

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: April 20, 2010

LYPSINKA AND JAMES LECESNE LEAD AN ALL-STAR CAST IN THE STUDIO THEATRE'S *LEGENDS!*

"The fabulousness of Lypsinka has been established so definitively that it could be cited in case law."—*The Washington Post*

LEGENDS!

by **James Kirkwood**, edited by **John Epperson**
Directed by **Kirk Jackson**
Starring **John Epperson (aka Lypsinka)** and **James Lecesne**
With Tom Story, Roz White and Leo Christopher Sheridan
Opening June 16, 2010
In the Metheny Theatre

The wigs are ready, the heels are out and the claws are sharpened! Lypsinka returns to The Studio Theatre in a brand new adaptation of *Legends!* In order to revive their dying careers, two aging divas must battle it out in this hilarious comedy full of glitz and glamour. With unforgettable style, Lypsinka will give the audience a performance to remember!

Playing the faded but fabulous diva Leatrice Monsee is **John Epperson's** inimitable persona **Lypsinka**. Lypsinka began her relationship with The Studio Theatre in 2002, with *Lypsinka! The Boxed Set*, for which she received a Helen Hayes Award nomination for Outstanding Lead Actor, and received the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Non-Resident Production. In 2004, the Studio launched John Epperson In Rep, which included *Show Trash*, *As I Lay Lip-Synching* and a reading of *M'Deah*, the Medea tale set in The New South. In 2006, Lypsinka returned to the Studio, this time portraying Joan Crawford in *The Passion of the Crawford*. Lypsinka has performed across the world, appeared in three HBO specials, two feature films, George Michael's music video "Too Funky" and modeled for Thierry Mugler, Valentino, Barneys New York, The Gap, and MAC cosmetics.

Playing Leatrice's nemesis, Sylvia Glenn, is **James Lecesne**. Mr. Lecesne is best-known for his solo performance *Word of Mouth*, produced by Mike Nichols and Elaine May and directed by Eve Ensler. The play won a Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award, LA Theater Weekly Award and San Francisco's Bay Area Award. He is an Academy Award-winner for his short documentary film *Trevor*. He has appeared at New York's HERE Arts Center in *Extraordinary Measures*, a one-man show written and directed by Eve Ensler. Mr. Lecesne has performed in *I Am My Own Wife*, for which he won the Connecticut Critics Circle Award for Best Actor, and *The Mystery of Irma Vep* at Hartford Stage Company; *Torchsong Trilogy* at Provincetown Theatre Company and *Cloud 9* at the Lucille Lortel Theater. His television and film credits include *Sex and the City* and *Home for the Holidays*.

Playing the frazzled producer Martin Klemmer is **Tom Story** who returns to The Studio Theatre after recently appearing in *Moonlight*, directed by Joy Zinoman. He also appeared at the Studio in *The Pillowman*, as well as *A Number* and *The Invention of Love* (Helen Hayes Award nomination). He has been seen recently in Washington as Sir Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night* (Helen Hayes nomination), *Design for Living* at The Shakespeare Theatre Company and as the prodigal Prince Hal in *I Henry IV* at the Folger Shakespeare Theatre.

Roz White, playing Aretha, has appeared in *Blues In The Night* at Arena Stage; *Cool Papa's Party*, *Bricktop*, *Three Sistahs* and her own play *Pearl Bailey...by Request* at Metro Stage. She has performed in the National Tour of *Dreamgirls* as Effie, and on the International tour as Lorell. Ms. White returns to The Studio Theatre after last appearing in 1995's *Bessie's Blues*, for which she received a

— MORE —

Helen Hayes Award. She has also played Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* and Mahalia in *Mahalia* at St. Louis Black Repertory Company and has worked at theatres throughout the country, including A Contemporary Theatre, Mixed Blood Theater, Milwaukee Repertory Theater and Syracuse Stage.

Leo Christopher Sheridan rounds out the cast as the irrepressible stripper Boom-Boom. Mr. Sheridan makes his Studio Theatre debut, after regional performances as the Solo Dancer in *Bernstein's Mass* at The Kennedy Center, and in *Aida* at Toby's Dinner Theatre. He also appeared in the Touchstone Pictures film *Step Up 2 The Streets*.

Starring: John Epperson (Leatrice), James Lecesne (Sylvia), Tom Story (Klemmer), Roz White (Aretha) and Leo Christopher Sheridan (Boom-Boom).

Director and Designers: Kirk Jackson (Director), Dan Conway (Set Design), Michael Giannitti (Lighting Design), Fabio Toblini (Costume Design) and Gil Thompson (Sound Design).

LEGENDS! INFORMATION

Where: The Metheny Theatre

Dates: June 16–July 4, 2010

Performances: Wednesday-Sunday: 7:30pm,

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday 2:30pm

Select Tuesdays: June 29: 7:30pm

Ticket Prices: \$50-\$71

Press Opening: Sunday, June 20

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 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 35th 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).

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

Pay What You Can: Saturday, June 19, 2:30pm.

Studio District Night: Wednesday, June 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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