SARAH MARSHALL LEADS STUDIO THEATRE’S 2019-2020 SEASON-OPENING PRODUCTION OF PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING MORAL DRAMA DOUBT: A PARABLE

Doubt: A Parable
Written by John Patrick Shanley
Directed by Matt Torney
Runs September 4 – October 6, 2019
Press performance: September 8, 2019 at 2pm

“An eloquent and provocative investigation of truth and consequences. A gripping mystery, tightly written.”
—Time Out NY

“[A] tight and absorbing drama.”
—The New York Times

“…passionate, exquisite, important and engrossing.”
—Newsday

Studio Theatre opens its 2019-2020 season on September 4, 2019 with Associate Artistic Director Matt Torney directing Doubt: A Parable. John Patrick Shanley’s masterpiece about faith, ambiguity, and the price of moral conviction. The production stars Washington, DC theatre treasure Sarah Marshall, distinguished by having performed at Studio more than any other actor, as Sister Aloysius, the stern and unflinching principal of St. Nicholas Church and School. Joining Marshall are Christian Conn (Studio Theatre’s Venus in Fur) as Father Flynn, Amelia Pedlow as Sister James, and Tiffany M. Thompson as Mrs. Muller.

Doubt opens amidst the social and political change of the 1960s, as Sister Aloysius, the rigid, by-the-book principal of a Bronx parish school clashes with Father Flynn, the charismatic, progressive priest trying to upend St. Nicholas’s traditional customs. She also questions Father Flynn’s actions, after she learns of his potentially objectionable interest in the school’s first and only Black student. But is there hard proof of any misconduct? As the polarity between the two grows, it threatens dire consequences for all involved.

“Doubt is as complex as it was 15 years ago, and its questions of how to handle unprovable suspicions—and how the most vulnerable usually bear the brunt of unequal justice—are as timely as ever,” said
Studio’s Artistic Director David Muse. "It's a particular pleasure to welcome Sarah Marshall and Christian Conn back to Studio as they face off in Shanley's moral drama."

**About Doubt: A Parable**

The Bronx, 1964. Suspicions surface at a parochial school about a charismatic young priest’s interest in a Catholic school’s first and only Black student. Absent hard proof, Sister Aloysius, the school’s starched and self-assured principal, tries to protect the innocent—but is she doing God’s work or is her certitude actually pride? A searing masterwork by John Patrick Shanley about faith, ambiguity, and the price of moral conviction.

**About Matt Torney**

The 2019-2020 season will be Matt Torney’s fourth as Associate Artistic Director at Studio Theatre, where he has previously directed If I Forget, Translations, The Hard Problem, MotherStruck!, Hedda Gabler, Jumpers for Goalposts (nominated for two Helen Hayes Awards, including Best Ensemble), The New Electric Ballroom, and The Walworth Farce (nominated for two Helen Hayes Awards). Prior to his work at Studio, Matt served as the Director of Programming for Origin Theatre in New York, an Off Broadway company that specializes in European new writing. His New York credits include Stop the Tempo and Tiny Dynamite (Origin Theatre, Drama Desk Award nominee), The Twelfth Labor (Loading Dock), The Dudleys (Theater for the New City), The Angel of History (HERE Arts Center), and Three Sisters and A Bright Room Called Day (Atlantic Theater Company). Regional credits include Sherlock Holmes and the Crucifer of Blood and Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme (Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre), and Improbable Frequency (Solás Nua, Helen Hayes Award nominee for Best Choreography). International credits include Digging for Fire and Plaza Suite (Rough Magic, National Tour), Angola (workshop at the Abbey Theatre), Paisley and Me (Grand Opera House, Belfast), The Last Days of Judas Iscariot (Making Strange, Irish Theatre Award nominee for Best Director), and Woyzeck (Rough Magic, Best Production nominee at the Dublin Fringe Festival). Originally from Belfast, Matt holds an MFA from Columbia University.

**About John Patrick Shanley**

Playwright, screenwriter, and director John Patrick Shanley is from the Bronx. His plays include The Portuguese Kid, Prodigal Son, Outside Mullingar (Tony Award nomination), Danny and the Deep Blue Sea, Savage in Limbo, Four Dogs and a Bone, Dirty Story, and Beggars in the House of Plenty. His theatrical work is performed extensively around the world. For his play Doubt: A Parable, he received both the Tony Award and the Pulitzer Prize. In the arena of screenwriting he has nine films to his credit, most recently Doubt with Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams, and Viola Davis. Doubt, directed by John, was nominated for five Academy Awards, including Best Adapted Screenplay. Other films include Five Corners (Special Jury Prize, Barcelona), Alive, Joe Versus the Volcano (which he also directed), and Live from Baghdad for HBO (Emmy nomination). For his script of Moonstruck, he received both the Writers Guild of America Award and an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay. In 2009, The Writers Guild of America awarded him the Lifetime Achievement in Writing.

**ABOUT THE CAST**

- **Sarah Marshall** (Sister Aloysius) returns to Studio Theatre for Doubt: A Parable after appearing in Admissions last season. Sarah has the honor of having performed at Studio Theatre more than any other performer in its history. Some of her Studio credits include The Apple Family Cycle, The Rocky Horror Show, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, Prometheus, Betty’s Summer Vacation, Three Sisters, Miss Margarida’s Way, Sylvia, The Rise and Fall of Little Voice, The
Baltimore Waltz, When I Was a Girl I Used to Scream and Shout, My Sister in this House, Playing for Time, A Taste of Honey, The Visit, and Medea. She has performed at many Washington theatres including Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Ford’s Theatre, Round House Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Arena Stage, Folger Theatre, Washington Stage Guild, Signature Theatre, and the Kennedy Center. Sarah has taught acting for 30 years and currently teaches at Georgetown University.

- **Christian Conn** (Father Flynn) previously played Thomas in Venus in Fur at Studio Theatre. New York credits include Desire Under the Elms on Broadway, The Metromaniacs and The School for Scandal at Red Bull Theater, The Liar at Classic Stage Company, and Fulfillment at The Flea Theater. DC credits include the world premieres of The Metromaniacs and The Liar at Shakespeare Theatre Company, as well as last season’s The Comedy of Errors. Other recent regional work includes Frost/Nixon at Bay Street Theater, The Importance of Being Earnest at The Old Globe, Other Desert Cities at the Guthrie Theater, God of Carnage at Theatre Aspen, and three seasons with the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center. Television, film, and gaming work includes Jack Ryan, The (718), Tough Crowd, and Tom Dickens in Red Dead Redemption II. Christian earned a BFA from Rutgers University.

- **Amelia Pedlow** (Sister James) recently appeared in New York in the world premiere of Intelligence at New York Theatre Workshop for Next Door at NYTW. Other Off Broadway credits include The Metromaniacs and ‘Tis Pity She’s a Whore with Red Bull Theater, the world premiere of Kate Hamill’s Pride and Prejudice with Primary Stages, The Liar and The Heir Apparent with Classic Stage Company, and You Never Can Tell with The Pearl Theatre Company. Regional credits include Love’s Labours Lost at Folger Theatre; Playing with Fire at the Guthrie Theater; Fortune at Hangar Theatre; Pride and Prejudice and The General from America with Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival; Red Velvet and The Metromaniacs with The Old Globe; The Metromaniacs, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and The Merchant of Venice with Shakespeare Theatre Company; Ether Dome with La Jolla Playhouse, Hartford Stage, and Huntington Theatre Center; The Glass Menagerie, Hamlet, and The Liar with the Denver Center for the Performing Arts; Legacy of Light with Cleveland Play House; and The Diary of Anne Frank with Virginia Stage Company. Her television credits include The Good Wife, Blue Bloods, Shades of Blue, and The Blacklist. She received her BFA from The Juilliard School.

- **Tiffany M. Thompson** (Mrs. Muller) recently appeared as Chelle in Detroit ’67 at the Detroit Public Theatre. Other productions include Diana Goodman in Next to Normal, Lady Capulet in Romeo and Juliet, Fabian in Twelfth Night, and Anna Mac/Afua in By the Way, Meet Vera Stark. Tiffany also was cast as Leafy Lee in Polk County by Zora Neale Hurston in a joint production with the McCarter Theatre Center and Berkeley Repertory Theater, and also as Mattie Campbell in August Wilson’s Joe Turner’s Come and Gone at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, directed by Delroy Lindo. Tiffany has a BFA from SUNY Purchase and an MFA from Wayne State University.

**INFORMATION**
Where: Studio Theatre’s Metheny Theatre, 1501 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20005
Performances: Tuesday-Saturdays at 8pm; Saturdays and Sundays at 2pm; Sundays at 7pm
There will be no matinee performance on September 7 and no evening performance on September 8.
Tickets: $60 – $90
Runs September 4 – October 6, 2019
Press performance: September 8, 2019 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 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 70 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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