

PRESS RELEASE

S T U D I O

ADDRESS
1501 14TH STREET NW,
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

CONTACT
202-232-7267
STUDIOTHEATRE.ORG

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, DAVID MUSE
MANAGING DIRECTOR, REBECCA ENDE LICHTENBERG

CONTACT:

Mike Fila
Associate Director of Marketing and Communications
mfila@studiotheatre.org

DATE: April 21, 2021

STUDIO THEATRE STAGES FIRST LISA KRON PRODUCTION, *2.5 MINUTE RIDE*, BEGINNING A TRIO OF CULMINATING SOLO PERFORMANCES IN THE 2020-2021 ALL-DIGITAL SEASON

2.5 Minute Ride

Written by **Lisa Kron**

Directed by **Joanie Schultz**

Streaming at studiotheatre.org from April 30 – May 23, 2021

Press streaming begins April 29, 2021—RSVP for a digital ticket

“Kron pull[s] you right into the whirl of emotion behind her literal and figurative ride: the amusing terror that can be borne juxtaposed with the unamusing terror that can’t be.”

—*The New York Press*

“An unexpectedly powerful evening... hilarious...clever...and moving.”

—*The Times* (London)

Director **Joanie Schultz** (*Cry It Out*; *Hand to God*) and actor **Dina Thomas** (*Cry It Out*) reunite for *2.5 Minute Ride*, **Studio Theatre’s** first production by prolific playwright and three-time Tony Award winner **Lisa Kron**, streaming at studiotheatre.org from **April 30 – May 23, 2021**. *2.5 Minute Ride* is a portrait of Lisa’s father captured through two very different father-daughter trips: the family’s annual pilgrimage to Ohio’s Cedar Point amusement park, roller coaster capital of the world, and a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Auschwitz, where his parents were killed. Lisa connects these two disparate, formative parts of her father’s life story with anecdotes, revelations, and irreverent asides in this travelogue through thrill and loss. The autobiographical play is the first in a trio of solo performances that will cap Studio’s 2020-2021 all-digital season.

“Lisa’s play resonates with me for how it approaches her father with a lot of heart, clear-eyed compassion, and tenderness—things I hope we value in our relationships, particularly after the last year,” said Studio Artistic Director **David Muse**. “I’m excited to finally be presenting her work at Studio for the first time, and thrilled that Joanie and Dina are back to help us do it.”

About *2.5 Minute Ride*

Lisa's father is 74, nearly blind, a Holocaust survivor, and addicted to roller coasters. *2.5 Minute Ride* follows two very different father-daughter trips: the annual Kron family pilgrimage to roller-coaster heaven in Sandusky, Ohio and Lisa's once-in-a-lifetime trip to Auschwitz with her father. A travelogue through thrill and loss, Lisa Kron (book and lyrics, *Fun Home*) tracks her father's enthusiasm, physical frailty, and ambivalence about the lives he might have lived with humor and unsentimental compassion.

About Lisa Kron

Lisa Kron is a writer and performer whose work has been widely produced in New York, regionally, and internationally. She wrote the book and lyrics for the musical *Fun Home*, with music by composer Jeanine Tesori, which won five 2015 Tony Awards, including Best Book, Score, and Musical, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Lisa's other plays include *In the Wake, Well*, and the Obie Award-winning *2.5 Minute Ride*. As an actor, she received a Tony Award nomination for her performance in *Well* and a Lortel Award for her turn as Mrs. Mi-Tzu and Mrs. Yang in the Foundry Theatre's acclaimed production of *Good Person of Szechwan*. She is the recipient of Guggenheim, Sundance, and MacDowell fellowships, a Doris Duke Performing Artists Award, a CalArts Alpert Award, a Helen Merrill Award, the Kleban Prize for libretto writing, and grants from Creative Capital and the New York Film Academy. Lisa is also a founding member of the Obie and Bessie Award-winning collaborative theatre company The Five Lesbian Brothers. She serves on the boards of the MacDowell and the Sundance Institute, and as Council Vice President of the Dramatists Guild of America.

About Joanie Schultz

Joanie Schultz is a member of the Studio Cabinet. She has directed *Cry It Out* and *Hand to God* at Studio. Other recent work includes *Frankenstein: A Ghost Story, Frida...A Self Portrait*, and *Lot's Wife* at Kansas City Repertory Theatre; *A Doll's House, Part 2* at the Jungle Theater; *A Doll's House, Pride and Prejudice, Hand to God*, and *Hit the Wall* at WaterTower Theatre; *A Small Fire* at Philadelphia Theatre Company; *Queen, Cocked, Rest*, and *The Whale* at Victory Gardens Theater; *Venus in Fur* and *Ask Aunt Susan* at the Goodman Theatre; *Sex with Strangers* at The Cleveland Play House; and *fml: how Carson McCullers saved my life* at Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago. Joanie has served as Artistic Director of WaterTower Theatre in Dallas, Texas and Associate Artistic Producer of Victory Gardens Theater as part of the Leadership U One-on-One Fellowship, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered through TCG. She was also a Drama League Fellow; the Goodman Theatre Michael Maggio Director Fellow; the SDSF Denham Fellow; and member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. Her work has been nominated for and won Helen Hayes Awards, Joseph Jefferson Awards, and DFW Theater Critics Forum Awards. She is an ensemble member at Steep Theatre and an artistic associate at Victory Gardens Theater. Joanie received her BA in Theatre Directing from Columbia College Chicago and her MFA in Theatre Directing from Northwestern University. joanieschultz.com

Cast

Dina Thomas (Lisa) is an actor, creator, newly licensed real estate agent, and proud Mama. She was last at Studio Theatre in Molly Smith Metzler's *Cry It Out*. Her Off Broadway credits include *The Metromaniacs* at Red Bull Theater; *Clever Little Lies* at Westside Theatre; and *Tribes* at Barrow Street Theatre. In addition to her work at Studio, Dina has appeared in DC productions of *The Metromaniacs* at Shakespeare Theatre Company and *The Wanderers* at Theater J. Regionally, Dina has been seen in *The Metromaniacs* at The Old Globe; *Tribes* at La Jolla Playhouse; *Everything You Touch* at the Contemporary American Theater Festival; the 10x10 New Play Festival and *See How They Run* at Barrington Stage

Company; and *Bad Jews*, *Distracted*, *Miss Witherspoon*, and the world premiere of *Hungry* at Unicorn Theatre. She has also performed staged readings for Red Bull Theater, Project Y Theatre Company, Abingdon Theatre Company, and The Lark. She was featured in the web series *Tales of Toverud*. Dina received her MFA from the University of Missouri - Kansas City. On social media at @tinydthomas (Instagram) and @DinaThomas (Facebook).

About the Creative Team

Sherrice Mojgani (Lighting Design) recently designed for DC-area productions of *The Heiress* and *Two Trains Running* at Arena Stage and *Spunk*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, and *The Scottsboro Boys* at Signature Theatre. Regionally, she has designed for *A Few Good Men* and *Sweat* at Pittsburgh Public Theater; *What You Are* and *Skeleton Crew* at The Old Globe; *Roz and Ray*, *Black Pearl Sings*, and *Outside Mullingar* at San Diego Repertory Theatre; and *Blue Door*, *Trouble in Mind*, and *Mud Blue Sky* at MOXIE Theatre. Sherrice is an Assistant Professor at George Mason University. She holds a BA in Theater Arts from UC Santa Cruz and an MFA in Lighting Design from UC San Diego. smojgani.com.

Matthew M. Nielson (Sound Design) returns to Studio, where his design and composition credits include *The Remains*, *Hand to God*, *MotherStruck*, *The Real Thing*, and *Venus in Fur*. DMV-area credits include Arena Stage, Ford's Theatre, the Kennedy Center, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Signature Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, Theater Alliance, Contemporary American Theater Festival, and The Smithsonian. Off Broadway credits include The Public Theater, Lincoln Center Theater, and 59E59 Theaters. Regional credits include Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Cincinnati Playhouse, Milwaukee Rep, Portland Center Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Philadelphia Theatre Company, and Barrington Stage Company. Film and TV credits include *Those Who Wait*, *The Hero Effect*, *Elbow Grease*, *From Hell to Here*, Discovery Channel, National Geographic, and Delivery.com. Matthew has won five Helen Hayes Awards and several regional theatre and film festival awards. matthewnielson.com

Allie Roy (Production Stage Manager) returns after stage managing Studio's first audio play, *Kings*, and first streaming play, *Cock*, this season. Her other Studio credits include *Admissions*, *If I Forget*, *Translations*, *Curve of Departure*, *Straight White Men*, *Murder Ballad*, *Silence! The Musical*, and the world premiere of *Animal* for the Women's Voices Theater Festival. Regional credits include *West Side Story* in concert with the National Symphony Orchestra and *Love, Factually* at The Kennedy Center; the world premieres of *Mrs. Miller Does Her Thing* and *Diner*, as well as *A Chorus Line*, *Grand Hotel*, *The Scottsboro Boys*, *West Side Story*, and *Elmer Gantry* at Signature Theatre; the world premiere of *After the War*, as well as *When January Feels Like Summer* and *Ulysses on Bottles* at Mosaic Theater Company; and *The Originalist* at Arena Stage.

Annabel Heacock (Assistant Director) is a director, writer, performer, deviser, and recent Northwestern University graduate with degrees in Theatre and Sociology. She assistant directed Studio's 2021 production of *Cock*. Select Northwestern directing credits include an immersive production of *The Visit*, *The Donkey Show*, *Carrie the Musical*, and *Crisis Resolution in the Middle East* for the annual Agnes Nixon Playwriting Festival. Assistant directing credits include *The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls* and *Twelfth Night*. While at Northwestern, Annabel served as the Artistic Director of WAVE Productions, a self-supporting, not-for-profit student theatre company. She also coordinated the annual Director's Festival, helping young artists develop their craft and direct a fully produced one-act play.

Wes Culwell (Director of Video) is an award-winning producer and director. He founded Studiio Box Creative in 2012 and has been committed to creating visibility around social justice issues as well as

establishing Studiio Box as a premier creative agency in the greater Washington, DC area. Wes has spent more than 20 years in production, including nine years producing for networks such as NBC, Bravo, Oxygen, VH1, TLC, and National Geographic. During this challenging year for the arts, Wes has focused his energies on assisting theatrical companies to bring their visions to the digital screen. He received a BA in Drama from the University of California, Irvine and an MFA in Cinema from San Francisco State University. studioboxdc.com.

Adrien-Alice Hansel (Dramaturg) is the Literary Director at Studio, where she has dramaturged the world premieres of *I Hate it Here*, *Queen of Basel*, *The Remains*, *No Sisters*, *I Wanna Fucking Tear You Apart*, *Animal*, *Red Speedo*, *Dirt*, *Lungs*, and *The History of Kisses* as well as productions of *Until the Flood*, *Cry It Out*, *Translations*, *Curve of Departure*, *The Effect*, *Wig Out!*, *Straight White Men*, *Cloud 9*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Constellations*, *Jumpers for Goalposts*, *Bad Jews* (twice), *The Apple Family Plays*, *Invisible Man*, *Sucker Punch*, *The Golden Dragon*, and *The New Electric Ballroom*, among others. Prior to joining Studio, she spent eight seasons at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, where she headed the literary department and coordinated project scouting, selection, and development for the Humana Festival of New American Plays. She is the co-editor of 10 anthologies of plays from Actors Theatre and editor of eight editions of plays through Studio. Adrien-Alice holds an MFA from the Yale School of Drama.

INFORMATION

Available to stream from studiotheatre.org on-demand from April 30 – May 23, 2021
Single tickets: \$37, plus service fees

ABOUT 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 midsized 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tickets and Subscriptions: 202.332.3300

Website: studiotheatre.org

E-mail: info@studiotheatre.org

###