

PRESS RELEASE

STUDIO
THEATRE

1501 14TH ST NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

202.232.7267
STUDIOTHEATRE.ORG

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
DAVID MUSE

CONTACT:

Mike Fila
202.232.7267 x615
mfila@studiotheatre.org

DATE: March 6, 2020

DAVID MUSE CONCLUDES STUDIO THEATRE'S 19-20 SEASON MAIN SERIES WITH FIVE-TIME TONY WINNING MUSICAL *FUN HOME*

Fun Home

Music by Jeanine Tesori
Book and lyrics by Lisa Kron
Based on the graphic memoir by Alison Bechdel
Directed by David Muse
Runs May 13 – June 21, 2020
Press performance: May 17, 2020 at 2PM

“A rare beauty, extraordinary and heart-gripping.”—*The New York Times*

Studio Theatre concludes its 2019-2020 season Main Series with ***Fun Home***, the smash hit Broadway musical about a woman's coming out and coming to terms with a life shaped by a family's secrets. The production begins **May 13, 2020** and will be directed by the Studio's Artistic Director **David Muse**. *Fun Home* was adapted from Alison Bechdel's autobiographical graphic memoir by decorated Broadway composer **Jeanine Tesori** and **Lisa Kron**, and won five Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

This is the first musical produced in Studio's Main Series since its acclaimed production of *Grey Gardens* in 2008, and the first time that a resident DC company has produced *Fun Home*.

After receiving its world premiere at The Public Theater in New York in 2013, *Fun Home* transferred to Broadway, where its success propelled it on a national tour, which came to The National Theatre in DC. Scaling the music to Studio's intimate Mead Theatre creates a unique experience for theatregoers to see this Broadway blockbuster in a space that seats fewer than 225 people, magnifying the power of this joyful and bittersweet musical.

About *Fun Home*

Alison is 9, begging her father to play with her. She is 19, overcome by the aching and joyous pain of first love. She is 43, an out lesbian hunting for the truth of her brilliant, volatile, and closeted father's life and death. She is all three at once, trying to untangle the central mystery of her childhood: How did she survive their shared hometown, when her father could not? With a score that ranges from exuberant 70s pop to aching melodies and dissonant harmonies of characters longing to be known, *Fun Home* is the Tony Award-winning story of a daughter and father, of coming out and coming to terms with a life shaped by a family's secrets.

About Lisa Kron

Lisa Kron is a writer and performer whose work has been widely produced in New York, regionally, and internationally. Her plays include *Well*, *2.5 Minute Ride*, and *The Ver**zon Play*. She wrote the book and lyrics for the musical *Fun Home* (with music by composer Jeanine Tesori), winner of five Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Lisa and Jeanine were the first all-woman team to ever receive a Tony for best score. As an actor, Lisa was most recently seen as Mrs. Mi-Tzu and Mrs. Yang in The Foundry Theatre's acclaimed production of *Good Person of Szechuan* (Lortel Award, Outstanding Featured Actress). Honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Doris Duke Performing Artists Award, and the Cal Arts/Alpert Award. She is a proud founding member of the Obie- and Bessie Award-winning collaborative theater company The Five Lesbian Brothers. Lisa currently serves as Secretary of the Dramatists Guild Council and on the boards of the MacDowell Colony and The Lilly Awards.

About Jeanine Tesori

Jeanine Tesori has written a diverse catalog of music for Broadway, opera, film, and television. Her Broadway musicals include *Fun Home* (2015 Tony Award Winner, Pulitzer Prize finalist); *Violet; Caroline, or Change; Shrek the Musical; Thoroughly Modern Millie; Twelfth Night* (LCT); and John Guare's *A Free Man of Color*. Her Off Broadway credits include *Mother Courage* (starring Meryl Streep) at The Public Theater/Shakespeare in the Park. She has received five Tony nominations, three Obie Awards, and three Drama Desk Awards. The hallmarks of her work have been described as "close-to-the-surface emotion, structural rigor and rhythmic drive." Her operas include *The Lion, the Unicorn and Me; Blizzard on Marblehead Neck* (MET/LCT Opera/Theater and Glimmerglass opera commission); and her upcoming collaboration with Tazewell Thompson, *Blue*, which was commissioned for The Glimmerglass Festival and will premiere there next season. She wrote the musical featured in the 2016 revival of *Gilmore Girls* and has also written special material for artists, such as "The Girl in 14G" for Kristin Chenoweth. She has been featured in the documentaries *Show Business* and *Theater of War*. Jeanine became the founding Artistic Director of a new concert series at New York City Center called Encores! Off-Center, for which she has helmed seasons joined by artists such as Stephen Sondheim, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Randy Newman, William Finn, Alan Menken, Renée Elise Goldsberry, Sutton Foster, and Jonathan Groff. After producing four seasons of Off-Center concerts, she took one of those concerts, *Sunday in the Park with George* (starring Jake Gyllenhaal), to Broadway where she produced the 2017 revival, with Ambassador Theater Group and Riva Marker. She was the recording producer for *Sunday* as well as the Original Cast Recordings of *Violet; Caroline, or Change; Shrek*; and *Twelfth Night*. A lecturer in music at Yale and on faculty at Columbia University, Jeanine has spoken and taught at universities and programs all over the country. She is the founding Creative Director of the non-profit A BroaderWay, an arts empowerment program for young women. She was given the Einhorn Mentorship Award by Primary Stages for her exceptional work with young artists.

About David Muse

David Muse is soon to be in his tenth season as Artistic Director of Studio Theatre, where he has directed *The Children, The Remains, The Effect, The Father, Constellations, Chimerica, Murder Ballad, Belleville, Cock, Tribes, The Real Thing, An Iliad, Dirt, Bachelorette, The Habit of Art, Venus in Fur, Circle Mirror Transformation, reasons to be pretty, Blackbird, Frozen*, and *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*. Previously, he was Associate Artistic Director of the Shakespeare Theatre Company, where he directed seven productions, including *Henry V, Julius Caesar, Coriolanus, King Charles III* (a co-production with ACT Theatre and Seattle Rep), and *Richard III*. Other directing projects include *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* (Arena Stage), *The Bluest Eye* (Theatre Alliance), and Patrick Page's *Swansong* (New York Summer Play Festival). He has helped to develop new work at numerous

theatres, including New York Theatre Workshop, Geva Theatre Center, Arena Stage, New Dramatists, and the Kennedy Center. David has taught acting and directing at Georgetown, Yale, and the Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy of Classical Acting. A nine-time Helen Hayes Award nominee for Outstanding Direction, he is a recipient of the DC Mayor's Arts Award for Outstanding Emerging Artist and the National Theatre Conference Emerging Artist Award. David is a graduate of Yale University and the Yale School of Drama.

INFORMATION

Where: Studio Theatre's Mead Theatre, 1501 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20005

Performances: Tuesday-Saturday at 8pm, Saturday and Sunday at 2pm, and Sunday at 7pm

There will be no matinee performance on May 16 and no evening performance on May 17.

Tickets: \$68 – \$98

Runs May 13 – June 21, 2020

Press performance: May 17, 2020 at 2PM

STUDIO THEATRE

Studio Theatre is Washington's premier venue for contemporary theatre, "where local audiences will find today's edgiest playwrights" (*Variety*). One of the most respected mid-sized theatres in the country, Studio produces exceptional contemporary drama in deliberately intimate spaces. Drawing inspiration from great ensembles—where people work together with a spirit of generosity and professional rigor—Studio brings characteristic thoughtfulness and daring to its work onstage and off, through its new work incubator and engagement, education, and workforce training initiatives. Studio serves nearly 75,000 people each year, including more than 1,000 youth and young adults through community engagement initiatives. Founded in 1978, the quality of Studio's work has been recognized by sustained community support, as well as 72 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 the box office. Street parking is extremely 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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tickets and Subscriptions: 202.332.3300

Administration: 202.232.7267

Website: studiotheatre.org

E-mail: info@studiotheatre.org

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