

PRESS RELEASE

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INTERGALACTIC PREMIERE OF *ASTRO BOY AND THE GOD OF COMICS* AT STUDIO 2NDSTAGE

“Writer-director Onoda has a rare mind’s eye and an even rarer ability to get her audience to see through it.”—*Time Out Chicago*

Astro Boy and the God of Comics
created and directed by **Natsu Onoda Power**
Intergalactic Premiere
performances begin February 15, 2012
in Stage 4

Action drawing meets physical comedy in *Astro Boy and the God of Comics*, the first show of the 2ndStage season. A highly visual, retro-sci-fi performance about the 1960s animation series *Astro Boy* and its creator Osamu Tezuka, the play combines live action cartooning with Tezuka’s life and the fictional world of Astro Boy, a crime-fighting boy robot. The show is created and directed by **Natsu Onoda Power**, director of last year’s 2ndStage hit *Songs of the Dragons Flying to Heaven*.

“2ndStage has a long tradition of director led and created projects,” says **Keith Alan Baker**, Artistic Director of Studio 2ndStage, “and we’re excited to give Natsu a professional platform in DC as a director and theatre-maker. Her work at Georgetown University has been inventive and theatrical, and I can’t wait to see what she does with the resources of 2ndStage.” *Astro Boy and the God of Comics* is a high/low-tech multimedia extravaganza created specifically for Studio 2ndStage, featuring on-stage drawing, interactive video, and 1960s-style animation.

Natsu Onoda Power is an Assistant Professor at Georgetown University, where her shows include adaptations of *Madness and Civilization* (Michel Foucault) and *The Omnivores’ Dilemma* (Michael Pollen). Other shows at Georgetown include *The T Party*, *Trees and Ghosts*, and *Swimmy and Other Stories*. As a co-founder and the Artistic Director of Chicago’s Live Action Cartoonists, Onoda Power directed *SCIENCE (FICTION)*, *are you my negative space?*, *performance of sleep in one long act without intermission*, *Stitched*, and *The Revenge of Poisoned Ladies*. Her design work in DC includes costumes and sets for *Metamorphosis* with Synetic Theatre and sets for *bobrauschenbergamerica* with Forum Theatre. She holds a PhD from Northwestern University and is the author of *God of Comics: Osamu Tezuka and the Creation of Post-World War II Manga*, based on her dissertation.

The 2011-2012 season of the Studio 2ndStage is generously underwritten by Don and Nancy Bliss and A. Fenner Milton.

ASTRO BOY AND THE GOD OF COMICS INFORMATION

Where: Stage 4

Dates: February 15-March 11, 2012

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

Ticket Prices: \$38-43

Press Opening: Sunday, February 19, 2012

— MORE —



Cast: Joe Brack, Jamie Gahlon, Lee Liebeskind, Karen O' Connell, Betsy Rosen, JB Tadena, Kristin Watson, and Clark Young

Director/Designers: **Natsu Onoda Power** (Creator/Director), **Luciana Steconi** (Setting), **Andrew Griffin** (Lighting), **Frank Labovitz** (Costumes), **Evan Rogers** (Sound), **Jared Mezzocchi** (Projections), **Alex Thomas** (Cartoonist), **Adrien-Alice Hansel** (Dramaturgy)

THE STUDIO 2NDSTAGE INFORMATION:

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Keith Alan Baker, The Studio 2ndStage combines raw space with urban, creative energy; experienced artistic direction; and amazing new talent. Now in its 24th year, 2ndStage “has long been a playground for... directors and actors (and, naturally, some of its riskier experiments)” (*The Washington Post*). The Studio 2ndStage is defined by its commitment to taking risks, developing new artists, and producing sexy, daring, and audacious work.

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 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/Yellow Line: U Street/Cardozo.

Contact Information:

Tickets: 202-332-3300 V/TTY: 202-667-8436 Fax: 202-332-1187

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