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DATE: February 18, 2011

ENDA WALSH'S STUNNING PLAYS, *THE WALWORTH FARCE* AND *THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM*, COME TO THE STUDIO THEATRE THIS SPRING!

“Walsh is a writer whose every line swaggers with imagination, humour, toughness or all three.”
—*The Times*, London

The Studio Theatre will produce **Enda Walsh**'s remarkable and acclaimed plays *The Walworth Farce* and *The New Electric Ballroom* this spring as a part of *New Ireland: The Enda Walsh Festival*. Walsh, a Dublin-born writer, has been called “one of the most dazzling wordsmiths of contemporary theatre” (*The Guardian*). He has written 15 plays, which have been translated into more than 20 languages. His plays have garnered numerous awards, including four Fringe First Awards at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (for both *The Walworth Farce* and *The New Electric Ballroom*), a Stewart Parker Award for New Playwrights, the George Devine Award for Most Promising Playwright, and *The Irish Times*' Best New Play Award. He has also written several screenplays including *Hunger* (co-written with visual artist Steve McQueen), which was nominated for Best British Film at the British Academy Film Awards and received the Camera d'Or award at the Cannes Film Festival.

Matt Torney, a writer and director from Northern Ireland now based in New York, will direct both plays this spring. “Matt is New Ireland,” says Studio Artistic Director **David Muse**. “He’s part of the new generation of energy and talent from Ireland. He cut his teeth at the Abbey, Ireland’s national theatre. He works with Rough Magic, an Irish company with a reputation for developing and producing new Irish plays. Matt’s got an ear for not only the rhythms and turns of Walsh’s language, but the humor and heartache of his characters. He’s also tough enough to handle the rehearsal schedule we’re putting him through!”

Torney is an Associate Director of Rough Magic Theatre Company and former Resident Assistant Director at the Abbey Theatre. He is supported by an all-star design team that includes set designer **Debra Booth** (*Circle Mirror Transformation*, *The Road to Mecca*, and *Fat Pig*), costume designer **Helen Q. Huang** (*Rock’n’Roll*, *The Pillowman*, and *Waiting for Godot*), and lighting designer **Michael Giannitti** (*Marcus; Or the Secret of Sweet*, *American Buffalo*, and *The Russian National Postal Service*). Sound designer **Martin Desjardins** has worked in New York and DC, and received three Helen Hayes awards. The design team is rounded out by fight choreographer **Robb Hunter** (*Superior Donuts*, *American Buffalo*, and *Reasons to be Pretty*).

Torney and the design team will take on both *The Walworth Farce* and *The New Electric Ballroom*, the plays that solidified Enda Walsh’s reputation as an exciting and audacious addition to the Irish literary canon. At once hilarious and elegiac, both plays use a family and its myths to investigate how the stories we tell about ourselves and others can become a prison—or a gateway to transformation. “Enda Walsh is a playwright who’s known all over the world, but no major American company has produced any of his plays,” Muse says. “It’s audacious, especially because we’re presenting a third play of his from the internationally renowned company, Druid Ireland. But it also makes a lot of sense for us: his writing is tough and funny and thrilling. He’s a writer who should be more widely known in the States, and a writer whose sensibility and style is a great fit for Studio and our audiences.”

The Studio Theatre’s productions of *The Walworth Farce* and *The New Electric Ballroom* join Druid’s production of *Penelope* as a part of *New Ireland: The Enda Walsh Festival*. In addition to these three productions, The Studio Theatre is offering a wide range of free events to further explore Walsh’s work, as well as his place in the past and future of Irish theatre. For more information, or to register for any of these events, visit www.studiotheatre.org/festival.

THE WALWORTH FARCE

by **Enda Walsh**

directed by **Matt Torney**

starring **Ted van Griethuysen, Alex Morf, Aubrey Deeker, and Azania Dungee**

Opening April 6, 2011

In the Milton Theatre

“A theatrical experience that claws at the imagination for days afterwards.” —*Variety*

A sinister twist on high farce, *The Walworth Farce* exposes a family’s Sisyphean games as a father forces his two sons to reenact their troubled past through cross-dressing, slapstick, and denial. A young woman unwittingly intrudes into their farce, changing the family’s life irrevocably. Enda Walsh’s “ferociously entertaining” play (*The New York Times*) combines hilarious moments with shocking realism and delivers an achingly tender insight into what happens when we become stuck in the stories we tell ourselves about our lives. This comic and chilling tale has already been extended due to unprecedented advance sales.

THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM

by **Enda Walsh**

directed by **Matt Torney**

starring **Nancy Robinette, Sybil Lines, and Jennifer Mendenhall**

Opening April 13, 2011

In the Mead Theatre

“With *The New Electric Ballroom*, Walsh confirms himself as one of the most dazzling wordsmiths of contemporary theatre, and one who has a direct conduit to our wanting hearts.” —*The Guardian*

The New Electric Ballroom, Walsh’s “most intoxicating and original piece of writing” (*The New York Times*), is a companion piece to *The Walworth Farce*. Two sisters on the far edge of middle age live together in a small Irish village. Cajoled by their younger sister, they tell and retell the story of a dance hall of their youth, a certain handsome rock star, and the night that changed their lives. Hounded out of the cannery they worked for some thirty years ago, the sisters’ only visitor is a lonely fishmonger, who may ultimately offer them an escape from the stories they have let imprison them.

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 the Humanities Council of Washington, DC, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities; and Toni Ritzenberg.

THE WALWORTH FARCE INFORMATION

Where: The Milton Theatre

Dates: April 6–May 1, 2011

Performances: Wednesday-Saturday: 8:00pm, Sunday: 7:00pm

Select Tuesdays: April 12, 19, 26: 8:00pm

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday: 2:00pm

Ticket Prices: \$44–\$65

Groups: For parties of 10 or more. Call the Group Sales Manager at 202-232-7267.

Press Opening: Sunday, April 10, 2011

Starring: **Ted van Griethuysen** (Dinny), **Alex Morf** (Sean), **Aubrey Deeker** (Blake), and **Azania Dungee** (Hayley).

Director and Designers: **Matt Torney** (Direction), **Debra Booth** (Setting), **Helen Q. Huang** (Costumes), **Michael Giannitti** (Lighting), **Martin Desjardins** (Sound Design), and **Robb Hunter** (Fight Choreography).

THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM INFORMATION

Where: The Mead Theatre

Dates: April 13–May 1, 2011

Performances: Wednesday-Saturday: 8:00pm, Sunday: 7:00pm

Select Tuesdays: April 19, 26: 8:00pm

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday: 2:00pm

Ticket Prices: \$44–\$65

Groups: For parties of 10 or more. Call the Group Sales Manager at 202-232-7267.

Press Opening: Sunday, April 17, 2011

Starring: Nancy Robinette (Clara), Sybil Lines (Breda), and Jennifer Mendenhall (Ada)

Director and Designers: Matt Torney (Direction), Debra Booth (Setting), Helen Q. Huang (Costumes), Michael Giannitti (Lighting), Martin Desjardins (Sound Design), and Robb Hunter (Fight Choreography).

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: *Walworth:* Saturday, April 9, 2:00pm.

Studio District Night: *Walworth:* Wednesday, April 6, 8:00pm. *New Electric:* April 13, 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
Administration: 202-232-7267 Admin. Fax: 202-588-5262

Web site: www.studiotheatre.org E-mail: studio@studiotheatre.org

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