

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

PRESS RELEASE

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DATE: September 1, 2009

THE STUDIO THEATRE ANNOUNCES ALL STAR ENSEMBLE FOR *ADDING MACHINE: A MUSICAL*, DIRECTED BY JASON LOEWITH!

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

– *The New York Times*

Special Event!

Adding Machine: A Musical

by Joshua Schmidt and Jason Loewith

directed by Jason Loewith

featuring David Benoit, Joanne Schmoll, Kristin Jepperson, Stephen Gregory Smith, Dan Via, Channez McQuay, Katie Nigsch, Joe Peck and Thomas Adrian Simpson.

opening October 14

in Stage 4

With rave reviews from *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Village Voice*, to name a few, *Adding Machine* was the runaway hit of the 2008 Off Broadway theatre season. A collaborative effort of playwright Jason Loewith and composer Joshua Schmidt, the new musical is an adaptation of Elmer Rice's 1923 expressionist masterpiece *The Adding Machine*. After losing his job to a machine, Mr. Zero's monotonous life swirls into chaos. With music reflecting its 1920s period influences – early-20th-century modernists, Tin Pan Alley and gospel – this work invokes a vision of American life in the 1920s at odds with that decade's reigning image as a happy-go-lucky, free-for-all era ended by the Depression. Teamed with *The Solid Gold Cadillac* and *American Buffalo* to round out our *Money Plays* series, this Special Event eerily pinpoints the source of the uncertainty looming over our own economy.

Jason Loewith, conceiver and co-librettist of *Adding Machine: A Musical*, directs his hit musical for the first time in his Washington DC debut at The Studio Theatre! He also wrote and directed the New York production *Bert Brecht Before the House Un-American Activities Committee* and edited the Theatre Communications Group publication *The Director's Voice*. Since 2002, Loewith has served as Artistic Director of the Next Theatre Company in Chicago. With The Next Theatre Company, Loewith has directed area premieres of playwrights such as Paula Vogel, John Patrick Shanley, Christopher Durang, and Lynn Nottage. He has received Chicago's prestigious Joseph Jefferson Award and After Dark Award for his work as a writer, director and producer. He is a member of Advisory Boards for New York's Synapse Productions, Red Bull Theatre, Philadelphia's Flashpoint Theater and is currently the Executive Director for the National New Play Network. He is currently co-writing a new adaptation of the play *War with the Newts*, which he will direct as part of Next Theatre Company's coming season.

Acclaimed musical theatre actor **David Benoit** gives his inaugural performance at The Studio Theatre as the harried antihero Mr. Zero. Mr. Benoit has appeared on Broadway in *Les Miserables*, *Dance of the Vampires* and *Avenue Q* as Trekkie Monster, a role he reprised in the Las Vegas production and the first national tour. Mr. Benoit's other national tours include *All Shook Up*, *Les Miserables* and *The Captain's Daughter*. He was a cast member of the famous Off Broadway satire troupe *Forbidden Broadway*, performing in *Forbidden Broadway: Summer Shock*, and *Forbidden Broadway: 10th Anniversary*, both in New York and on its national and international tour. His other Off Broadway credits include *The Big Bang!* and *Forever Plaid*.

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Also making her first appearance at The Studio Theatre is **Joanne Schmoll**, playing Mr. Zero's desperately disappointed wife Mrs. Zero. A major Washington D.C. actress, Ms. Schmoll has performed in Arena Stage's productions of *Crime and Punishment*, *Measure for Measure* and

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The Tempest. She has also appeared as Venus in a concert production of *One Touch of Venus* at the American Century Theater; Shelby in *The Spitfire Grill* (Helen Hayes Nomination) and Dorie in *Here's To The Ladies* at Theater Alliance; Mrs. Winthrop/Claire in *Secret Garden* at Olney Theatre Center and a concert singer at The Kennedy Center.

Kristen Jepperson (Daisy) last performed at The Studio Theatre as Zandra in The Studio 2ndStage production of *Jerry Springer: The Opera*. She has appeared in the National Tours of *Ragtime* and *The New Christy Minstrels*. Her other regional credits include *Anything Goes* at Olney Theatre Center and *Das Barbecu* at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, where she received the WATCH award for her performance as Brunhilde.

Playing the religious zealot Shrdlu is **Stephen Gregory Smith**, another newcomer to The Studio Theatre. No stranger to Washington, Mr. Smith has appeared at Signature Theatre in *Les Miserables*, *Into The Woods*, *My Fair Lady*, *Assassins* and as Jimmy in *110 in the Shade* (Helen Hayes Award). He has also performed in *Damn Yankees* at Arena Stage; *The Secret Garden* at Olney Theatre Center; *Regina* at The Kennedy Center; *The Civil War* at Ford's Theatre and *Street Scene* at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts.

Dan Via returns to The Studio Theatre in the roles of Boss, Fixer and Charles. Mr. Via has previously appeared in The Studio Theatre's productions of *The Invention of Love* and *Indian Ink*. He has also performed in The Studio 2ndStage production of *Jerry Springer: The Opera*, later taking over the title role, and *Kit Marlowe*. His other regional credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* at The Shakespeare Theatre Company and *Oh, The Innocents!* at Theater J. He has appeared in a recurring role on ABC's *One Life to Live*.

Channez McQuay (Quartet) returns to The Studio Theatre after performing at The Studio 2ndStage in *Reefer Madness: The Musical!*, and *Oil City Symphony*. She has appeared in numerous productions at The Signature Theatre, Ford's Theatre and Olney Theatre Center. **Katie Nigsch** (Quartet) recently appeared in the Capitol Fringe Festival's breakout show *Bare Breasted Women Sword Fighting*. She has performed in regional theatres throughout the area, and is a recent graduate of Shenandoah University with a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. **Joe Peck** (Quartet) has been an active performer at Olney Theatre Center, appearing in their productions of *Call of the Wild*, *Peter Pan*, *1776* and *The Secret Garden*. He has also performed at Ford's Theatre, Imagination Stage, Signature Theatre and The Kennedy Center, where he appeared with the national tour of *Alexander Who's Not... Going to Move*. **Thomas Adrian Simpson** (Quartet) has performed extensively at The Signature Theatre, playing Javert in *Les Miserables*, Noah in *110 In The Shade* (Helen Hayes Nomination) and Senator Fipp in *Urinetown*. He has also appeared in productions at Olney Theatre Center, Ford's Theatre, Arena Stage, and The Kennedy Center.

This production of Adding Machine: A Musical, part of The Money Plays, is generously underwritten by Jaylee Mead, Linda and Steve Skalet, Gerald and Laura Rosberg, Joan and David Maxwell, and John I. Haas, Inc.

Featuring: David Benoit (Mr. Zero), **Joanne Schmoll** (Mrs. Zero), **Kristin Jepperson** (Daisy), **Stephen Gregory Smith** (Shrdlu), **Dan Via** (Boss/Fixer/Charles), **Channez McQuay** (Quartet), **Katie Nigsch** (Quartet) **Joe Peck** (Quartet) and **Thomas Adrian Simpson** (Quartet).

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Director and Designers: Jason Loewith (Director), Debra Booth (Set Designer), Michael Lincoln (Lighting Designer), Ivania Stack (Costume Designer) Neil McFadden (Sound Designer) and Christopher Youstra (Musical Direction).

ADDING MACHINE: A MUSICAL INFORMATION

Where: Stage 4

Dates: October 14–November 1, 2009

Performances: Wednesday-Saturday: 7:30pm,

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday 2:30pm and select Tuesdays: October 27, 7:30pm

Ticket Prices: \$57-\$71

Press Opening: Sunday, October 18

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*

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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, 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.

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, October 17, 2:30pm.

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

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