

PRESS RELEASE

STUDIO
THEATRE

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
DAVID MUSE

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STUDIO THEATRE LAUNCHES SERIES— STUDIO R&D: WORK IN PROCESS—TO FURTHER NEW-PLAY DEVELOPMENT

As part of its commitment to advancing new work, Studio Theatre is launching **Studio R&D: Work in Process**, a new series that invites audiences into the creative process for some of the country’s most talented playwrights. The three-part series **begins November 11, 2019** and will feature work by Studio Commissioned Artists including **Steph Del Rosso** and **James Ijames**, and a third playwright to be announced. All plays in the series are works Studio wants to nurture, by artists it believes in. Work in Process will use varying formats to introduce audiences to new plays in development—rehearsed readings, sharing selected scenes, and sometimes engaging playwrights in conversation about their work.

“Studio has developed and premiered new work since my first season, but much of that work happens behind the scenes. We want to open up the process a bit to our audiences and invite them to fall for these artists and projects the way we have,” said Studio’s Artistic Director David Muse.

Work in Process is part of Studio R&D, Studio’s incubator for new plays, new relationships, and new modes of collaboration. Studio R&D encompasses the full range of Studio’s commissioning and new work development activities, supporting artists through both the writing and development of their work, offering commissions, residencies, and artistic retreats. The program provides artists the resources and tools they need to create and allows Studio to introduce aesthetically diverse new work.

Work in Process events are free. Patrons are encouraged to register to save their seats. Learn more on [Studio’s website](#).

Studio R&D: Work in Process Events

The Gradient by Steph Del Rosso

Directed by Danya Taymor

Monday, November 11, 2019

7:30pm

Milton Theatre

Join Studio for a reading of Steph Del Rosso’s *The Gradient*: Tess just landed her dream job at sleek tech start-up The Gradient: a center where men accused of sexual misconduct are sent to be rehabilitated. The clients go in with a lifetime of toxic male conditioning and emerge as new people, sensitized and

redeemed. It sounds too good to be true, and maybe it is. *The Gradient* asks what it means to say “I’m sorry” and whether it’s possible for people to truly change.

Scenes from *Good Bones* by James Ijames

Thursday, January 23, 2020

7:30pm

Milton Theatre

Aisha’s moved back to the block, but the neighborhood’s changed. Boomeranging across the country with her husband, she’s renovating their new house in a post-industrial city on the rise. But the neighborhood’s still loud at night and Aisha’s homecoming is more complex than she expected, so when their contractor is caught up in an act of violence a block away, Aisha finds herself in the crosswinds of legacy and responsibility, haunting and belonging.

This event will include scenes from *Good Bones* and a conversation with James Ijames about changing neighborhoods, the sounds of a city, and what makes a home.

Work and Artist to be announced at a later date

Monday, April 6, 2020

7:30pm

Milton Theatre

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Steph Del Rosso is a playwright, television writer, and educator. Her play *Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill* received its world premiere at The Flea Theater in 2018 and will be published by Dramatists Play Service, Inc. Her work has been developed or produced by Soho Rep, Clubbed Thumb, JACK, New York Stage and Film, The Lark, Seven Devils Playwrights Conference, Ojai Playwrights Conference, Colt Coeur, SPACE on Ryder Farm, the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center, and others. Her play *53% Of* is the second-place recipient of the Paula Vogel Award in Playwriting, presented by the Kennedy Center. She is a 2018 Theater Masters Visionary Playwright, and an alum of the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab and Clubbed Thumb’s Early Career Writers’ Group. She is currently pursuing her MFA in Playwriting at UC-San Diego, where she studies with Naomi Iizuka.

James Ijames is a Philadelphia-based performer and playwright. His plays have been produced by Flashpoint Theatre Company, Orbiter 3, Theatre Horizon (Philadelphia, PA), The National Black Theatre (New York City), Ally Theatre Company (Washington, DC) and have been developed by PlayPenn New Play Development Conference, The Lark, Playwrights Horizons, Clubbed Thumb, Villanova Theatre, Gulfshore Playhouse, The Wilma Theater, Azuka Theatre, and Victory Gardens. James is the 2011 F. Otto Haas Award for an Emerging Artist recipient, and he also received two Barrymores for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Play for *Superior Donuts* and *Angels in America*, and one Barrymore for Outstanding Direction of a Play for *The Brothers Size* with Simpatico Theatre Company. He is a 2011 Independence Foundation Fellow, a 2015 Pew Fellow for Playwriting, the 2015 winner of the Terrance McNally New Play Award for *WHITE*, recipient of the 2015 Kesselring Prize honorable mentions for *...Miz Martha*, and a 2017 recipient of the Whiting Award. James is the 2018 recipient of the Kesselring Prize for *Kill Move Paradise*. James is a founding member of Orbiter 3, Philadelphia’s first playwright producing collective and a mentor for The Foundry. He received a BA in Drama from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA and a MFA in Acting from Temple University. James is Assistant Professor of Theatre at Villanova University and resides in South Philadelphia.

INFORMATION

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

Performances: November 11, 2019; January 23, 2020; April 6, 2020; all events at 7:30pm

Tickets: Free; registration required

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 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 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

Tickets and Subscriptions: 202.332.3300

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