

PRESS RELEASE

The Studio Theatre
The Studio Theatre 2ndStage
The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory
1501 Fourteenth Street, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

**STUDIO
THEATRE**

Telephone 202.232.7267
Box Office 202.332.3300
Fax 202.588.5262
Web studiotheatre.org
Email studio@studiotheatre.org

CONTACT: Liane Jacobs
Director of Communications
(202) 232-7267 ext. 360
liane@studiotheatre.org

DATE: December 21, 2011

THE STUDIO THEATRE ACTING CONSERVATORY EXPANDS ITS YOUNG ACTORS PROGRAM AND ADDS DIALECT COURSE

Registration for the Spring Semester begins January 3

In a major commitment to training the next generation of actors, **The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory** is proud to announce the expansion of **The Young Actors Ensemble**. An adaptation of its core acting curriculum, the Ensemble is geared to actors ages 12-17. Through theatre games, pantomimes, improvisations, ensemble work, monologues, and scene study, young actors acquire and expand their skills in concentration, observation, stimulus-response, and interplay. Beginning in Summer 2012, the program will move from a half-day to a full-day curriculum, allowing for more in-depth study of the core acting curriculum and expanding the coursework to include voice, movement, and improvisation.

“We’ve been hoping to make this change for some time,” says Director of Curriculum **Joy Zinoman**. “A full day of courses will allow us to bring the same rigor and range of training to our Young Actors Ensemble as we offer in the rest of the Conservatory. It will also better accommodate the schedules of parents who work full-time, which will make our training accessible to a broader range of talented young actors.” Placement auditions will be held on **February 11, 2012** for the Spring semester, which meets Saturday mornings from 10:00am-12:30pm. Auditions for the extended-day summer session will be held on **June 16, 2012**, and classes run Monday-Friday from 9:00am-3:00pm, with an option for extended care until 6:00 pm. Scholarships are available for both sessions.

The expansion of the Young Actors Program is only one outcome from Founding Artistic Director Joy Zinoman’s first year as the Conservatory’s Director of Curriculum and Teacher Training. In this time, she has undertaken rigorous professional development of the faculty: expanding the number of teachers qualified to teach the curriculum, unifying the curriculum across courses, and developing the depth of pedagogy across the faculty. She has also begun a review of the Conservatory’s offerings, which led to the expansion of the Young Actors Ensemble as well as a new course in the Vocal Department.

As part of curriculum review and development, Zinoman has also worked with the faculty of the Vocal Department to develop a course on dialects to accompany its existing curriculum in vocal training. The Dialects class is designed to teach specific dialects for the stage. It complements the current classes in Vocal Training in the Conservatory, which include **Voice 1** and **2**, which provide actors with techniques for vocal preparation and performance; **Standard Stage Speech 1** and **2**, which assist actors in minimizing regional or foreign dialects; and **Classical Voice**, designed to assist actors in integrating classical and stylistic material into their performances.

The final class of every Conservatory course is open to the public and these presentations offer an excellent opportunity to become familiar with the work of the Conservatory and its students. Final Scenes for the Adult Acting Classes run **January 12-24, 2012**. Registration for Spring Semester begins **January 3, 2012**

—MORE—

THE STUDIO THEATRE ACTING CONSERVATORY

Now in its 38th year, The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory continues its role as a leading training institution of theatrical talent in Washington DC. The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory program is committed to a rigorous, rich, and rewarding artistic experience, one that develops and nurtures the creativity of its students. Its ultimate goal is to train actors and directors, unlocking their individual creativity by developing each student's craft.

Created by Joy Zinoman, the Founding Artistic Director of The Studio Theatre, the core acting curriculum includes a three-year integrated and sequential study of acting, beginning with the study of Realism (the foundational classes are: Actor's Process, Principles of Realism, Character and Emotion), expanding into Classical technique (with Shakespeare I and II and Greek), and building on these core skills with advanced classes in a variety of styles including Comedy and Shaw, Ibsen, Chekhov.

The Conservatory also offers courses geared to developing the actor's voice and body. These courses—which include Voice I and II, Standard Stage Speech I and II, Movement I and II, Classical Voice and Movement, Improvisation I and II, and Alexander Technique—provide a solid framework to enhance the students' skill and complement each Acting class. Students can also take these adjunct courses independently of the acting courses. In addition to the core curriculum, the Conservatory augments its program with special studies in Auditioning, Directing, and Musical Theatre. The Conservatory will also offer weekend workshops in Stage Combat, Auditioning, and Musical Theatre during the Spring 2012 semester.

ADULT classes begin the week of January 30, 2012, with final scenes May 23 – June 3, 2012.

YOUNG ACTORS auditions are on Saturday, February 11, 2012. Spring classes begin February 18, with final scenes May 19, 2012. Summer classes audition on June 16, 2012. Session 1 classes begin June 25, with final scenes July 13, 2012. Session 2 classes begin on July 16, with final scenes on August 3, 2012.

REGISTRATION FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER BEGINS JANUARY 3.

If you are interested in registering for classes or learning more about The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory, or for information about scholarships for the Young Actors Program, please contact the Conservatory at 202-232-7267, email conservatory@studiotheatre.org or visit the website at <http://www.studiotheatre.org/education>.

THE STUDIO THEATRE INFORMATION:

The Studio Theatre is Washington's premiere venue for contemporary theatre, "where local audiences will find today's edgiest playwrights" (*Variety*). Founded in 1978 by Joy Zinoman, the Theatre is in its second season under the leadership of Artistic Director David Muse. Muse is joined by Keith Alan Baker, Managing Director/Artistic Director, 2ndStage; Serge Seiden, Associate Producing Artistic Director; and Morey B. Epstein, Executive Director of Institutional Development.

One of the most respected mid-sized theatres in the country, The Studio Theatre produces the work of today's greatest writers, augmented by occasional productions of modern classics, performed by acclaimed actors in intimate spaces. Studio's programming, while purposefully eclectic, emphasizes plays of sophistication and style with true literary and theatrical merit. The five plays of The Studio Theatre Season form the core of its work, and are complemented by its Special Events, which bring unique performances and one-of-a-kind events to Washington DC; the rawer, frequently irreverent productions of The Studio 2ndStage; and the Studio Lab, in its inaugural season, which is dedicated to stripped-down productions of invigorating new work. Housed in a landmark complex that anchors the 14th Street Arts District, each of Studio's four theatres seats fewer than 225 patrons, giving Studio productions their signature intimacy. Throughout the Theatre's 34-year history, the quality of its work has been recognized by sustained community support as well as by 271 nominations and 55 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in professional theatre. In addition, The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory has trained over 10,000 students, many of whom have gone on to acclaimed careers across the country. A premiere cultural organization in Washington DC, The Studio Theatre serves more than 75,000 people annually and is proud to make a vital contribution to its neighborhood and city.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Accessibility: The Studio Theatre is fully accessible to accommodate patrons with special needs.

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 Yellow/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

###