

PRESS RELEASE

STUDIO
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SEVEN ARTISTS TO CAPTURE THEIR MARCH ON WASHINGTON EXPERIENCE IN STUDIO THEATRE VIDEO COMMISSIONING PROJECT

Studio Theatre has commissioned seven Black artists who are attending the 57th anniversary of the March on Washington this weekend to create artistic responses that bear witness to their experience at the event, share reflections on this moment, and capture their feelings as Black men living through ongoing violence and protests for racial justice. Expanding on its video project honoring Juneteenth—commemorating the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States—Studio tapped into its network of artists and collaborators to see who would be in DC for the March and able to participate. This project will amplify Black voices in response to this historical moment and share the unique experiences of Black artists with Studio's broad audience.

Artists participating in the response project are **Jelani Alladin** (*Choir Boy*; also originated the role of Kristoff in Broadway's *Frozen* musical adaptation), **Ro Boddie** (*Pipeline, No Sisters, Dirt*), **Jason Bowen** (*Skeleton Crew*), **Jonathan Burke** (*Choir Boy*), **Sean Carvajal** (*Between Riverside and Crazy*), **Biko Eisen-Martin** (*No Sisters*), and **Michael Rishawn** (*Wig Out!*).

"Studio has always looked to artists to communicate what it feels like to be alive in this moment and alive to this moment," said Studio Artistic Director **David Muse**. "It's been a pleasure to work with each of these seven artists. I'm happy we can host them in our artist housing, and I'm eager to see what these artists make in response to their time in DC, this moment in the history of our country and our artform."

Studio invited artists to respond creatively to their weekend in DC and share their work via video. The format was left intentionally broad to ensure diversity in the project—responses may be documentary-style footage, music, poetry, spoken word, monologue, and more. Submissions will be about 3 minutes long. The responses will be unedited to capture the authentic, raw breadth of the artists' experiences.

Studio will also open its lobby to protesters and marchers on Friday, March 28 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. with water and snacks, restrooms, wifi, and charging stations.

This initiative joins Studio's other projects that elevate Black voices, including a series of videos from artists in response to Juneteenth 2020; Psalm's Salons at Studio, a series of virtual conversations with live music to help localize topical issues with rotating guests; and our participation in the Breath Project, a national effort supported by a consortium of theatres to create an archive of filmed theatre works 8 minutes and 46 seconds long that respond to the life, death, and legacy of George Floyd.

ABOUT 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 72 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in professional theatre.

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