

PRESS RELEASE

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DATE: January 9, 2012

AFTER A FALL OF NEW PROGRAMMING AND RAVE REVIEWS, THE STUDIO THEATRE LOOKS FORWARD TO A SPRING OF STUNNING ACTING, WRITING, AND SPECTACLE

Studio's spring lineup includes favorite DC actors; powerhouse playwrights, directors, and designers; and the season's second world premiere

Artistic Director **David Muse** promised a season that would build on The Studio Theatre's core strengths—stunning performances of remarkable contemporary plays in intimate spaces—while expanding its attention to international plays and the development of new work. Audiences and critics seem to agree that he's given them one. Studio's four theatres have been busy this fall, producing the smash hit *The Habit of Art*; *Lungs*, the first production in The Studio Lab; *The Golden Dragon*, a US premiere by a major international playwright; and the twice-extended *Bust*, Lauren Weedman's hilarious one-woman show.

This spring brings a thoughtful Broadway drama; the US premiere of a bruising boxing drama; and a biting comedy about weddings, excess, and female friendship. With a visit from 1927, a smash London sensation, and all three productions of Studio's 2ndStage yet to come, The Studio Theatre shows no signs of slowing down in 2012.

Studio kicks off the year with a timely production of the Broadway hit *Time Stands Still* by Pulitzer Prize winner **Donald Margulies**. Set in a Brooklyn loft against a backdrop of global strife, Margulies's Tony-nominated play depicts the intimate conflicts of a long-term relationship and the ethical struggles of a high-risk career. **Holly Twyford**, mainstay of the DC theatre scene, plays Sarah, a globe-trotting photojournalist who returns home injured from the battlefields of Iraq after years of dashing between conflict zones. *Time Stands Still* marks the DC debut of director **Susan Fenichel**, whose work has been seen around the country, and includes the award-winning *The Bacchae: Torn To Pieces* with Hopeful Monsters, where she is the Artistic Director. Acclaimed set designer **John McDermott** also joins Studio for the first time, having designed for the Public Theater, Playwrights Horizons, and the Intiman Theatre among many others. *Time Stands Still* runs through February 12, 2012.

Next up is the kinetic spectacle *Sucker Punch*, voted 2011's Best Play by the Writers' Guild of Great Britain. Spanning the 1980s of Reagan, Thatcher, and London's race riots, the play follows two black teenagers as they try to box their way into fame, fortune, and a better life. Called "one of Britain's finest dramatists" (*The Guardian*), **Roy Williams** makes his US debut with

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Studio's production. Led by OBIE-award winning director **Leah Gardiner**, the design team includes five-time Tony award winner **Brian MacDevitt**, who designs lights, and longtime Studio collaborator **Dan Conway** designing the set. Together the design team will transform the Metheny Theatre into a boxing ring, placing the play's agile and explosive fights feet from the audience. The fights will be choreographed by **Rick Sordelet**, whose nearly 50 Broadway credits include *Fences*, *The Scottsboro Boys*, and *The Lion King*. Actors **Sheldon Best** and **Emmanuel Brown**, both joining Studio Theatre for the first time, are currently in training at a boxing gym in New York to prepare for their roles as welterweight champion and challenger. Performances begin February 29, 2012.

Studio Theatre rounds out its season with *Bachelorette*, **Leslye Headland's** biting and surprisingly moving play about mean girls gone wild, just in time for wedding season. Artistic Director

David Muse directs. Ten years out of high school, three unhappy friends show up not-quite-invited to their classmate's luxe hotel room the night before her wedding. This comic and lacerating look at toxic friendships was an Off Broadway hit. Local actor **Tracy Lynn Olivera** makes her Studio Theatre debut as bride-to-be Becky. Olivera has been seen on Broadway in *Ragtime* and locally in *Candide* at the Shakespeare Theatre Company, and *Les Miserables* and *Merrily We Roll Along* at Signature Theatre.

Studio Theatre closes its Special Events series with a show from London-based company 1927. Called "a mind-blowingly beautiful piece of theatre" by *Time Out London*, *The Animals and Children Took to the Streets* comes to Studio in June following two sold-out runs in London. Part Charles Dickens, part Tim Burton, this production features live music and stunning interaction between animation and live actors. Studio is partnering with the venerable Spoleto Festival to bring this "richly quirky, terrifically ambitious, and superbly executed" play (*The Independent*) to the United States.

Studio 2ndStage continues its innovative and thrillingly eclectic tradition with the intergalactic premiere of the retro-sci-fi multimedia piece *Astro Boy and the God of Comics* from **Natsu Onoda Power** in January. The second world premiere of Studio's 11-12 season, this high-tech/low-tech extravaganza features on-stage drawing, a transformative set, and interactive video. Performances begin February 15, 2012.

2ndStage continues in the spring with **Dan LeFranc's** play *The Big Meal*, directed by **Johanna Gruenhut**. Set at a single table at a chain restaurant, the play follows five generations of a family and features DC favorite **Helen Hedman** (*The Year of Magical Thinking*). 2ndStage closes out its season with a production of the sexy and satiric Broadway musical *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. In grand 2ndStage tradition, this musical spectacle will be co-directed by **Keith Alan Baker**, **Jennifer Harris**, and **Chris Gallu**. With musical direction by **Chris Youstra** (*POP!* and many others) and choreography **Diane Coburn Bruning**, whose work has been seen around the world, this "provocative, scathing, and topical satire" (*Variety*) takes the stage just in time for election season.

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 second season under the leadership of Artistic Director David Muse. Muse is

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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 midsized 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; the rawer, frequently irreverent productions of The Studio 2ndStage; and the Studio Lab, in its inaugural season, which is dedicated to stripped-down productions of invigorating new work. 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 34-year history, the quality of its work has been recognized by sustained community support as well as with 271 nominations and 55 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)

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

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/Yellow Line: U Street/Cardozo.

Contact Information: Tickets: 202-332-3300 V/TTY: 202-667-8436 Fax: 202-332-1187

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