

PRESS RELEASE

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

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WORLD PREMIERE OF *THE HISTORY OF KISSES*, DAVID CALE'S PLAY ABOUT LOVE, SEX, AND THE SEA

“David Cale is a spellbinder... Cale’s gifts as a storyteller hold an audience rapt.”
—*The San Francisco Chronicle*

World Premiere

THE HISTORY OF KISSES

written, performed, and directed by **David Cale**

songs by **David Cale**

opening June 15, 2011

in the Metheny Theatre

Writer/performer **David Cale** premieres *The History of Kisses* at The Studio Theatre this June. The play is an intoxicating mix of spicy stories, amorous encounters, and original sea shanties. James is a writer, and has sequestered himself in an oceanfront motel to finish his collection of tales of seaside romance—only to get drawn into the romantic goings-on around him. The cast of characters ranges from the Australian surfer who works the check-in desk to a dentist who mistakes the writer for his online date. Accompanied by the sea shanties from an English folk singer rehearsing in the room next door, *The History of Kisses* is a lyrical meditation on the nature of fate and desire.

David Cale’s monologues have been featured on Public Radio International’s *This American Life*, NPR’s *The Next Big Thing*, for which he was a regular contributor, and the HBO Special, *Bette Midler’s Mondo Beyondo*. He wrote the book, lyrics, co-composed the music for, and starred in the musical *Floyd and Clea Under the Western Sky*, which received an Outer Critics Circle Nomination for Outstanding Off Broadway Musical for its production at Playwrights Horizons. Cale is the writer and performer of the Obie Award-winning solo show *Lillian*, as well as *A Likely Story*, *Deep in a Dream of You*, for which he received a Bessie Award for Outstanding Creative Achievement, and most recently *Palomino*, for which he won the San Francisco Bay Area Critics Circle Award for Best Solo Performance. His other solo shows *Somebody Else’s House*, *Smooch Music*, and *The Redthroats* (Bessie Award for Outstanding Creative Achievement) were all presented at The Studio Theatre.

Cale has written lyrics for songs including *Imitation of a Kiss*, which has been sung by Elvis Costello, Deborah Harry, Jimmy Scott and The Jazz Passengers, and featured on the soundtrack of the film *Short Cuts*. Other writing and performing credits include the duet shows *Betwixt* and *The Blue Album* (in collaboration with Dael Orlandersmith). As an actor, Cale has appeared in plays on and Off Broadway including *The Threepenny Opera* at The Roundabout, and *Curtains* (Ensemble Obie Award) and *Mouth to Mouth* at The New Group. His film credits include *Two Lovers*, *The Slaughter Rule*, *Pollock*, *Radio Days*, and the upcoming *Coming Up Roses*. Cale is the recipient of a Solo Performance Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and two NYFA Fellowships. He was the writer-in-residence at the 2009 Sundance Theatre Lab.

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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.

*This production of **The History of Kisses** is generously underwritten by **Rick Kasten**.*

THE HISTORY OF KISSES INFORMATION

Where: The Metheny Theatre

Dates: Opens June 15, 2011

Performances: Wednesday-Sunday at 7:30pm; Tuesday, June 28 at 7:30pm

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday: 2:30pm

Ticket Prices: \$44-\$65

Press Opening: Sunday, June 19, 2011

Starring: David Cale

Director and Designers: David Cale (Director), Luciana Stecconi (Set Designer), Beverly Emmons (Lighting Designer), Andre Pluess (Sound Designer)

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 six 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 271 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: Saturday, June 18, 2:00pm.

Studio District Night: Wednesday, June 15, 8:00pm.

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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