

PRESS RELEASE

STUDIO
THEATRE

1501 14TH ST NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

202.232.7267
STUDIOTHEATRE.ORG

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
DAVID MUSE

CONTACT: Anderson Wells, Education Manager and Registrar
(202) 232-7267 ext. 399
conservatory@studiotheatre.org
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A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND GROWTH FOR THE STUDIO THEATRE ACTING CONSERVATORY

- **New Teachers Chosen and Teacher Training Expanded**
- **New Class for the Spring Semester**
- **New Education Manager / Registrar and Education / Operations Associate**
- **Fall Semester Final Scene Schedule Announced**
- **Scholarship Recipients Announced**
- **Summer Young Actors Program seeks talented students for free tuition**

2016 was a year of growth and enrichment for the **Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory**. The Conservatory surpassed its financial and enrollment goals, serving 502 students, who took 637 class places over 77 classes across its Core, Adjunct, Workshop, and Young Person curriculums, filling many classes to capacity.

The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory program is dedicated to training actors to their fullest artistic potential by encouraging standards of excellence, integrity, and discipline. Its core acting curriculum includes a three-year integrated and sequential study of acting, beginning with the study of realism, expanding into Classical technique, and building on these core skills with advanced classes in a variety of styles. Alongside the Core Curriculum, the Conservatory also offers two-day workshops as well as courses geared to developing the actor's voice and body. The Conservatory augments its program with special studies in auditioning, musical theatre, and its bi-annual advanced directing course, which was expanded in the fall of 2016 to include two sections. The Conservatory also offers a Young Actors' Program: Saturday classes in the fall and spring semesters and two three-week sessions of its full-day intensive for young actors during the summer.

EXPANDING AND STRENGTHENING THE TEACHING CORE

Joy Zinoman, the Founder of Studio Theatre and the Conservatory, who currently serves as the Conservatory's Director of Curriculum and Teacher Training, recently trained an additional teacher in a Core Curriculum course, as well as announced a master teacher who will be teaching

the adjunct course Movement. This leaves one additional Core Curriculum course and one adjunct course left before the Conservatory completes its commitment from their current Five-Year Plan to train and install at least two teachers for every course.

Deborah Riley, who recently retired as Co-Director of Dance Place, will begin teaching Movement in the Conservatory's Summer 2017 semester. "We're thrilled to welcome Deborah to our faculty," says Zinoman. "She is a senior teacher with deep backgrounds as both a professional dancer and master teacher."

Madeleine Burke Pitt, a longtime Principles of Realism and Young Actors Ensemble teacher, has completed training for the Shakespeare Core Curriculum class, which she will begin teaching in Spring 2017. "I have known Madeleine as an artist and teacher for many years. She has always had a particular interest in the classics alongside her work teaching realism and young people. I look forward to her joining Serge [Seiden] and me as teachers of Shakespeare."

- After 28 years in various capacities, including artist-in-residence, Associate Director, faculty member, and Co-Director, **Deborah Riley** retired from Dance Place. As a professional dancer, choreographer, and teacher she has been instrumental in the training and development of dancers for over thirty years. Her career highlights include international touring with Douglas Dunn & Dancers, collaborative choreography with Diane Frank and director of Deborah Riley Dance Projects. Her Moving Affirmations workshops have helped to facilitate healing and recovery in partnership with community organizations such as the DC Rape Crisis Center, Montgomery County Crisis Center, and Whitman-Walker Clinic.
- **Madeleine Burke Pitt** has performed at Studio Theatre and Studio 2ndStage, as well as at many other DC theatres, including Folger Shakespeare Theatre, The Keegan Theatre and Solas Nua (Helen Hayes nomination). Madeleine taught and directed youth theatre for over 10 years and has also taught workshops at American University and University of Maryland. She holds an MFA from Catholic University and has completed the curriculum at the Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory.

CONSERVATORY OFFERS FIRST WORKSHOP FOR BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS

The Conservatory will introduce its first class tailored for the business professional, a weekend workshop called **Voice for the Professional**. The workshop, taught by certified Fitzmaurice teacher Zach Champion, focuses on expanding students' presentation skills, vocal variety, and developing strategies for coping with stage fright. "We're piloting the class as a workshop," says Zinoman. "People were regularly calling wanting to develop their skills for public speaking in the business world. I'm looking forward to offering the tools of the craft to non-professionals."

- **Zach Champion** teaches Instrument classes Voice 1, Standard Stage Speech, and Dialects at the Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory faculty. Mr. Champion provided dialect support for *Hand to God*, *Chimerica*, *Between Riverside and Crazy*, and *Terminus* at Studio

Theatre and Studio 2ndStage. Other area credits include coaching dialect for *Dial M for Murder* at Olney Theatre, the Round House/Olney co-production of *Angels in America*, *When the Rain Stops Falling* at 1st Stage Tysons, and the world premiere *Voracious* at University of Maryland Baltimore County. Mr. Champion is a certified teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework and holds a Masters of Fine Arts in Theatre Pedagogy from Virginia Commonwealth University.

NEW EDUCATION MANAGER / REGISTRAR AND EDUCATION / OPERATIONS ASSOCIATE

The Conservatory welcomes two staff members into new roles at Studio Theatre: **Anderson Wells** is Studio's new Education Manager and Registrar. Wells has served as Studio's Education Apprentice, Education and Administrative Assistant, and Conservatory Faculty. **Ravenn McDowell** is the new Education and Operations Associate, having served as Studio's Administrative Assistant.

- **Anderson Wells** is an actor, instructor, and a cappella artist. Anderson first came to Studio as the Education and Outreach Apprentice in the summer of 2013. He helped expand the number of introductory classes offered at Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory and facilitated the largest number of student matinees Studio Theatre has offered within a single season. Anderson recently joined the faculty of Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory and is teaching Principles of Realism. Outside of Studio, Anderson has sung with award-winning DC a Cappella group, Vox Pop. Anderson holds a BFA in Acting from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.
- **Ravenn McDowell** is an actress, dancer, and teaching artist. She has worked with youth in the nonprofit sector for the past ten years. She began with a youth athletics program in Southeastern Virginia, chartering a program that allowed students to use art as a means of expression. From secondary school to college graduates, Ravenn's role at Studio Theatre is to assist the institution with engaging a younger audience through educational programming such as student matinees and internship opportunities. Providing an effective and empowering educational experience for students from all walks of life is the primary goal of Ravenn's work at Studio. Outside of Studio, Ravenn works in television and film production as a first assistant director and volunteers with youth empowerment groups in the DC Metro area. Ravenn holds a BA in Theatre Education from Old Dominion University.

FALL SEMESTER FINAL SCENES JANUARY 18-31, 2017

Over two weeks at the end of January, most Conservatory courses will be holding their final classes featuring 150 students in 11 classes. Final scenes are open to the public. "The Conservatory's classes are a protected zone of experiment and discovery," says Zinoman. "But three times a year, we open up the experience for our students to an audience. And where else can you see Realism one night and Shakespeare and Greek tragedy on others?"

The final scenes of the Fall Semester will also include the final projects for the 22 directing students Zinoman selected from a record 40 applicants to her biannual directing course. Students include established dramaturgs and actors from the region, early-career directors, and newcomers

to the field. “I have been impressed with the range of age, experience, and interest represented in this year’s class,” says Zinoman. “You’ll find these artists working anywhere around the building, any time you’re here—their collective imagination and craft set the place on fire.”

These presentations offer an excellent opportunity to become familiar with the work of the Conservatory and its students. Final Scenes for the adult acting classes run January 18-31, and include the final classes for the core courses Principles of Realism, Character and Emotion, Shakespeare 1, and Greek Tragedy alongside the adjunct classes Musical Theatre and Directing.

Reserve a space at studiotheatre.org/final-scenes.

EXPANDED SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES; CALL FOR YOUNG ACTOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Now in its second year, **The Linda Levy Scholarship** presented by **The Lorraine S. Dreyfuss Theatre Education Fund** and supported by Conservatory alumnus and donor **Ken Dreyfuss** continues to support actors of extraordinary talent and demonstrated dedication as they progress through the advanced classes of the Conservatory’s curriculum. The 2016 recipients of the Linda Levy Scholarship were **Kelsey Shearer, Princess Jacob, and Emily Woodhouse** in the adult program and **Lily Pilkerton** in the Young People’s Program.

Three more **Linda Levy** scholarships will be awarded for the Spring 2017 semester, alongside the **Nancy Paris Scholarship for Comedy**, which is named for the Conservatory’s longest-serving teacher, Nancy Paris, who has taught with Zinoman from the Conservatory’s beginnings. The scholarship goes to one student in each Comedy class.

SUMMER YOUNG ACTORS PROGRAM SEEKS TALENTED STUDENTS FOR FREE TUITION

The Young Actors Summer Intensive, for performers ages 13-17, is a full-day program. The curriculum includes acting, voice, movement, and improvisation. Four teachers work intensively with each class, which is limited to 12 students each. The Summer Intensive offers two three-week sessions beginning June 26 and July 17. Its full-day curriculum that nurtures creativity, develops students’ vocal and physical skills, and enhances participants’ ability to perform and to work together as part of an ensemble.

Through the Youth On-Stage Program (founded in 1991), The Young Actors Ensemble reserves one-half of its places for need-based scholarship students. The Conservatory is currently soliciting nominations for students who have an interest in the performing arts but lack financial resources to pursue training. Please contact Julia DeLois, Conservatory Associate for more information at scholarship@studiotheatre.org.

ABOUT THE STUDIO THEATRE ACTING CONSERVATORY

Founded in 1975, the Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory continues its role as a leading training institution of theatrical talent in Washington DC. The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory program is dedicated to training actors to their fullest artistic potential by encouraging standards of excellence, integrity, and discipline. Its core curriculum and instrument classes train actors and directors, unlocking their individual creativity and developing each student’s craft. Created by Joy Zinoman, the Founding Artistic Director of Studio Theatre, the core acting curriculum

includes a three-year integrated and sequential study of acting, beginning with the study of realism (the foundational classes are: Actor’s Process, Principles of Realism, and Character and Emotion), expanding into Classical technique with Shakespeare I and Greek, and building on these core skills with advanced classes in a variety of styles including Comedy; Shakespeare II; Shaw, Ibsen, Chekhov; and Beckett, Pinter, Mamet, Albee.

The Conservatory also offers courses geared to developing the actor’s voice and body. These courses—which include Voice I and II, Standard Stage Speech I and II, Movement I and II, Classical Voice and Movement, Improvisation I and II, and Alexander Technique—provide a solid framework to enhance the students’ skill and complement each acting class. Students can take these adjunct courses independently of the acting courses.

In addition to the core curriculum, the Conservatory offers semester-long special studies in the adjunct courses Auditioning, Musical Theatre, and Directing as well as short-term introductions to specific course topics with its weekend workshops in Stage Combat, Voice for Professionals, Alexander Technique, and Musical Theatre.

The Young People’s Program encompasses both its teen weekend conservatory, a Saturday morning program ideal for the young actor looking to explore acting training and the Summer Intensive. Vocal and physical warmups, ensemble work, scenes and monologues from classical and contemporary plays are included. The Summer Intensive offers two intensive three-week sessions for teens ages 13-17. This all-day program offers voice, movement, ensemble, and improvisation in the morning and classes focusing on scenes and monologues in the afternoon. One half of the spots in the Young Actors’ program are reserved for need-based scholarships.

The twenty-member faculty of the Conservatory undergoes continuous evaluation and professional development. In addition, Zinoman has undertaken a systematic upgrade of teaching materials and assignments. This revamp ensures the Conservatory’s students train with the most provocative and complex plays of the last five years.

FINAL SCENES SCHEDULE

Character and Emotion (Wed)	Seiden	Wed 1/18	7:45 pm
Principles of Realism (Wed)	Arthur	Thur 1/19	7:45 pm
Principles of Realism (Mon)	Wells	Sat 1/21	7:45 pm
Principles of Realism (Thur)	Debelack/Paris	Sun 1/22	7:45 pm
Principles of Realism (Mon)	Debelack	Mon 1/23	7:45 pm
Character and Emotion (Mon)	Arthur/Paris	Tue 1/24	7:45 pm
Principles of Realism (Tue)	Burke Pitt	Wed 1/25	7:45 pm
Shakespeare I	Zinoman	Thurs 1/26	7:45 pm
Greek Tragedy	Debelack	Fri 1/27	7:45 pm

REGISTRATION

Registration for the Spring and Summer Semesters is now open.

ADULT SPRING SEMESTER classes begin the week of February 6, 2017 and end with Final Scenes May 27-June 8, 2017. Spring classes meet once per week.

YOUNG ACTORS SPRING SEMESTER placement auditions are on February 18, 2016, by appointment only. Students must be accompanied by an adult. Spring classes begin February 25, 2017 and end with final scenes on May 20. Full scholarships for the Young Actors Spring Semester are available based on need.

ADULT SUMMER SEMESTER classes begin the week of June 13, 2017 and end with Final Scenes August 5-8, 2017. Summer classes meet twice per week.

YOUNG ACTORS SUMMER SEMESTER

Summer classes audition on June 17, 2017, by appointment only. Student must be accompanied by an adult.

Session 1 classes begin June 26, 2017 with Final Scenes July 14. No class on July 4.

Session 2 classes begin on July 17, 2017 with Final Scenes on August 4.

Classes for both sessions run Monday-Friday 9am-3pm.

Full scholarships for the Young Actors Summer Semester are available based on need.

If you are interested in registering for classes or learning more about the Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory, or for information about scholarships for the Young Actors Program, please contact the Conservatory at 202.232.0714, email conservatory@studiotheatre.org, or visit the Conservatory's website at studiotheatre.org/acting-conservatory.

ABOUT STUDIO THEATRE

In 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 mid-sized 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 38-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

Accessibility: All performances are fully accessible to accommodate patrons with special needs. 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: Washington Plaza Hotel Garage, located at 10 Thomas Circle NW—Voucher can be purchased at Studio concessions for \$13. Colonial Parking Garages are located at P Street between 15th and 17th streets NW. Street parking is limited; arrive early to increase your options.

Metro Stops: Red Line: DuPont Circle, Orange/Blue Lines: McPherson Square, and Green/Yellow Lines: U Street/Cardozo.

Contact Information:

Tickets: 202.332.3300 **V/TTY:** 202.667.8436 **Fax:** 202.332.1187
Administration: 202.232.7267 **Conservatory:** 202.232.0714 **Admin. Fax:** 202.588.5262
Website: www.studiotheatre.org **E-mail:** studio@studiotheatre.org
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