, a violent look at English girls' schools and the British upper middle class. Next up 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. 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.

— MORE —

The 2009-2010 Subscription Series:

Nobel Winning Playwright!

MOONLIGHT

by **Harold Pinter**

Directed by **Joy Zinoman**

Starring **Ted van Griethuysen**

Featuring **Sybil Lines, Anatol Yusef, Tom Story, Catherine Flye, James Slaughter**

& **Libby Woodbridge**

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 comic 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 Teichmann**

Directed by **Paul Mullins**

Starring **Nancy Robinette**

Featuring **Michael Goodwin, David Sabin, James Slaughter, Paul Nolan & Leo Erickson**

Opening **December 2, 2009**

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 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.

One Sexy Play, One Hot Writer!

IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER

by **Tarell Alvin McCraney**

Directed by **Serge Seiden**

Featuring **Raushanah Simmons, Deirdra LaWan Starnes, Mark Hairston, Jahi Kearsse,**

Yaegel Welch & Denise Diggs

Opening **January 6, 2010**

In the **Milton Theatre**

"...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*, Tarell Alvin McCraney returns to a world driven by intense music, enflamed passions and spiritual Yoruban myth with *In the Red and Brown Water*. Set in the Louisiana bayou, this coming-of-age tale about a female runner bubbles out of a gumbo of rhythm and sensuality.

— MORE —

Sizzling and Shameless!

REASONS TO BE PRETTY

by Neil LaBute

Directed by David Muse

Opening March 24, 2010

In the Mead Theatre

"Brutally entertaining! This taut, unexpectedly affecting play is one of LaBute's best."

– Variety

The bad boy of American theatre once again takes no prisoners, tackling the taboos and unspoken truths of contemporary American life. *Reasons to Be Pretty* concludes LaBute's searing trilogy exploring America's obsession with physical beauty, a trilogy he began with two Studio Theatre favorites, runaway hits *The Shape of Things* and *Fat Pig*.

A Contemporary, American Classic!

AMERICAN BUFFALO

by David Mamet

Directed by Joy Zinoman

Starring Ed Gero and Waleed Zuiater

Opening May 5, 2010

In the Milton 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

Starring David Benoit

With Joanne Schmoll, Stephen Gregory Smith, Channez McQuay,

Thomas Simpson, Joe Peck & Kristen Jepperson

Opening October 14, 2009

In Stage 4

"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 music reflecting period influences – 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 image as a happy-go-lucky era ended by the Depression.

Lypsinka in

LEGENDS!

by James Kirkwood

Opening June 16, 2010

In the Metheny 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! Lypsinka returns to The Studio Theatre in a brand new adaptation of *Legends!* In order to revive their dying careers, two aging divas must battle it out in this hilarious comedy full of glitz and glamour. With unforgettable style, Lypsinka will give the audience a performance to remember!

— MORE —

THE 2009-2010 STUDIO 2NDSTAGE SEASON:

THAT FACE

by Polly Stenham

Directed by Rahaleh Nassri

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 for a “typical” English family. With a pitch-black sense of humor, *That Face* skewers the nastiness hidden within the British upper middle class.

SIXTY MILES TO SILVER LAKE

by Dan Lefranc

Directed by Serge Seiden and Tom Story

Opening April 14, 2010

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.

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.

NOTE: ALL PLAYS, DATES AND CASTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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 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*).

— MORE —

The 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 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 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 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
Administration: 202-232-7267 Admin. Fax: 202-588-5262

Web site: www.studiotheatre.org E-mail: studio@studiotheatre.org

#