

N E W S R E L E A S E

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE ANNOUNCES 2007-2008 SEASON IN THE GERDING THEATER AT THE ARMORY

Annual event offers sneak previews of the company's Twentieth Anniversary Season and celebrates inaugural season in the Gerding Theater

March 6, 2007- **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE** revealed in a 007 theme yesterday evening as they looked back on 06-07 and divulged the previously top-secret details of the upcoming 007-008 season. The evening began with a stylish "agents only" cocktail reception on the Gerding Theater mezzanine, exclusively for PCS donors at the "Producer" level. PCS staff members came as the supporting cast of allies, villains and stunning Bond-beauties. Several versions of Bond himself were in attendance as well as Miss Money Penny, Mary Goodnight, Vesper Lynd, Q, and even OddJob, Scaramanga and Max Zorin.

An audience of 350+ was treated to another epic multi-media presentation, created by Associate Artistic Director **Rose Riordan** and Multi-Media Designer **Josh Oakhurst**. The video opened with a tongue-in-cheek send-up of PCS Artistic Director, Chris Coleman as the world's most celebrated British secret service agent, James Bond. A Coleman/Bond "lookalike" was shown stealthily departing the PCPA, narrowly surviving a high speed, FlexCar chase, and arriving safely at the Gerding Theater at the Armory. Next, Coleman himself unveiled details of the 07/08 season, announcing the plays and introducing actors who performed selected readings of each of the nine (9), 2007/2008 PCS productions; six (6) scheduled for the **Main Stage** and three (3) for the **Studio**. The event closed with a video-epilogue of images from the 2006-2007 Season's productions.

The 2007/2008 season marks the **twentieth (20th) anniversary** of Portland Center Stage. This landmark for the company will be celebrated from October through June with the most prodigious lineup in the company's history, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama *Doubt*; the sizzling hot Broadway comedy *The Little Dog Laughed*; the **world premiere** of a new adaptation of Ken Kesey's classic Oregon saga, *Sometimes A Great Notion*; Steve Martin's sidesplitting adaptation of the German sex farce, *The Underpants*; a return to Shakespeare with *Twelfth Night*, performed in rep with *The Beard of Avon*, a comedy about who really wrote Shakespeare's plays; a brand new production of the beloved holiday classic (in classic form) *A Christmas Carol*, adapted by PCS Director of Literary and Education Services, **Mead Hunter**; an exquisite new play (developed at Just Add Water/West 2006), *A Feminine Ending*; and, reuniting much of the creative team that brought you *West Side Story*, PCS will open the season with another classic Broadway musical, *Cabaret*, starring **Wade McCollum** as the Emcee.

Readings from each of next season's plays began with Portland theatrical phenomenon Wade McCollum singing the unforgettable "Willkommen" from *Cabaret* with accompanist **Tyler Evans** and continued with **Amanda Soden** and **Damon Kupper** (*The Underpants*), **Sean Cullen** and **Tobias Anderson** (*A Christmas Carol*), **Cody Nickell**, **Sean Cullen** and **Damon Kupper** (*Beard of Avon*), **Dierdre Atkinson** and **Amanda Soden** (*Twelfth Night*), **Wade McCollum**, **Cody Nickell**, **Damon Kupper**, **Tobias Anderson**, **Sean Cullen** and **Dierdre Atkinson** (*Sometimes a Great Notion*), **Amanda Soden** (*A Feminine Ending*), **Sharonlee McLean** (*The Little Dog Laughed*) and **Cody Nickell** (*Doubt*).

PCS' annual Season Announcement encourages 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 variety of packages, range from \$42 - \$486. Single tickets range from \$15.00 for Youth (under 18) to \$21.50 - \$43.50 in the Studio and \$30 - \$61.50 in the

Main Stage (\$32 - \$63.50 for *Cabaret*). \$10 Rush Tickets will also be available for all performances 15 minutes before show time and Student Tickets are available for \$21.50 for all Sunday – Thursday evening and matinee performances.

In the effort to ensure that its productions are accessible to all audiences, PCS will continue to offer a “Pay What You Will” preview performance on the Sunday evening preceding Opening Night with a suggested ticket price of \$8 (\$10 for *Cabaret*). 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, Prologues, audio-described and sign-interpreted performances. The PCS GreenHouse, a school for Theater, enters its second season in 2007-2008, offering a wide range of courses designed for everyone from the complete novice to the working theater professional. **All evening performances at the Gerding Theater, in both the Main Stage and the Studio, begin at 7:30 pm, with weekday matinees at noon and weekend matinees at 2 pm.**

PCS 2007 – 2008 Twentieth Anniversary Season Details

Main Stage

Cabaret, September 25 – October 21, 2007

Music by John Kander

Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Book by Joe Masteroff

Directed by Chris Coleman

Starring Storm Large as Sally Bowles

A Christmas Carol, November 27 – December 23, 2007

Based on the novel by Charles Dickens

Adapted by Mead Hunter

Directed by Cliff Fannin Baker

The Beard of Avon, January 15 – March 9, 2008

By Amy Freed

Directed by Chris Coleman

IN REPERTORY WITH...

Twelfth Night or *What You Will*

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Jane Jones

Sometimes a Great Notion, April 1 – 27, 2008

Based on the novel by Ken Kesey

Adapted and Directed by Aaron Posner

Doubt, A Parable, May 19 – June 15, 2008

By John Patrick Shanley

Directed by Rose Riordan

Studio

The Underpants, October 16 – December 2, 2007

By Carl Sternheim

Adapted by Steve Martin

Director TBA

A Feminine Ending, February 5 – March 23, 2008

By Sara Treem

Director TBA

The Little Dog Laughed, April 29 – June 15, 2008

By Douglas Carter Beane

Directed by Chris Coleman

Now in its nineteenth season, **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE** attracts over 100,000 theatergoers annually through a dedication to animating the spirit of our time by bringing unexpected stories to life. The company produces a blend of classical, contemporary and world premiere works in addition to a nationally renowned annual summer playwrights festival, Just Add Water/West. Formerly a resident company of the Portland Center of Performing Arts, PCS moved into its new and permanent home in the Gerding Theater at the Armory on October 1, 2006. The Gerding Theater at the Armory is rapidly becoming a recognized hub of community art and activity and is the first building in Portland, the first building on the National Register of Historic Places and the only performing arts facility in the world to earn the US Green Building Council’s highest possible certification for sustainability, **LEED Platinum**. The Center Stage in the Pearl Campaign, to fund the Gerding Theater at the Armory, continues, having risen over 76% of its \$36.1 million goal to date.