

PRESS RELEASE

The Studio Theatre
The Studio Theatre 2ndStage
The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory
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STUDIO THEATRE

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DRUID IRELAND'S PRODUCTION OF *PENELOPE* BRINGS IRELAND'S FINEST ACTORS TO THE STUDIO THEATRE!

“Because it’s Druid, expect top-notch production values and acting to die for.” —*The Irish Times*

Druid Ireland presents
PENELOPE
by **Enda Walsh**
Opening March 15, 2011
In the Metheny Theatre

The Studio Theatre is devoting its spring to bringing the work of acclaimed Irish playwright **Enda Walsh** to Washington DC with *New Ireland: The Enda Walsh Festival*. The Dublin-born writer has been called “one of the most dazzling wordsmiths of contemporary theatre” (*The Guardian*). Kicking off the festival, Ireland’s acclaimed **Druid Theatre** will present its celebrated production, *Penelope*. Based in Galway, Druid is dedicated to reinvigorating perceptions of classic dramatic works and engaging with daring and innovative new plays. Their award-winning productions have been seen throughout the world in Ireland, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Japan, and the United States. With *Penelope*, Druid will bring a cast of Ireland’s finest actors to The Studio Theatre.

Niall Buggy (Fitz) has performed the world over. Druid productions include *Penelope* and *Gentrification*, also by Enda Walsh. Niall has performed with the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, Gate Theatre in Dublin, Manhattan Theatre Club, and 59E59 Theatre. Film credits include *Mamma Mia*, *The Duel*, and *Alien 3*. Awards include an *Irish Times* Theatre Award; an Irish Theatre Award for *Uncle Vanya*, and an Olivier Award for *Dead Funny*, as well as OBIE and Drama Desk Awards.

Denis Conway (Dunne) previously appeared with Druid in *The Walworth Farce*, *The Playboy of the Western World*, and *The Gigli Concert*. Denis has also worked with the Abbey Theatre, Chichester Festival Theatre, and Ouroboros Theatre Company. Film and television credits include *Zonad*, *Tiger’s Tail*, *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*, *Alexander*, and *Michael Collins*. He won an *Irish Times* Theatre Award for his performance as Richard III at Ouroboros Theatre Company.

Aaron Monaghan (Burns) previously appeared with Druid in *The Playboy of the Western World*, *The Walworth Farce*, and *DruidSynge*. Aaron has performed with The Abbey Theatre in Dublin in *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Burial at Thebes*, and *The Shaughraun*, among others. Film and television credits include *Love/Hate*, *Single-Handed*, *The Tudors*, and *Ella Enchanted*. He has won OBIE, Lucille Lortel, and *Manchester Evening News* Awards for his performance in *The Cripple of Inishmaan*.

Karl Shiels (Quinn) makes his Druid debut with *Penelope*, for which he has received two Best Actor nominations. Theatre credits include *Macbeth*, *Terminus*, *Howie The Rookie*, *Barbaric Comedies*, *The Pride of Parnell Street*, and *The Death of Harry Leon*, for which he was nominated for an *Irish Times* Theatre Award. Film credits include *Batman Begins*, *Veronica Guerin*, *Haywire*, *Trafficked*, and *The Tudors*.

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Olga Wehrly (Penelope) makes her Druid debut with *Penelope*. Theatre credits include roles at Traverse Theatre in Scotland, Fishamble Theatre Company, PurpleHeart Theatre Company, Volta, Second Age Theatre Company, Blindspot, City Theatre Dublin, and Icarus Theatre Collective. Film and television credits includes *The Clinic*, *Raw*, *This is Nightlive*, *The Galway Races*, and *The Alarms*. Olga recently played the lead in the Academy Award-nominated short, *The Crush*.

The inaugural 2010-2011 season of new Artistic Director David Muse is generously underwritten by Jaylee Mead and Robert and Arlene Kogod, with additional underwriting from Susan and Dixon Butler, The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Stanley and Rosemary Marcuss, and Vicki and Roger Sant.



The New Ireland Festival is generously underwritten by **Culture Ireland**, **David and Helen Kenney**, **Virginia A. McArthur**; the **National Endowment for the Arts**, and an anonymous donor.

Additional support has been provided by Anita Herrick; the Humanities Council of Washington, DC, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities; and Toni Ritzenberg.

PENELOPE INFORMATION

Starring: Niall Buggy (Fitz), Denis Conway (Dunne), Aaron Monaghan (Burns), Karl Shiels (Quinn), and Olga Wehrly (Penelope).

Director and Designers: Mikel Murfi (Direction), Sabine Dargent (Setting and Costumes), Paul Keogan (Lighting), and Gregory Clarke (Sound).

Where: The Metheny Theatre

Dates: March 15–April 3, 2011

Performances: Tuesday-Sunday: 7:30pm

Matinees: Sunday: 2:30pm

Ticket Prices: \$44–\$65

Press Opening: Tuesday, March 15, 2011

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 first 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, and the rawer, frequently irreverent productions of The Studio 2ndStage. 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 33-year history, the quality of its work has been recognized by sustained community support as well as with 267 nominations and 54 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.

DISCOUNTS

Student, senior citizen (62+) and military discount: \$5.00 off (except Saturday evenings).

Student Rush: \$15 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: Wednesday, March 16, 7:30pm.

Studio District Night: Wednesday, March 16, 7:30pm. Ticket Price: \$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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