

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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THE STUDIO THEATRE LAUNCHES 2009–2010 SEASON WITH TED VAN GRIETHUYSEN IN HAROLD PINTER'S *MOONLIGHT*, DIRECTED BY JOY ZINOMAN

"There is no playwright his equal... This is classical playwriting, make no mistake about it."

– The New York Post

Nobel Winning Playwright!

Moonlight

by Harold Pinter

directed by Joy Zinoman

featuring Ted van Griethuysen

opening September 9

in the Metheny Theatre

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 vicious patriarch lays dying, his wife dutifully tries to bring his two estranged sons to his bedside. The sons, incapable of confronting their estrangement head on, discuss everything but the one thing truly disturbing them. In contrast to this bitter, broken family is the dead girl haunting all of their memories. *Moonlight* hovers in the space between life and death, family and isolation. Fierce, startling, comic and abstract – this is Pinter at the height of his power. The Studio Theatre's Founding Artistic Director, **Joy Zinoman**, has assembled an all-star cast in a stunning new revival of one of the twentieth century's greatest playwright's works. *Moonlight* runs **September 9 through October 18, 2009**. Tickets are on sale now at The Studio Theatre, 14th and P Streets NW, 202-332-3300 or www.studiotheatre.org.

Like Pinter's greatest works such as *The Birthday Party* and *The Caretaker* (both directed by Joy Zinoman), *Moonlight* reflects the constant ambivalence of life, memory and the brutally complicated nature of human relationships. Theatre critic Martin Gottfried extolled *Moonlight* as "one of Pinter's most human plays. It is suffused with universal emotions: the cold dread of death and eternal loneliness, the pain of separation from loved ones, the longing for reunion and continuity of the family." This rarely produced work provides great roles for seven actors, and in director Joy Zinoman's astonishing new production the talented ensemble will rivet theatre lovers.

Moonlight marks **Ted Van Griethuysen's** (Andy) seventh appearance at The Studio Theatre and his sixth partnership with director Joy Zinoman. With Zinoman directing, van Griethuysen most recently appeared as Max in *Rock 'n' Roll* as well as Salter in *A Number*, A.E. Housman in *The Invention of Love* (Helen Hayes Award nomination), Zeus in *Prometheus* and Thomas Dunne in *The Steward of Christendom* (Helen Hayes Award). At The Studio Theatre, he also played the title role in *The Life of Galileo*, for which he received the 2004 Helen Hayes Outstanding Lead Actor Award. He has appeared in more than 50 productions at The Shakespeare Theatre Company, including Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, Andrew Undershaft in *Major Barbara*, Falstaff in *Henry IV Part 1* and *Part 2*, Duncan in *Macbeth*, Claudius in *Hamlet*, the title role in *King Lear*, and Prospero in *The Tempest*. Van Griethuysen's Broadway credits include roles in *Romulus*, *Inadmissible Evidence* and *Galileo*. He also has appeared Off Broadway at the New York Shakespeare Festival, Roundabout Theatre Company and La MaMa.

Playing Andy's oft-abused wife Bel, acclaimed actress **Sybil Lines** makes her debut at The Studio Theatre. She has appeared on Broadway in *Waiting in the Wings*, *Bedroom Farce* and *Lettice & Lovage*. Her New York credits also include *Claw* at Manhattan Theatre Club, *The Philanderer* with Roundabout Theatre, as well as *School for Scandal* and *The Forest* at the Pearl Theatre.

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No stranger to Washington DC, Lines has performed in *A Woman of No Importance* and *Hamlet* at The Shakespeare Theatre Company and numerous roles at the Folger Theatre. She has performed in theatres across the country as well as internationally in numerous productions with the Royal Shakespeare Company. Her film and television credits include *Edge of Night*, *Murder She Wrote* and *Mickey Blue Eyes*.

Anatol Yusef (Jake) comes to The Studio Theatre from England where he has played major roles in *King Lear*, *Macbeth* and *Romeo and Juliet* with the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. He has performed in theatres throughout England, including the Bristol Old Vic, the Young Vic and Southwark Playhouse. In New York, he has played the title role in *Richard III* and Hal in *Proof*.

Tom Story (Fred) returns to The Studio Theatre after recently appearing in *The Pillowman*, as well as *A Number* and *The Invention of Love* (Helen Hayes Award nomination), both opposite Ted van Griethuysen. He has been seen recently in Washington as Sir Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night* (Helen Hayes nomination) and *Design for Living* at The Shakespeare Theatre Company, and as the prodigal Prince Hal in *I Henry IV* at the Folger Shakespeare Theatre.

James Slaughter (Ralph) last delighted Studio Theatre audiences as the Headmaster in *The History Boys*. He has previously appeared at The Studio Theatre in *The Invention of Love* and *Gross Indecency*. Other area credits include the recent *A Delicate Balance* at Arena Stage, *An Enemy of the People* (Helen Hayes nomination) at Olney Theatre Center, *Fuente Ovejuna* at The Shakespeare Theatre Company, *Nest* at Signature Theatre and numerous credits at Round House Theatre, The Kennedy Center and Olney Theatre Center. **Catherine Flye** (Maria) previously appeared at The Studio Theatre in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *The Russian National Postal Service* and *Blue Heart*. A Washington DC favorite, she has performed in numerous productions at The Shakespeare Theatre Company (most recently as Miss Hodge in *Design for Living*), the Folger Shakespeare Theatre, Arena Stage and Round House Theatre, among others. **Libby Woodbridge** (Bridget) most recently played Young Esme/Alice in *Rock 'n' Roll* at the Wilma Theatre. She recently graduated with a BFA from Boston University where she performed in numerous student and area productions.

This production of Moonlight is generously underwritten by two Anonymous Donors.

Featuring: Ted van Griethuysen (Andy), Sybil Lines (Bel), Anatol Yusef (Jake), Tom Story (Fred), James Slaughter (Ralph), Catherine Flye (Maria) and Libby Woodbridge (Bridget).

Director and Designers: Joy Zinoman (Director), Debra Booth (Set Designer), Michael Phillipi (Lighting Designer), Helen Q. Huang (Costume Designer) and Gil Thompson (Sound Designer)
Michael Gallant (Composer Original Music).

MOONLIGHT INFORMATION

Where: Metheny Theatre

Dates: September 9–October 18, 2009

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

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday 2:00pm and select Tuesdays: September 22, 29, October 6, 13
8:00pm

Ticket Prices: \$42–\$63

Press Opening: Sunday, September 13

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.

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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 33rd 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, May 23, 2:00pm.

Studio District Night: Wednesday, May 27, 8:00pm. Tickets \$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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