

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: October 29, 2009

THE STUDIO THEATRE FALL BENEFIT KICKS OFF WITH DINNER, BRINGS GUESTS TO *ADDING MACHINE: A MUSICAL* AND DISHES UP DESSERT

The Studio Theatre's annual Fall Benefit will begin at 5:30pm on the evening of Wednesday, October 14 with a cocktail buffet at Commissary, a Logan Circle restaurant located half a block from The Studio Theatre. Following the reception, guests will attend the Studio's first performance of *Adding Machine: A Musical* by Joshua Schmidt and Jason Loewith, based on Elmer Rice's classic American play. The evening will conclude with a post-performance dessert party catered by Eatonville Restaurant, with the actors, director/playwright and musicians.

Jason Loewith, conceiver and co-creator of *Adding Machine: A Musical*, makes his DC debut directing this hit musical adaptation of Rice's expressionistic masterpiece. Acclaimed Broadway actor David Benoit plays Mr. Zero, the harried accountant whose life swirls into chaos when he loses his job to a machine. With music influenced by 20th-century modernists, Tin Pan Alley and gospel, this work conjures a darkly hilarious vision of American life in the 1920s that feels eerily in tune with our own unsettled times. *Adding Machine: A Musical* will be staged in the Studio's Stage 4, which will be specially configured for the production.

The Studio Theatre Fall Benefit Steering Committee—Liz Cullen (chair), Harriet Blum, Vince Brown, Susan Butler and Jon Danforth—has organized the event, recruiting Fall Benefit Committee Members and Associate Committee Members. Individual tickets are available for \$250 each. Those interested in purchasing tickets should contact Michelle White at (202) 232-7267 ext. 375 or mwhite@studiotheatre.org.

Fall Benefit Committee Members include: Tom Archer, Jeffrey D. Bauman and Linda Fienberg, Don and Nancy Bliss, Robert and Irene Harriet Blum, Susan and Dixon Butler, Steve and Beth Crocker, Lizbeth Dobbins, Tish Gardner, Wendy and William Garner, Bret Hewitt and Deb Pinkerton, Philippa Hughes, Gene and Christine Kilby, Toni Ritzenberg, Gerry and Laura Rosberg, Paul Salditt and Miriam Cutler, Mark Tushnet and Elizabeth Alexander, Marvin Weissberg and Judith Morris, and Janet Wittes.

Associate Fall Benefit Committee Members include: John and Nancy Abeles, Larry and Grace Bouton, Liz and Tim Cullen, Peter Gallagher, Sherry Gordon, Andrea Hatfield and Buck O'Leary, Bob Maffin, Fenner and Ina Milton, Carl and Undine Nash, Bob and Nina Randolph, Ari and Kelley Redbord, Victor Shargai, and Betsy Stewart.

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. 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. The Studio 2ndStage creates edgy, explosive, extreme and electrifying productions that complement The Studio Theatre's season.

— MORE —

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 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