

PRESS RELEASE

STUDIO
THEATRE

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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* (Solas 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 Mae/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 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 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

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