

PRESS RELEASE

STUDIO
THEATRE

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
DAVID MUSE

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DATE: October 29, 2019

CULT-FAVORITE COMEDIAN, MONOLOGIST DANIEL KITSON RETURNS TO STUDIO FOR A LIMITED ENGAGEMENT WITH NEW WORK, *KEEP*.

KEEP.

Written and performed by **Daniel Kitson**

Runs November 19–December 1, 2019

Contact Mike Fila to arrange press tickets (contact info above)

“Monologist extraordinaire—unconditionally engaged and engaging.”

—*The New York Times*

“Go on, get inside Daniel Kitson’s head. You’ll find it a strange and funny place.”

—*The Washington Post*

“A play about memory, loneliness, relationships, regret and the act of storytelling itself, particularly its collateral effect on the supporting characters.”

—*Chortle*

Studio Theatre will present **Daniel Kitson** in the first US performance of his new work ***KEEP.***, a show about how much past the present should contain, in a limited engagement from **November 19–December 1, 2019**. Kitson has distinguished himself as a prolific storyteller and offbeat comedian, approaching the nuance, frustration, and heroism of everyday life with stories that are funny, humane, insightful, and irresistible.

Kitson rose to prominence at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where he won a Perrier Comedy Award and a Scotsman Fringe First, and has gone on to cultivate massive followings in the UK and Australia—however, he rarely performs in the US. Experimenting with form and subject, he has crafted projects around his intrigue in a local bicycle accident (a Studio world premiere), the discovery of 30,659 letters in an attic, a duet between a live performer and recorded voicemail message, and a set recorded on 46 cassette tapes that he activates one-by-one in a silent performance. In true Kitson fashion, ***KEEP.*** is as eccentric as it is thoughtful, as he sets out to catalog all 20,000 items in his home in a meditation on hope, regret, sentiment, and burden—and, as he explains, “the inevitable sadness of ever holding on to anything.”

“There’s nobody else out there like Daniel Kitson,” says Studio’s Artistic Director David Muse. “He’s a singular storyteller with a knack for capturing life’s idiosyncrasies in profoundly moving, thoughtful, and humorous ways. At Studio we often talk about telling human-sized stories, and Kitson is a master of that

craft. We're excited to have him back with a brand new piece to share with US audiences for the first time."

Studio is only the second venue in the country to host Kitson; he also performs at St. Ann's Warehouse in New York. He has been praised for his "fierce intelligence and sensitivity to language" whose "darkest stories come with laughs, and [whose] jokes choke you up" (*The New York Times*).

About *KEEP*.

"A new show about how much past the present can usefully contain. About rigor and generosity. About postcards and hair pins and a certificate from Harry Ramsden's in Blackpool. About how long it takes to stop noticing where you are. About the compromise of a full life and the burden of a full heart and how it's impossible to know where looking back will lead. About the task of being who we are without denying who we've been. About the importance of regret and the possibility of hope and the delusional idea of starting again. About all the books I've never read and all the jam I've ever eaten and the bags of torn tickets and the drawers of empty pens and the inevitable sadness of ever holding on to anything.

About, in short, the stuff in my house and the thoughts in my head." —*from Daniel Kitson*

About Daniel Kitson

Daniel Kitson is a stand-up comedian and "monologist extraordinaire" (*The New York Times*). He has written and performed numerous works for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, including *Something*, which received the Perrier Comedy Award; *Stories for the Wobbly Hearted*, which received the Scotsman Fringe First Award; and *C-90*, for which Kitson was awarded The Stage Acting Award for Best Solo Show and a Fringe First. His shows *C-90*, *It's The Fireworks Talking*, *Daniel Kitson Will Be Drinking Tea and Blowing Minds*, *Where Once Was Wonder*, and *After the Beginning Before the End* have toured Europe and Australia. In Australia, Kitson received the Barry Award for *It's The Fireworks Talking* and the Argus Angel Award for *C-90*. Kitson has brought several shows to St. Ann's Warehouse in the US, including *The Interminable Suicide of Gregory Church* in 2011; *It's Always Right Now, Until it's Later* in 2012; *Analog.Ue* in 2013; and *Mouse* in 2016. His first and only DC performance to date was at Studio Theatre.

INFORMATION

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

Performances: Tuesday-Sunday at 7:30pm

There will be no performance on November 28.

Tickets: \$25

Runs November 19–December 1, 2019

Contact Mike Fila to arrange press tickets (contact info at top of release)

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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