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NEWS RELEASE

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE ANNOUNCES 2006-2007 SEASON IN THE NEW GERDING THEATER AT THE HISTORIC PORTLAND ARMORY

Annual event also pays tribute to the company's 100 productions that have been presented over the past 18 seasons at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts

February 28, 2006- **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE** bid the first of many fond farewells to the Newmark Theatre last night with the announcement of its 2006-2007 season line up. PCS donors and subscribers were treated to a multi-media presentation, produced by Associate Artistic Director **Rose Riordan**, celebrating the upcoming move to the new **Bob and Diana Gerding Theater** in the historic Portland Armory, accompanied by a lively rendition of "Something's Coming" from *West Side Story*, the inaugural production of the company's first season in its new home in the Pearl District. The Gerding Theater will open to the public with a Gala Celebration on Saturday, September 30 as a benefit for the **Center Stage in the Pearl Campaign**. There will also be a free, public open house celebration on Sunday, October 1 and the first performance of the season takes place on Tuesday, October 3.

The other surprise of the evening was an exhilarating performance by **the Jefferson Dancers** to "Cool," another song from *West Side Story*. The remaining seven productions in the 19th season were introduced with a series of excerpts from each play read by actors familiar to PCS audiences. The 2006-2007 Season, which features five productions in the new 599-seat Main Stage Theater and three productions the new 200-seat flexible, black box Studio Theater, includes:

- *West Side Story*, Book by Arthur Laurents; Music by Leonard Bernstein; Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Directed by Chris Coleman, October 3 – November 5, 2006, Main Stage
- *I Am My Own Wife* by Doug Wright, Director TBD, November 26 – December 27, 2006, Studio
- *This Wonderful Life* by Steve Murray, Conceived by Mark Setlock, Director TBD, November 26 – December 24, 2006, Main Stage
- *August Wilson Play TBD*, Director TBD. January 7 – February 4, 2007, Main Stage
- *Act a Lady* by Jordan Harrison, Director TBD, January 28 – March 11, 2007, Studio –**World Premiere**
- *The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh, Directed by Rose Riordan, February 18 – March 18, 2007, Main Stage

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- *Misalliance* by George Bernard Shaw, Directed by Chris Coleman, April 1 – 29, 2007, Main Stage
- *Bad Dates* by Theresa Rebeck, Director TBD, April 15 – June 10, 2007, Studio

Portland Center Stage 2006-2007 season sponsors include its Main Stage Series Sponsor, **McDonald Financial Group, the Regional Arts and Culture Council, OregonLive.com, American Airlines and the Mark Spencer Hotel**, with media support from **Comcast, KATU, KINK fm, Portland Monthly and Tri-Met**.

The actors reading excerpts for this year's Season Announcement were **Kevin Rich** (*I Am My Own Wife*), **Kevin Jones** (*Joe Turner's Come and Gone* by August Wilson), **Sharonlee McLean, Daniel May, Tim True and Kelsey Tyler** (*Act a Lady*), **Daniel Thomas May and Tim True** (*The Pillowman*), **Spencer Conway and Laura Faye Smith** (*Misalliance*) and **Valerie Stevens** (*Bad Dates*).

PCS' annual Season Announcement prompts current subscribers to be the first to buy tickets for the new season, with renewals taken exclusively through April 15th. New subscriptions open for sale on April 16 and single tickets go on sale September 1. Subscriptions, available in a wide variety of packages, range from \$49.50 - \$428. Single tickets range from \$8 (suggested Pay What You Will price) and \$16.50 (30 and under) to \$21.50 - \$41.50 general admission in the Studio Theater and \$28 - \$59.50 reserved in the Main Stage Theater. \$20 Rush Tickets will also be available for all performances 15 minutes before show time. Single tickets for *West Side Story* will be priced \$2 higher in all categories than the regular Main Stage single ticket price.

In a continuing effort to ensure that its productions are accessible to all audiences, PCS will offer a new "Pay What You Will" preview performance on the Sunday evening preceding Opening Night with a suggested ticket price of \$8 (\$10 for *West Side Story*). PCS will also continue popular events such as Fade to Black, Girls Night Out and Opening Night Parties, as well as audience enrichment programs, including Q&As, The Forum, audio-described and sign-interpreted performances. PCS will also initiate several new adult education opportunities such as acting classes and a Play Reading Group. All evening performances at the Gerding Theater, in both the Main Stage and Studio Theaters, will begin at 7:30 pm, with weekday matinees at noon and weekend matinees at 2 pm.

Now in its eighteenth season, **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE** began as OSF Portland, a satellite company of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland. The company opened its first season on November 12, 1988 with a production of George Bernard Shaw's *Heartbreak House* and a gala celebration. In the fall of 1994, it became an independent company and was renamed Portland Center Stage. A resident company of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts for the past eighteen seasons, PCS attracts an annual audience of more than 90,000 theatergoers of all ages. The company produces a blend of classical, contemporary and world premiere works in addition to its annual summer playwrights' festival, JAW/West. Two years ago, PCS embarked upon a \$36.1 million capital campaign to renovate the historic Portland Armory and create a permanent home for the company. The new facility has been designed to be the first historic rehabilitation and the first performing arts venue to achieve a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum rating. To date, the Center Stage in the Pearl Campaign has raised more than \$25 million, including a \$1.5 million challenge grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust.