

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: January 6, 2021

DUAL STUDIO THEATRE AUDIO PLAYS REFLECT ON CANTANKEROUS 2020: POLITICAL DRAMA *KINGS* AND WORLD PREMIERE *I HATE IT HERE*

Just Released:

I Hate It Here: Stories from the End of the Old World

A world premiere written and directed by **Ike Holter**

Listen for free through **March 7, 2021**

Limited Time Left to Enjoy:

Kings

Written by **Sarah Burgess**

Directed by **Marti Lyons**

Listen for free through **January 24, 2021**

With 2020 in the rearview—and attention shifting toward analysis of the year that was and optimism for what's to come—**Studio Theatre has released two free audio plays** that look back on the events of the past 12 months. Productions are available for free at studiotheatre.org.

In the world premiere of ***I Hate It Here: Stories from the End of the Old World***, commissioned by Studio, playwright and director **Ike Holter** creates a series of capsule stories that play like tracks on an album, moving from high school lockers to a protest, wedding, front stoop, and more, inviting listeners to peer into the lives of everyday people wrestling with change both personal and systemic.

Studio's first-ever audio play venture, an adaptation of political drama ***Kings*** by **Sarah Burgess** and directed by **Marti Lyons**, released earlier this fall, follows a rookie congresswoman navigating the influence of money, power, and lobbying on Capitol Hill in an observation of where power really resides in government.

These productions are part of Studio in Your Ears, generously underwritten by Studio Board Chair **Amy Weinberg** and her husband **Norbert Hornstein**.

About *I Hate It Here: Stories from the End of the Old World*

"I wonder if there's been a play that channels...2020 as perfectly as Studio Theatre's sharp and satisfyingly foul-mouthed *I Hate It Here: Stories from the End of the Old World*. I'd wager not."

—*The New York Times*

An anthem for our time, *I Hate It Here* looks at the ways people do (and don't) deal with a world on the brink of explosion. Commissioned by Studio to create an audio work, award-winning Chicago writer Ike Holter brings his sharp humor to the complexities of stepping into a new decade with the odds already stacked against your favor. With keen observation, Holter uses vignettes, monologues, and song to create capsule stories that capture the many ways it feels to live in a world wracked by change.

I Hate It Here is supported by Studio R&D, Studio's incubator for new work, and was part of the largest-ever round of commissioning in the Theatre's history, awarded in spring 2020.

About *Kings*

"A thrilling earful of political intrigue..."

—*Broadway World*

Newly elected congresswoman Sydney Millsap arrives in DC armed with her ideals and sense of duty, and refuses to play by the rules of special interests—or her own party. Kate's a lobbyist who backs winners. The two collide in the audio adaptation of the lacerating comedy Studio first produced in winter 2018, just after the last midterms. With its snappy dialogue and shrewd look at where power really sits in government, it's an audio play perfect for DC audiences.

About Ike Holter

Ike Holter (playwright and director) is a Chicago writer, and recipient of The Windham-Campbell Prize for playwriting. Ike's plays include *Hit The Wall*, *Exit Strategy*, and *Lottery Day*, which have been seen all across the country. His audio play *Put Your House in Order* is available to stream at pyhio.com. He was a writer for the Emmy Award winning *Fosse/Verdon* on FX, and won the Writers Guild of America Award for Best Long Form Adaptation. Scripts are available to purchase through all booksellers, as well as ikeholter.com. Black Lives Matter.

About Sarah Burgess

Sarah Burgess (playwright) is currently the showrunner of the upcoming season of *American Crime Story*, about the impeachment of President Bill Clinton. Her pilot, *Compliance*, starring Courtney B. Vance and Mary Louise Parker and directed by Sam Gold, was produced in 2018 through FX and Scott Rudin Productions. In theatre, Sarah's play *Dry Powder* won the 2016 Laurents/Hatcher Foundation Award, was a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, and was nominated for an Olivier Award in London. *Dry Powder* premiered at The Public Theater in a production directed by Thomas Kail, starring Claire Danes, John Krasinski, Hank Azaria, and Sanjit De Silva. Other plays include *Camdenside* (Ground Floor selection; Berkeley Rep; Kilroys list 2015) and *FAIL: Failures* (ANT Fest). She has written for AMC's *Lodge 49*, *The Tenant* (Woodshed Collective), and *Naked Radio*, Naked Angels' podcast series. Burgess has been a writer-in-residence at SPACE on Ryder Farm and the Cape Cod Theatre Project.

About Marti Lyons

Marti Lyons was most recently directing the world premiere of *The Scarlet Letter* by Kate Hamill at South Coast Rep, which, unfortunately, never had a chance to open. Marti previously directed Studio Theatre's productions of *The Wolves* by Sarah DeLappe and *Kings* by Sarah Burgess. She most recently directed *How to Defend Yourself* by Liliana Padilla at Victory Gardens as part of a co-production with Actors Theatre of Louisville. Marti also directed *Cambodian Rock Band* by Lauren Yee (Victory Gardens, City Theatre Company in Pittsburgh, Merrimack Repertory Theatre); *Witch* by Jen Silverman (Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, Writers Theatre in Chicago); *The Niceties* by Eleanor Burgess (Writers Theatre); *Native Gardens* by Karen Zacarías (Victory Gardens); *Botticelli in the Fire* by Jordan Tannahill (Woolly Mammoth); *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* (Court Theatre); *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Montana Shakespeare in the Parks); *Short Shakes! Macbeth* and *Short Shakes! Romeo and Juliet* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *Wit* (The Hypocrites); *The City of Conversation* by Anthony Giardina (Northlight Theatre). She directed *Wondrous Strange* by Meg Miroshnik, Martyna Majok, Jen Silverman, and Jiehae Park (2016 Humana Festival) and *Title and Deed* by Will Eno (Lookingglass Theatre Company). Other projects include Laura Marks's *Bethany*, Marks's *Mine*, and Will Nedved's *Body and Blood* (The Gift Theatre); Catherine Treischmann's *Hot Georgia Sunday* and Theresa Rebeck's *Seminar* (Haven); *Prowess* by Ike Holter, *The Peacock* by Calamity West, and *The Last Duck* by Lucas Neff (Jackalope Theatre); *The Play About My Dad* by Boo Killebrew (Raven Theatre); *Give It All Back* by Calamity West, *Mai Dang Lao* by David Jacobi, *9 Circles* by Bill Cain, *Maria/Stuart* by Jason Grote, and co-directed *The Golden Dragon* (Sideshow Theatre Company). Marti's upcoming work includes *Sense and Sensibility* at American Players Theatre. Marti was the 2015 Maggio Directing Fellow at the Goodman Theatre. She is an ensemble member at The Gift Theatre, an Artistic Associate with Sideshow Theatre Company, and a proud member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. www.martilyons.com

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.

###