STUDIO’S 2016-2017 SEASON BEGINS WITH CARYL CHURCHILL’S MASTERWORK CLOUD 9, DIRECTED BY MICHAEL KAHN

CLOUD 9
by Caryl Churchill
directed by Michael Kahn
begins September 7, 2016

Studio’s 2016-2017 Main Series will kick off in September with British playwright Caryl Churchill’s Cloud 9, an exploration of power and perception that bends time, gender, and genre. “Caryl Churchill is one of the most produced playwrights in Studio history, but this is the first time we’ve done Cloud 9,” said Artistic Director David Muse. “It is a quintessential Studio play: high in literary style and sophistication, with insights into the interplay of gender, desire, and society that remain as thorny and relevant 35 years after its premiere.” The cast, led by DC veteran actress Holly Twyford, is directed by Michael Kahn, the Artistic Director of Shakespeare Theatre Company.

About Cloud 9
Nearly four decades after its startling debut, Cloud 9’s audacious, playful take on sexual politics resonates anew with its prescient exploration of power and perception. The repression of colonial Africa and the liberation of late-1970s London intersect in Caryl Churchill’s revolutionary masterwork. Bending time, gender, and genre, this nimble modern classic embraces the confusion and complication of identity: What forces define who we are—and at what cost?

About Caryl Churchill
Caryl Churchill wrote her first play, Downstairs, while at Oxford University. It was staged in 1958 and received the award at the Sunday Times National Union of Students Drama Festival. Since then, her plays have been performed on stages around the world, on BBC radio, and adapted for BBC television. They include Light Shining in Buckinghamshire, Cloud 9 (Obie
Award), *Fen* (Susan Smith Blackburn Prize), *Three More Sleepless Nights, Top Girls, Serious Money* (Olivier Award for Best New Play, Obie Award, Susan Smith Blackburn Prize), *Mad Forest, The Skriker, Far Away, A Number*, and a new version of August Strindberg’s *A Dream Play*. Her plays *Drunk Enough to say I Love You?, Love and Information, Ding Dong The Wicked, and Escaped Alone* premiered at the Royal Court Theatre, where she served as Resident Dramatist in 1974 and 1975. She lives in London.

**THE CREATIVE TEAM**

- **Director Michael Kahn** is currently the Artistic Director of the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, DC. From 1992-2006, he was the Richard Rodgers Director of the Drama Division of the Juilliard School, where he has been a leading member of the faculty since its founding in 1968. For his work, Mr. Kahn has received the Saturday Review Award, multiple Vernon Rice Award nominations, a Tony Award nomination, a MacArthur Award, a Joseph Jefferson Award nomination, two New Jersey Critic’s Awards, the Daily News Critic’s Citation, and multiple Helen Hayes Award nominations and wins.

- **Set Designer Luciana Stecconi** designed productions of *Hedda Gabler, Bad Jews, The Night Watcher, An Iliad, Lungs, The History of Kisses, Tynan*, and *In the Red and Brown Water* for Studio Theatre. Stecconi received the 2010 Washington DC Mayor’s Art Award for Outstanding Emerging Artist.

- **Costume Designer Frank Labovitz** has previously designed *Silence! The Musical, Torch Song Trilogy, Dirt, Astro Boy and the God of Comics*, and *Mojo* for Studio Theatre. His designs have appeared in the Washington area at many theatres, and he received the 2012 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Costume Design for his work on *Dreamgirls* at Signature Theatre. He received his MFA in Design from the University of Maryland.

- **Lighting Designer Peter West** previously designed *Torch Song Trilogy* and *Superior Donuts* at Studio Theatre. His work has been seen throughout the United States and in Europe. He has designed more than 40 productions for the Drama Division of The Juilliard School and has been an adjunct lecturer at Williams College and Brooklyn College. Mr. West is an artistic associate of Red Bull Theater.

- **Sound Designer Christopher Baine** has previously designed *Dirt* and *Red Speedo* for Studio Theatre. Other area credits include Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Folger Theatre, The Kennedy Center, Olney Theatre, Everyman Theatre, Forum Theatre, dog & pony dc, Adventure Theatre-MTC, Imagination Stage, Synetic Theater, and Theatre Alliance. He received the 2012 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Sound Design for his work on *A Bright New Boise* at Woolly Mammoth.

- **Dramaturg Adrien-Alice Hansel** is Studio Theatre’s Literary Director. At Studio, she has dramaturged the world premieres of *Animal, Red Speedo, Dirt*, and *Lungs*, as well as productions of *Hedda Gabler, Constellations, Jumpers for Goalposts, Bad Jews, Cock, Moth, Edgar & Annabel, and The Apple Family Cycle*, among others.

- **Stage Manager Anthony O. Bullock** has worked on *Moment, Between Riverside and Crazy, Chimerica, Laugh*, and *Jumpers for Goalposts* at Studio Theatre. He holds a BFA in Theatrical Design and Production with an emphasis in Stage Management from Oklahoma City University.
THE CAST

- **Philippe Bowgen** (Joshua/Cathy) is a New York based actor who has worked at Red Bull Theatre, The Atlantic Theatre Company, and New York Theatre Workshop. His regional credits include Pericles in *Pericles* at Two Rivers, and roles at Dallas Theatre Centre, Yale Rep, and The Guthrie, among others.

- **Wyatt Fenner** (Betty/Gerry) appeared most recently in Darko Tresnjak's production of *Romeo and Juliet* at Hartford Stage and Moisés Kaufman's production of *Bent* at the Mark Taper Forum. As a teenager, Mr. Fenner appeared on stage at Ford's Theatre, Rorschach Theatre, The Folger Theatre, and the Shakespeare Theatre Company. *Cloud 9* marks his area debut as an adult.

- **Christian Pedersen** (Harry Bagley/Martin) has worked at numerous Off Broadway and regional theatres, including The Pearl Theatre, 59E59, Manhattan Theatre Club, Cleveland Playhouse, Rep Theatre of St. Louis, and Gulfshore Playhouse. He has been seen on television in *The Good Wife*, *Royal Pains*, *Fringe*, and *Damages*, among others.

- **Laura C. Harris** (Edward/Victoria) returns to Studio Theatre after appearances as Mandy in *Time Stands Still*, Gena in *Bachelorette*, and Lydia in *Red Speedo*. Other area credits include Signature Theatre, Round House Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, Forum Theatre, Theater J, Folger Theatre, and Potomac Theatre Project. Ms. Harris is a graduate of Middlebury College.

- **Joy Jones** (Maude/Lin) has appeared in *Invisible Man* (Helen Hayes Award: Outstanding Ensemble) and *Belleville* at Studio. Off Broadway credits include *Zaide* at Lincoln Center Festival and *The Champion* at BRIC Media Arts. International credits include *Tantalus* at the Royal Shakespeare Company. Ms. Jones is a member of the Forum Theater ensemble, and has an MFA in acting from UNC-Chapel Hill.

- **John Scherer** (Clive/Edward) has appeared on Broadway in *By Jeeves*, *LoveMusik*, and *Sunset Boulevard*. Other regional credits include Arena Stage, The Kennedy Center, Goodman Theatre, Ahmanson Theatre, Goodspeed Opera House, Paper Mill Playhouse, Cleveland Playhouse and many others. Film and television credits include *Spinning Into Butter*, *The Shield* (recurring), *Crossing Jordan*, and *Law and Order* (all versions).

- **Holly Twyford** (Ellen/Mrs. Saunders/Betty) has performed in numerous Studio Theatre productions, including *Dirt*, *Time Stands Still*, and *The Road to Mecca*. She most recently directed *Mary-Kate Olsen Is In Love* and *Edgar & Annabel* for Studio 2ndStage. She has performed in over 50 productions across the region, and has received four Helen Hayes Awards and 17 nominations for her work.

INFORMATION

Where: Studio Theatre’s Meheny Theatre, 1501 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20005

Dates: September 7 – October 16, 2016

Performances: Tuesday-Saturday, 8pm; Sunday, 7pm

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday, 2pm

Ticket Prices: Tickets begin at $52

Press Performance: Sunday, September 11 at 2pm
EVENTS

Post-Show Discussions: Sunday, September 18 and Saturday, October 1 after the 2pm matinee

Captioned Performances: Saturday, October 8 at 2pm and Wednesday, October 12 at 8pm

Sign-Interpreted Performance: Friday, October 14 at 8pm

Audio-Described Performances: Sunday, October 16 at 2pm

STUDIO THEATRE

Entering its seventh season under the leadership of Artistic Director David Muse, Studio Theatre is Washington’s premier venue for contemporary theatre, “where local audiences will find today’s edgiest playwrights” (Variety). Muse is joined by Managing Director Meridith Burkus. One of the most respected midsized theatres in the country, Studio Theatre produces the work of today’s greatest writers, augmented by occasional productions of modern classics, performed by acclaimed actors in intimate spaces. Throughout the Theatre’s 37-year history, the quality of its work has been recognized by sustained community support as well as with 341 nominations and 64 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in professional theatre.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: 1501 14th Street NW (northeast corner of 14th and P Streets).

Parking:

- Studio has a parking partnership with Washington Plaza Hotel at 10 Thomas Circle NW, three blocks south of Studio; patrons who park at the hotel’s parking garage can purchase a $13 voucher at concessions.
- Street parking is extremely limited; arrive early to increase your options.


Accessibility: Studio’s theatres are all wheelchair accessible; seats are available by reservation. Assistive listening devices are available for all shows at concessions. Call the Box Office at 202.332.3300 for more information.

Contact Information:

Tickets and Subscriptions: 202.332.3300
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