

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

CONTACT: Liane Jacobs

Director of Communications

(202) 232-7267 ext. 360

liane@studiotheatre.org

DATE: September 18, 2009

THE STUDIO THEATRE THRILLED TO PRESENT THE BREATHTAKING *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,

with 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: A Musical* 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*. 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.

Like Rice's imaginative play, *Adding Machine: A Musical* chronicles the life, death and afterlife of Mr. Zero, a petty working "Joe" stuck in a dead-end accounting job. When the boss calls him into his office one afternoon, he only expects the best: after 25 years of tedious labor, he's finally earned a promotion. But much to his surprise, Zero's boss instead rewards him with the announcement that the company is letting him go. He is replaced with a faster, more cost-effective machine, because, the Boss quips, "Efficiency is the first consideration, profit is the ultimate goal." Astonished, Mr. Zero snaps, violently murdering the Boss on the spot. From here, Mr. Zero's monotonous life swirls into chaos.

In his Washington DC directorial debut, conceiver and co-librettist of *Adding Machine: A Musical*, **Jason Loewith**, directs his own hit musical for the first time. Before recently relocating to Washington DC, Loewith served as Artistic Director of Next Theatre Company in Chicago. With Next Theatre Company, Loewith 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 currently the Executive Director for the National New Play Network. According to Loewith, this wildly inventive production will, "give the audience one 90-minute emotional ride, to take them from laughter to tears and back again, massaging their brains along the way."

Jason Loewith will be joined by Helen Hayes Award-winning musical director Christopher Youstra, who has previously provided the music for The Studio 2ndStage's productions of *Fucking A* and *Jerry Springer: The Opera* and for productions in theatres across the Washington DC area. Reconfiguring The Studio Theatre's Stage 4 into a thrust theatre, Set Designer Debra Booth will completely transform this raw space especially for *Adding Machine*. This production will showcase a cast of nine extraordinarily talented actors and singers in a theatrical event that will stay with the audience long after the final lines are sung.

— MORE —

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)

With: 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).

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

ADDING MACHINE: A MUSICAL INFORMATION

Where: Stage 4

Dates: October 14–November 1, 2009

Performances: Wednesday-Saturday: 7:30pm and Tuesday: October 27, 7:30pm

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday 2:30pm

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*

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. *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.

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

###