

PRESS RELEASE

STUDIO
THEATRE

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
DAVID MUSE

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DATE: December 10, 2019

TICKETS TO TONY AWARD-WINNING *FUN HOME* ON SALE TO THE PUBLIC; ONE WEEK EXTENSION ADDED DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

Fun Home

Music by **Jeanine Tesori**

Book and Lyrics by **Lisa Kron**

Based on the graphic novel by **Alison Bechdel**

Directed by **David Muse**

Runs May 13 – June 21, 2020

Tickets for Tony Award-winning Broadway musical ***Fun Home*** are on sale to the public beginning at **noon today—Tuesday, December 10**. Previously available exclusively to Studio subscribers, *Fun Home* has already been extended by one week due to popular demand. The culminating Main Series production in Studio’s 2019-2020 season, ***Fun Home* runs May 13 to June 21, 2020** and will be directed by Artistic Director **David Muse**.

Called “extraordinary and heart-gripping” by *The New York Times*, *Fun Home* is a joyful and bittersweet musical based on cartoonist Alison Bechdel’s autobiographical graphic novel about coming out and reconciling with her childhood. *Fun Home* opened at The Public Theater in New York before transferring to Broadway and later going on a national tour; Studio’s production presents a unique opportunity to see this smash hit musical in one of its intimate spaces: the Mead Theatre, with less than 225 seats. *Fun Home* is Studio’s first Main Series musical since its acclaimed 2008 production of *Grey Gardens*.

About *Fun Home*

Alison is 9, begging her father to play with her. She is 19, overcome by the aching and joyous pain of first love. She is 43, an out lesbian hunting for the truth of her brilliant, volatile, and closeted father’s life and death. She is all three at once, trying to untangle the central mystery of her childhood: How did she survive their shared hometown, when her father could not? With a score that ranges from exuberant ’70s pop to aching melodies and dissonant harmonies of characters longing to be known, *Fun Home* is the award-winning story of a daughter and father, of coming out and coming to terms with a life shaped by a family’s secrets.

About Jeanine Tesori and Lisa Kron

Jeanine Tesori has written a diverse catalog for Broadway, opera, film, and television. Her Broadway

musicals include *Fun Home* (2015 Tony Award Winner, Pulitzer finalist); *Violet; Caroline, or Change*; *Shrek the Musical*; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; *Twelfth Night*; and John Guare's *A Free Man of Color*. Her Off Broadway credits include *Mother Courage* (starring Meryl Streep) at The Public Theater/Shakespeare in the Park. She has received five Tony nominations, three Obie Awards, and three Drama Desk Awards. The hallmarks of her work have been described as "close-to-the-surface emotion, structural rigor and rhythmic drive." Her operas include *The Lion, the Unicorn and Me*; *Blizzard on Marblehead Neck* (MET/LCT Opera/Theater and Glimmerglass opera commission); and her collaboration with Tazewell Thompson, *Blue*, which opened in July 2019. She wrote the musical featured in the 2016 revival of *Gilmore Girls* and has also written special material for artists, such as "The Girl in 14G" for Kristin Chenoweth. She has been featured in the documentaries *Show Business* and *Theater of War*. Jeanine became the founding Artistic Director of a new concert series at New York City Center called Encores! Off-Center for which she has helmed seasons joined by artists such as Stephen Sondheim, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Randy Newman, William Finn, Alan Menken, Renee Elise Goldsberry, Sutton Foster, and Jonathan Groff. After producing four seasons of Off Center concerts, she took one of those concerts, *Sunday in the Park with George* (starring Jake Gyllenhaal), to Broadway where she produced the 2017 revival, with ATG and Riva Marker. She was the recording producer for *Sunday* as well as the Original Cast Recordings of *Violet; Caroline, or Change*; *Shrek*; and *Twelfth Night*. A lecturer in music at Yale and on faculty at Columbia University, Jeanine has spoken and taught at universities and programs all over the country. She is the founding Creative Director of the non-profit A BroaderWay, an arts empowerment program for young women. She was given the Einhorn Mentorship Award by Primary Stages for her exceptional work with young artists.

Lisa Kron is a writer and performer whose work has been widely produced in New York, regionally, and internationally. Her plays include *Well*, *2.5 Minute Ride*, and *The Ver**zon Play*. She wrote the book and lyrics for the musical *Fun Home* (with music by composer Jeanine Tesori), winner of five Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Lisa and Jeanine were the first all-woman team to ever receive a Tony for best score. As an actor, Lisa was most recently seen as Mrs. Mi-Tzu and Mrs. Yang in The Foundry Theatre's acclaimed production of *Good Person of Szechuan* (Lortel Award, Outstanding Featured Actress). Honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Doris Duke Performing Artists Award, and the Cal Arts/Alpert Award. She is a proud founding member of the Obie- and Bessie Award-winning collaborative theater company The Five Lesbian Brothers. Lisa currently serves as Secretary of the Dramatists Guild Council and on the boards of the MacDowell Colony and The Lilly Awards.

About David Muse

David Muse is in his tenth season as Artistic Director of Studio Theatre, where he has directed *The Children*, *The Remains*, *The Effect*, *The Father*, *Constellations*, *Chimerica*, *Murder Ballad*, *Belleville*, *Cock*, *Tribes*, *The Real Thing*, *An Iliad*, *Dirt*, *Bachelorette*, *The Habit of Art*, *Venus in Fur*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *reasons to be pretty*, *Blackbird*, *Frozen*, and *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Show*. Previously, he was Associate Artistic Director of the Shakespeare Theatre Company, where he directed seven productions, including *Henry V*, *Julius Caesar*, *Coriolanus*, *King Charles III* (a co-production with ACT Theatre and Seattle Rep), and *Richard III*. Other directing projects include *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* (Arena Stage), *The Bluest Eye* (Theatre Alliance), and Patrick Page's *Swansong* (New York Summer Play Festival). He has helped to develop new work at numerous theatres, including New York Theatre Workshop, Geva Theatre Center, Arena Stage, New Dramatists, and the Kennedy Center. David has taught acting and directing at Georgetown, Yale, and the Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy of Classical Acting. A nine-time Helen Hayes Award nominee for Outstanding Direction, he is a recipient of the DC Mayor's Arts Award for Outstanding Emerging Artist and the National Theatre Conference Emerging Artist Award. David is a graduate of Yale University and the Yale School of Drama.

INFORMATION

Where: Studio Theatre's Mead Theatre, 1501 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20005

Performances: Tuesday-Saturday at 8pm, Saturday and Sunday at 2pm, and Sunday at 7pm

There will be no matinee performance on May 16; there will be no evening performance on May 17

Tickets: \$68 – \$98

Runs May 13 – June 21, 2020

STUDIO THEATRE

Over the past four decades, Studio Theatre has established itself as 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. Every year, Studio serves nearly 75,000 people, including more than 1,000 youth and young adults through engagement and education initiatives. Throughout Studio's 41-year history, the quality of its work has been recognized by sustained community support, as well as 72 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 concessions. 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 concessions. Call the Box Office at 202.332.3300 for more information.

Contact Information:

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