

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:** March 24, 2010

## TAKE A RIDE WITH DAN LEFRANC'S *SIXTY MILES TO SILVER LAKE* AT THE STUDIO 2NDSTAGE!

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

### SIXTY MILES TO SILVER LAKE

by **Dan LeFranc**  
Directed by **Serge Seiden**  
Starring **Chris Mancusi** and **Andrew Sonntag**  
Opening April 14, 2010  
In Stage 4

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 down a California highway can be the ride of a lifetime. Playwright Dan LeFranc brings an original slant to the most basic of human relationships. LeFranc constantly adjusts the audience's sense of time and space to create an authentic sense of the raw emotion between a father and son.

Ky, a divorcee, has weekend custody of his son Denny. Though they spend just over an hour in transit, time shifts forward and backward as years pass between the two men. Again and again, Ky breaks the "itchy" silence to try and forge some connection with his withdrawn son. Anything to relate. Anything to get close to a son who lives even farther away emotionally than he does physically. In typical surly-teenager fashion, Denny pushes away, and, in typical overbearing-father fashion, Ky pushes back. But "behind the combative behavior," *Variety* observes, "there's a terrible unanswered need for love on both sides."

Dan LeFranc writes with an edgy, fresh perspective, incomparable to any of his contemporaries. He is a graduate of Brown University's MFA playwriting program and a former student of prominent American playwrights Paula Vogel and Naomi Iizuka. His plays include *Sixty Miles to Silver Lake*, *Origin Story*, *Bruise Easy*, *Night Surf*, *In the Labyrinth*, *The Fishbone Fables*, *Backyard*, *Kill The Keepers* and *Catgut*. His work has been produced and developed across the country at institutions such as Page 73 Productions, Soho Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Circle X Theatre Company, Vineyard Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Sundance Theatre Institute, MCC, The Kennedy Center, American Repertory Theatre, Portland Center Stage, ArsNova, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Clubbed Thumb, Magic Theatre, Inc., American Theatre Company, Babel Theatre Project, Perishable Theater and Kitchen Dog Theater, among others.

Playing Ky, the father struggling to connect with his son, is **Chris Mancusi**. An alumnus of The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory, he has performed in Imagination Stage's *Lost And Foundling* as well as numerous productions with the Maryland Ensemble Theatre, The Fun Company, Silver Spring Stage and Landless Theatre Company. **Andrew Sonntag** returns to the Studio stage as Denny, the "down and dirty kid." He last dazzled Studio audiences as Jimmy Harper in Studio 2ndStage's *Reefer Madness – The Musical*, for which he was nominated for a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lead Actor. He has also appeared as the title role in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* and in *The Secret Garden* at The Adventure Theatre; *Redhand* at Arena Stage and productions at Signature Theatre, The Kennedy Center, Olney Theatre Center, Imagination Stage and MetroStage.

— MORE —

*Sixty Miles to Silver Lake* will be directed by Serge Seiden, Associate Producing Artistic Director of The Studio Theatre. He has directed such recent Studio Theatre hits as *In the Red and Brown Water*, *Grey Gardens*, *My Children! My Africa!*, *Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins*, which received three Helen Hayes Awards and five Helen Hayes nominations, including Outstanding Director and Outstanding Resident Play. He has also directed extensively for The Studio 2ndStage with productions including *All That I Will Ever Be* and *This is Our Youth*.

The 2009-2010 season of The Studio Theatre 2ndStage is underwritten by **Ina and A. Fenner Milton**.

**Featuring: Chris Mancusi** (Ky) and **Andrew Sonntag** (Denny).

**Director and Designers: Serge Seiden** (Director), **Luciana Stecconi** (Setting), **John Burkland** (Lighting), **Ryan Gastelum** (Sound) and **Brandee Mathies** (Costumes).

### **SIXTY MILES TO SILVER LAKE INFORMATION**

**Where:** Stage 4

**Dates:** April 14–May 9, 2010

**Performances:** Wednesday-Saturday: 8:30pm, Sunday: 7:30pm

**Ticket Prices:** \$30

**Discount Ticket Prices:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: \$25

**Press Opening:** Sunday, March 18, 2010

### **THE STUDIO 2NDSTAGE INFORMATION:**

The Studio 2ndStage creates edgy, extreme and electrifying productions that complement The Studio Theatre's season, all presented in its flexible raw space, Stage 4. *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."

### **DISCOUNTS**

**Student, senior citizen (62+) and military discount:** \$5 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.

### **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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