

For Immediate Release

Dated: 4.4.2009

Event Listing for May:

May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th:

NO SHAME THEATRE @ Studio Roanoke

30 Campbell Ave

11PM \$5 at the door

The long running venue for short original pieces finds a new home on the Studio Roanoke stage starting May 3rd. Every Friday night at 11PM, admission is \$5 at the door. There are only three rules: pieces must be original, they must be 5 minutes long or less, and you can't break anything—including laws. Beyond that, anything can happen and usually does. Sign up at 10PM if you want to be part of the show, but we like people who just want to watch, too. Come see what your neighbors have been up to while you were going to bed early! Visit www.studioroanoke.org, email us at info@studioroanoke.org, or call **Todd Ristau at 540-556-5396** for more information.

MAY 10th and 24th

POET'S FIRE POETRY SLAM @ Studio Roanoke

30 Campbell Ave

8PM \$5 at the door

Local poets have organized a return to official slam poetry in Roanoke! Twice monthly, local poets will compete for a cash prize. For official rules and background information on poetry slams, visit <http://www.slampapi.com>. Visit www.studioroanoke.org, email us at info@studioroanoke.org, or call **Todd Ristau at 540-556-5396** for more information on the bi-monthly Poet's Fire slams hosted by Studio Roanoke.

MAY 5th:

POETRY LOUNGE @ Studio Roanoke

30 Campbell Ave

8PM \$5 at the door

Each month, we bring you a non-competitive environment for poets to come together and share their work. The event will be hosted by T.J. Anderson III, professor of English at Hollins University. At each Lounge, Anderson will have a featured poet who will read 5 of their own poems, followed by up to 15 other poets who can sign up in a round robin fashion to each read a single poem of their own. After the readings, poets and audience are encouraged to mingle and enjoy sharing thoughts and comments about poetry in our community. Visit www.studioroanoke.org, email us at info@studioroanoke.org, or call **Todd Ristau at 540-556-5396** for more information.

MAY 13th:

LUNCHBOX FREE READING SERIES

30 Campbell Ave

12:15 PM free

Each month, in the interest of developing both new plays and new audiences for them, Studio Roanoke will host a free lunchtime reading of new work in our space. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy the entertainment and give us your feedback following the 45 minute program. This month featuring *Gavriilo*, by Jonathan Van Gils and directed by Todd Ristau. This play depicts the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and the start of WWI. Written by a 17-year old playwright, this script was the 2009 winner of the SETC High School Playwriting Contest. Visit www.studioroanoke.org, email us at info@studioroanoke.org, or call **Todd Ristau at 540-556-5396** for more information.

MAY 12th:

COMEDY LOUNGE @ Studio Roanoke

30 Campbell Ave

8PM \$5 at the door

Each month, local comedians and improv actors are invited to come together for a kind of open mic night for comedy only. These hilarious and madcap evenings will be structured something like No Shame, but



30 Campbell Ave.
in downtown Roanoke

PO Box 1749
Roanoke, VA 24008

Box Office:
540-343-3054

Administration:
540-556-5396

Web:
www.studioroanoke.org

Artistic Director
Todd Ristau

Founding Board
Kenley Smith, Pres.
Cate Leonard, Sec./Treas.
Martha Bensinger
Keith Martin
William Penn

Advisory Board
John Forsman
Morgan Jenness
William Krause
Paul Meshejian
Bonnie Metzgar
Randy Rollison
Lucy Thurber

Building a home for new plays and the people who create them

focus only on stand-up routines and improv comedy. Participants sign up for 5 minute slots at the top of the show, with up to 15 slots available each month. Whether you are a seasoned comedy veteran or standing up in front of an audience for the first time, this is your chance to hone your act and meet other comedians and their fans. Visit www.studioanoke.org, email us at info@studioanoke.org, or call **Todd Ristau at 540-556-5396** for more information.

MAY 19th:

ACOUSTIC LOUNGE @ Studio Roanoke

30 Campbell Ave

8PM \$5 at the door

Each month, local musicians and songwriters are invited to come together for a musical round table. Four local singer/songwriters who will each have a 15 minute set, followed by a brief intermission, and then a round robin sign up for 10 audience members to perform a single song each. After that, we'll leave the space open for a kind of free form jam session and mixer with the audience. Visit www.studioanoke.org, email us at info@studioanoke.org, or call **Todd Ristau at 540-556-5396** for more information.

MAY 26th through 31st

Ant Farm, by Ben R. Williams

Directed by Todd Ristau

30 Campbell Ave

8PM sharp, plus two additional matinees at 2PM on Saturday and Sunday

Ant Farm is a darkly comic play about a handful of small town survivors of a mysterious cataclysm who are holed up in a bomb shelter under a gun store. The quirky cast includes the gun store owner, his mute 15 year old granddaughter, the elderly waitress from the diner next door, the guy who runs the bookstore on the other side of the gun shop, and one of the bookstore's customers. Together this small group wrestles with what, if anything, it might mean to be the last people left on Earth. *Ant Farm* Opens May 26 and runs through the 31st. Visit www.studioanoke.org, email us at info@studioanoke.org, or call **Todd Ristau at 540-556-5396** for more information.

Ben R. Williams is a poet, novelist, and 2007 graduate of Roanoke College. Since 2006 he has been a regular writer/performer at No Shame Theatre at MMT, and demonstrated a real talent for writing for the stage. Ben recently published a collection of his poems and No Shame pieces in a volume titled *Hard Times for Ugly Men* and will enter the graduate playwriting program at Hollins University this summer. He is a native of Bassett, VA.

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