

# PRESS RELEASE

**STUDIO**  
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## **STUDIO THEATRE JOINS THE BREATH PROJECT, A NATIONAL EFFORT FOR ARTISTS OF COLOR TO CREATE WORK THAT RESPONDS TO CALLS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE ACROSS THE US**

**Studio Theatre** is partnering with **The Breath Project**, a nationwide initiative encouraging artists to create 8 minute, 46 second-long works of live theatre in the memory of George Floyd, and in response to this moment in history—marked with calls for racial justice and political reform. Studio is the first DC theatre to join the consortium of more than 20 theatres in 14 states to amplify the call for multidisciplinary theatre artists of color to submit their original works for the project, which will be preserved as an archive and curated into a virtual festival in Fall 2020.

Reflecting the company's commitment to community engagement, Studio has enlisted several DC-area partner organizations including Howard University, Georgetown University, N Street Village, CreativeWorks at Joe's Movement Emporium, and DC Public Library to spread the call to artists across the region and help ensure that a rich diversity of DMV perspectives are presented in the digital archive.

"It is moving and gratifying, to be working with theatre companies across the country, like Studio Theatre, who want to create real change...when we contacted Artistic and Managing leaders of theaters across the country, many of them responded immediately, opening their hearts and their doors to this project," said **Gamal Abdel Chasten**, The Breath Project Artistic Director and Co-Founder.

"The Breath Project feels so of the moment in its invitation for any and all to mark the life, death, and legacy of George Floyd. Gamal's vision is both specific and expansive, and I look forward to seeing how DC's artists and activists embrace its call," said Studio's Artistic Director **David Muse**.

To be entered into The Breath Project archive, and be eligible for inclusion in the companion festival, submissions must be a recording of a live performance of an original work, 8:46 in length. The deadline to submit work for consideration in the festival is September 14, 2020; the Breath Project will accept contributions to the archive on an ongoing basis. More information is available at [thebreathproject2020.com](http://thebreathproject2020.com).

The Breath Project was founded by Gamal Abdel Chasten and Marieke Gaboury as a vehicle to select, curate, and archive work from artists of color who are responding to our current moment in history, and to build relationships between artists of color and producers of live theatre.

### **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 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.

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