

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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## PRESS RELEASE

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**DATE:** March 24, 2010

## THE STUDIO THEATRE PRESENTS DAVID MAMET'S MASTERWORK *AMERICAN BUFFALO!*

"*American Buffalo is one of the best American plays*"  
– The New York Times

*A Contemporary American Classic!*

**AMERICAN BUFFALO**

by **David Mamet**

Directed by **Joy Zinoman**

Starring **Peter Allas, Jimmy Davis, and Edward Gero**

Opening May 5, 2010

In the Milton Theatre

Arguably David Mamet's greatest work, this modern classic about petty crooks and the pitfalls of American business percolates with Mamet's unmistakable style. In a Chicago junk shop, three small-time thieves, Donny, Teach and Bobby, conspire to steal a valuable coin collection from a wealthy man. As these self-defined entrepreneurs plot a crime that never happens, they prove to be dark soul-mates to those making headlines today. *American Buffalo* will be the final production that Joy Zinoman will direct as The Studio Theatre's Founding Artistic Director. This play has particular resonance for Zinoman. "I went back to my own roots," she explains. "I'm from Chicago, it was written at the same time the Studio was started, it requires very intense acting and is particularly suited to intimate theatres." This contemporary American classic brings a grittiness and edge in high Mamet-style comedy, verbal brilliance and character.

*American Buffalo* is the 70<sup>th</sup> production directed by Zinoman for The Studio Theatre. Past productions include *Moonlight*, *Rock 'n' Roll*, *The Road to Mecca*, *The History Boys*, *Shining City*, *The Pillowman*, *Red Light Winter*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Afterplay*, *Ivanov*, *Far Away*, *Topdog/Underdog*, *The Play about the Baby*, *Privates on Parade* and *The Invention of Love*. She received the 2005 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Director for *A Number* by Caryl Churchill. In 2009, she received the inaugural Mayor's Art Award for Visionary Leadership, and in 2005, *The Washington Post* Award for Innovative Leadership in the Theatre Community. She received the 2000 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Director for *Indian Ink* by Tom Stoppard, which also received the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Resident Production. She has led The Studio Theatre through 187 productions which have garnered 234 Helen Hayes Award nominations for Theatre Excellence. Ms. Zinoman has also received nine additional Helen Hayes Award nominations for Outstanding Direction. With this production, Zinoman will be joined by all four of The Studio Theatre's resident designers – Set Designer Russell Metheny, Lighting Designer Michael Giannitti, Costume Designer Helen Q. Huang and Sound Designer Gil Thompson.

Playing Donny, the gruff owner of the junk shop, is Washington DC favorite **Edward Gero**. Mr. Gero last appeared at The Studio Theatre in Conor McPherson's *The Seafarer*. His other Studio Theatre credits include leading roles in *Shining City*, *bash: latterday plays*, *Skylight* and *Three Sisters*, all directed by Joy Zinoman and designed by Russell Metheny, as well as *Conversations With My Father*. He was recently seen in the title role of Signature Theatre's *Sweeney Todd*, as Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* at Ford's Theatre and as Gloucester in *King Lear* at The Shakespeare Theatre Company. His New York appearances include work at Classic Stage Company, Soho Rep, South Street Theatre and Teatro Rinascimento. For his work in the Washington DC area, Mr. Gero has been nominated for 12 Helen Hayes Awards and has received four.

— MORE —

Donny's menacing companion Teach will be played by **Peter Allas**, who hails from Chicago, New York and Los Angeles. He has appeared as the Fixer in *The Adding Machine* at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Mr. Allas has acted in regional theatres throughout the United States, including The Phoenix Theatre, Boston Stage Company, the Zephyr Theatre, Beverly Hills Playhouse and Seattle Repertory Theater, where he starred as Che Che in *Anna in the Tropics*. A prolific film and television actor, some of his screen credits include the feature films *Spiderman 2* and *The Last Sentinel* and the television shows *The Sopranos*, *E.R.*, *Seinfeld*, *'Til Death*, *Arli\$\$* and *N.Y.P.D. Blue*.

**Jimmy Davis** makes his Studio Theatre debut as Bobby, the young junkie and protégé to Donny. Mr. Davis was introduced to Washington DC audiences as Juliet in The Shakespeare Theatre Company's all-male *Romeo and Juliet*. His other regional credits include *Hamlet* at The Pearl Theatre Company; *2Gents* with Poortom Productions; *Othello* at the New Harmony Theater and the world premiere of *White Christmas* at MUNY. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from The Juilliard School, where he starred in productions such as *The Greeks*, *Shakespeare's R&J*, *Henry VI* (Parts I and II), *Good Person of Szechwan*, *Pericles* and *Petty Theft*.

*American Buffalo* is generously underwritten by **Jaylee Mead**, with additional underwriting from **Joan and David Maxwell** and **Steve and Linda Skalet**. Additional support was received by **Gerald and Laura Rosberg**, **Jerry and Patti Sowalsky** and **Henry von Eichel**.

**Starring:** Peter Allas (Teach), Jimmy Davis (Bobby) and Edward Gero (Donny).

**Director and Designers:** Joy Zinoman (Director), Russell Metheny (Set Design), Michael Giannitti (Lighting Design), Helen Q. Huang (Costume Design) and Gil Thompson (Sound Design).

#### **AMERICAN BUFFALO INFORMATION**

**Where:** The Milton Theatre

**Dates:** May 5–June 13, 2010

**Performances:** Wednesday–Saturday: 8:00pm, Sunday: 7:00pm,

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday 2:00pm

Select Tuesdays: May 18, 25, June 1, 8: 8:00pm

**Ticket Prices:** \$49–\$63

**Press Opening:** Sunday, May 9

#### **THE STUDIO THEATRE INFORMATION:**

**“Most of the best plays I saw last season were either presented Off Broadway or by such regional companies as... Washington's Studio Theatre. That's the new reality of drama in America.”**

— Terry Teachout, *Wall Street Journal*

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.

Founded in 1978, The Studio Theatre is led by the driving force of Joy Zinoman, Founding Artistic Director, whose recent work has been called **“riveting,” “beautifully orchestrated” and “inspired”** by *The Washington Post*; along with 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 complex was quickly hailed as **“a magnificent theatre space that promises more memorable evenings to come”** (*Washington City Paper*). The Studio 2ndStage creates edgy, explosive, extreme 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 community and in the eclectic vitality of its neighborhood.

## **DISCOUNTS**

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

**Student Rush:** \$19 tickets for full-time students are available one-half hour before curtain on a seating available basis (except Saturday evenings).

**Student Matinee:** Thursday, May 13, 11:00am. Call the Group Sales Manager at 202-232-7267.

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

**Pay What You Can:** Saturday, May 8, 2:00pm.

**Studio District Night:** Wednesday, May 5, 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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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