

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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A STUDIO THEATRE SPECIAL EVENT!

LYPSINKA AND JAMES LECESNE STAR IN JAMES KIRKWOOD'S LEGENDARY *LEGENDS!* AT THE STUDIO THEATRE!

"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, played by John Epperson (a.k.a. Lypsinka) and acclaimed actor James Lecesne, must battle it out in this hilarious comedy full of glitz and glamour. Unparalleled style! Epic catfights! Performances to remember!

Legends! is one of the most infamous plays ever written – most notably for what occurred behind-the-scenes during two separate and equally drama-filled productions. Originally produced in 1986 as a pre-Broadway tour starring Carol Channing and Mary Martin, it closed long before it ever made it to New York. The scintillating on- and off-stage antics were recounted in playwright James Kirkwood's comical non-fiction memoir, *Diary of a Mad Playwright: Perilous Adventures on the Road with Mary Martin and Carol Channing*. In 2007, the play was once again presented as a pre-Broadway national tour (which also never made it to New York), this time starring *Dynasty* divas Joan Collins and Linda Evans. This production had its own backstage bickering reported in juicy detail by Ms. Collins in the London tabloid, the *Daily Mail*.

With a script edited by John Epperson, The Studio Theatre will breathe new life into this notorious play, now a starring vehicle for Lypsinka and James Lecesne. An all-star cast and team of directors and designers will bring a contemporary and fabulous twist to this fabled play, adding to its "legendary" lore. Filled with nonstop laughs and glittery costumes, *Legends!* will be the theatrical event of the summer!

Starring: **John Epperson** (Leatrice) and **James Lecesne** (Sylvia)
With: **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).

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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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