

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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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DATE:** August 25, 2010

## NEW STUDIO THEATRE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DAVID MUSE TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

**David Muse** will take over as Artistic Director of The Studio Theatre beginning September 1, 2010, immediately following the retirement of Founding Artistic Director **Joy Zinoman**. Muse is currently in rehearsal for *Circle Mirror Transformation*, the first production of The Studio Theatre 2010-2011 season.

### A Year of Announcements and Celebrations

Founding Artistic Director Joy Zinoman announced her retirement to a packed house on September 16, 2009, at The Studio Theatre. Though the announcement was met with audible gasps of surprise, the planning for this announcement began at The Studio Theatre's annual retreat in 2005, when Zinoman privately announced to the Board and Staff of The Studio Theatre her intention to step down as Artistic Director in 2010. In the intervening years, The Studio Theatre Transition Committee—composed of Zinoman, Managing Director **Keith Alan Baker**, Associate Producing Artistic Director **Serge Seiden**, Executive Director of Institutional Development **Morey B. Epstein**, Board and Committee Chair **Susan L. Butler** and Board Members **Harriet Blum**, **Michael Higgins** and **Jaylee Mead**—was tasked with the responsibility for preparing the Theatre for the leadership transition.

To keep interested parties informed of the process, The Studio Theatre held three “stakeholders events” at the homes of Board Members **Jaylee Mead**, **Albert Lauber** and Board Chair **Susan L. Butler** in the fall of 2009. These events gave the press, artists, board members and donors the opportunity to discuss the transition and to be updated on its progress.

Following the public announcement, the Committee led a nation-wide search, assisted by Becky Klein and Mark Tarnacki from the national executive search firm of Phillips Oppenheim. A myriad of talented candidates applied and approximately 25 candidates were vetted by Zinoman before five final candidates met with the Selection Committee—composed of Board and Committee Chair **Susan L. Butler**, Board Members **Keith Alan Baker**, **Michael Higgins**, **Jaylee Mead** and **Gerry Rosberg**—for a rigorous selection process. The selection committee ultimately chose David Muse as Artistic Director of The Studio Theatre. Muse assumes his responsibilities on September 1, 2010.

Muse most recently directed The Studio Theatre's hit production *Reasons to Be Pretty*. His Studio Theatre and 2ndStage productions of *Blackbird*, *Frozen* and *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow* earned 10 Helen Hayes Award nominations and received four awards. A three-time Helen Hayes Award nominee for Outstanding Direction, he was a recipient of the DC Mayor's Arts Award for Outstanding Emerging Artist and the National Theatre Conference Emerging Artist Award. Other directing credits include *Henry V*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Julius Caesar* at The Shakespeare Theatre Company, where he served as Associate Artistic Director since 2005; *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* at Arena Stage, *The Bluest Eye* at Theatre Alliance and *Swansong* for the New York Summer Play Festival.

During this exciting year, The Studio Theatre also celebrated the astonishing legacy of its trailblazing Founding Artistic Director, Joy Zinoman. Individual parties were held for Directors and Designers, Conservatory teachers, actors, founders and officers of the Board and The Studio Theatre staff. Additionally, two gala events were held in honor of Zinoman – February's “Night of a Thousand Joys” (held during a raging blizzard!) and July's “Joy Ride” Farewell Tribute. At the Farewell Tribute, Board Chair Susan L. Butler revealed that the P-Street intersection outside of The Studio Theatre will be renamed “Joy Zinoman Way.” The yearlong festivities brought Studio Theatre family, past and present, together to honor the life and work of Zinoman.

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## Looking to the Future

Zinoman will continue in The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory as the Director of Curriculum and as Master Teacher, training new instructors, developing the curriculum and leading classes, after a four-month sojourn to Italy with her husband, Murray Zinoman.

To further honor Zinoman's legacy, the **Master Teacher Chair** was established in The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory to raise money for the continuing training of teachers and curriculum development. Additionally, the **New Artistic Director's Fund** has been created, to underwrite Muse's first season. If you are interested in donating to either, please contact Morey B. Epstein at [morey@studiotheatre.org](mailto:morey@studiotheatre.org).

As the organization's new artistic director, Muse aims to build on the Studio's proven record for sustained excellence while taking the Theatre in innovative new directions. *New Ireland: The Enda Walsh Festival* and **Druid Theatre Company's** residency at The Studio Theatre next spring is the beginning of Muse's world theatre initiative to develop more international programming. He also plans to bring new artists and original plays to The Studio Theatre.

## The 2010-2011 Season

The twelve-production lineup of The Studio Theatre's 2010-2011 season opens on September 8, 2010. It continues the Theatre's ongoing commitment to the highest quality, cutting-edge writing and thrilling performances, showcasing an idiosyncratic and eclectic mix: Annie Baker's *Circle Mirror Transformation*, Tracy Letts's *Superior Donuts*, Tarell Alvin McCraney's *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet*, and *New Ireland: The Enda Walsh Festival*. This incredible festival will include *The Walworth Farce*, *The New Electric Ballroom* and Ireland's Druid Theatre Company's production of Walsh's newest play, *Penelope*. Muse will also select the final production in The Studio Theatre Season, to be announced later this year. In its Special Events Series, the Studio will produce *Tynan* starring Philip Goodwin, based on *The Diaries of Kenneth Tynan*, edited by John Lahr and adapted for the stage by Richard Nelson and Colin Chambers; and present *Palomino*, written by, directed by and starring David Cale. The Studio 2ndStage will produce Young Jean Lee's *Songs of the Dragons Flying to Heaven*, Jez Butterworth's *Mojo* and Maggie-Kate Coleman and Anna K. Jacob's *Pop!*, the new Andy Warhol musical.

## 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. The Studio Theatre was founded in 1978 by Joy Zinoman, whose recent work has been called **"riveting," "beautifully orchestrated"** and **"inspired"** by *The Washington Post*. David Muse was named Artistic Director of The Studio Theatre, beginning with the 2010-2011 season, following Zinoman's retirement. Before being named Artistic Director, Muse had great directorial successes with The Studio Theatre and beyond. The leadership team also includes 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. The four-theatre complex with its soaring atrium was quickly hailed as **"a magnificent theatre space that promises more memorable evenings to come"** (*Washington City Paper*). The Studio 2ndStage creates edgy, explosive 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 35<sup>th</sup> 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 eclectic vitality of its community.

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW (Northeast corner of 14<sup>th</sup> 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

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