

N E W S

SHAKESPEAREAN COMEDY and MISTAKEN IDENTITY ABOUND IN THE NEW YEAR AT PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

With The Bard's greatest comedy, *Twelfth Night*, and Amy Freed's *The Beard of Avon*, PCS blends bawdy and bookish into a doubly decadent and deliciously enlightening indulgence, in repertory.

DECEMBER 27, 2007 - PORTLAND Portland Center Stage is preparing to launch two comedies in repertory that will lighten spirits and raise eyebrows from the **Gerding Theater Main Stage** during the depth of winter. *The Beard of Avon*, a comedy by Amy Freed, asks whether a simple bumpkin like Shakespeare could possibly have had the global knowledge to write as prolifically and as artfully as he's purported to. More scandalously, is it possible that a worldly, womanizing aristocrat perchance preferred to procure a pseudo-bard through whom to "strut and fret" for the masses about life, death, love and dishonor, and thereby not sully his own hands and reputation in the process? *Twelfth Night*, a deliciously complicated tale of deception, disguise and star-crossed love, is believed by many to be the greatest comedy in the Shakespeare canon. Shipwrecks, double-crosses, cross-dressing and drinking songs, in full measure, contribute to its own brand of worldliness and humanity.

Both plays indulge in mistaken identity, unlikely romance, fragile allegiances and enduring secrets, and both are presented in an Elizabethan setting with all the pomp and circumstance and the debased debauchery that that implies. Artistic Director, Chris Coleman hopes that seeing each of these two plays through the lens of the other, Portland audiences will not only relish the deep deliciousness of it all, but also be more prepared to decide for themselves, "Who *was* the Bard of Avon?"

Just the Facts

Gerding Theater at the Armory, Main Stage 128 NW Eleventh Avenue in Portland

	<i>Beard of Avon</i>	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
Previews:	T – Th, January 15-18 7:30pm	T – Th, January 22 – 24 7:30pm
Opening:	Friday, January 19 7:30pm	Friday, January 25 7:30pm
Closing:	Saturday, March 8, 7:30pm	Sunday, March 9 2pm

Note: *The Beard of Avon* previews first and runs through opening weekend, then *Twelfth Night* previews and opens. Beginning January 29th the two shows will be intermingled throughout the remaining weeks of the run until closing. Consult www.pcs.org or page 3 of this release for specific performance dates for each show.

Tickets:	\$16.50 18 and under, \$21.50 Students, \$28 - \$61.50 Other Adults	
Special Offer:	Buy tickets to one play and get the same number of tickets for the other play at half price . (limit 4 tickets at half price, no refunds on previously purchased tickets)	
Box Office:	503.445.3700	Info and Tix by Web: www.pcs.org
Sponsors:	Portland Center Stage thanks Judy C. and Martin Kelly and the Dream Envision Foundation for generously sponsoring <i>Twelfth Night</i> .	

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PCS Artistic Director, **Chris Coleman** will direct *The Beard of Avon*, while **Jane Jones** (founding co-artistic director of Seattle's Book-It Repertory Theatre), who directed the PCS production of *Pride and Prejudice* to kick off the 2005-2006 season, is at the helm of *Twelfth Night*. The two productions share the same cast, sets and (for the most part) costumes and, once both have previewed and opened, they will roughly alternate performances on the Main Stage through early-mid March.

The cast assembled includes a collection of PCS favorites, including **Kenneth Albers** (*Misalliance*), **Jennifer Lee Taylor** (*Pride and Prejudice*), **Brian Thompson** (*Noises Off*, *Arms and the Man*, *Private Lives*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *The Devils*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *The Fantasticks*) **Carol Halstead** (*Bad Dates*), **Darius Pierce** (*Misalliance*) as well as some very notable newcomers like longtime OSF company member **Catherine Lynn Davis**, stage and screen actors **Brad Bellamy** and **Brent Harris**, Edinburgh Festival and Sundance Film Festival veteran **Rob Krakovski**, Book-It Rep company member **Daniel Harray** and up-and-comers **Ben Buckley** and **John Wernke** from Portland and New York respectively. The entire cast has been rehearsing both plays since early December, bouncing back and forth between the PCS Rehearsal Hall and Studio Theater in subsets to get both plays ready for January openings. According to Chris Coleman it's one of the strongest acting companies in PCS history.

The Playwrights

Amy Freed – *The Beard of Avon*

Amy Freed is the author of *The Beard of Avon*, *Freedomland*, *Safe in Hell*, *The Psychic Life of Savages* and other plays. Her work has been produced at SCR, New York Theater Workshop, Seattle Repertory, American Conservatory Theater, the Goodman Theatre, Playwright's Horizons, Woolly Mammoth, and other theaters around the country. Her most recent play, *Restoration Comedy*, debuted at Seattle Repertory and was produced at the Old Globe last season. Amy has been the recipient of the Joseph Kesselring Award, The Charles MacArthur Award, is a several-time winner of the LA Drama Critics Circle Award, and was a Pulitzer finalist for *Freedomland*. She is Artist-in-Residence in the Drama Department of Stanford University.

William Shakespeare – *Twelfth Night*

Baptized April 26, 1564, William Shakespeare was an English poet and playwright, now widely regarded as the world's preeminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon." His surviving works consist of 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright. Shakespeare was born and raised in Stratford-upon-Avon. At the age of 18 he married Anne Hathaway, who bore him three children: Susanna, and twins Hamnet and Judith. Between 1585 and 1592 he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and part-owner of the playing company the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later known as the King's Men. Few records of Shakespeare's private life survive, and there has been considerable speculation about such matters as his sexuality, religious beliefs, and whether the works attributed to him were written by others. Shakespeare appears to have retired to Stratford around 1613, where he died April 16, 1616. (complements, Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.)

The Directors

Chris Coleman – *The Beard of Avon*

Chris Coleman joined Portland Center Stage as artistic director in May of 2000. Since then, he has directed *Cabaret*, *Misalliance*, *West Side Story*, *Celebrity Row*, *The Fantasticks*, *King Lear*, *Things of Dry Hours*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Bat Boy: The Musical*, *Man & Superman*, *Outrage*, *Much Ado*

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About Nothing, The Seagull, Flesh and Blood, The Gimmick, A New Brain, A Christmas Carol and The Devils. Before coming to Portland, he was artistic director at Actor's Express in Atlanta, a company he co-founded in the basement of an old church in 1988. In the 12 years of his leadership, the Express grew from a shoestring operation to one of the most highly regarded small theaters in the country. He has directed at major theaters across the country, including Actors Theater of Louisville, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, ACT in Seattle, the Alliance Theatre, Dallas Theater Center, Asolo Center for the Performing Arts, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Pittsburgh Public Theater, New York Theatre Workshop and Center Stage in Baltimore. A native Atlantan, Chris holds a BFA from Baylor University and an MFA from Carnegie Mellon.

Jane Jones – *Twelfth Night*

Jane Jones is the founder of Book-It and founding Co-Artistic Director of Book-It Repertory Theatre in Seattle Washington with Myra Platt. In her 20 years of dedication to staging literature, she has performed, adapted and directed works by such literary giants as Charles Dickens, Edith Wharton, Jane Austen, E. M Forster, Graham Greene, Eudora Welty, John Steinbeck, Anne Tyler, Kurt Vonnegut Jr., Kate Chopin, Dorothy Parker, Pam Houston, Shirley Jackson, Raymond Carver, James Purdy, Frank O'Connor, Ernest Hemingway, Colette, Amy Bloom, Ellen Gilchrist and John Irving.

The Beard of Avon

Performance and Ticket Information

Portland Center Stage * Gerding Theater at the Armory * 128 NW Eleventh Ave.
Adult Tickets \$30.00 - \$61.50 * Box Office 503-445-3700 * www.pcs.org

EVENINGS 7:30 PM

Tuesdays Jan. 15(P), 29, Feb. 19, Mar. 4
Wednesdays Jan. 16(P), Feb. 6, 13, 27
Thursdays Jan. 17(P), 31, Feb. 21, Mar. 6
Fridays Jan. 18(O), Feb. 1, 22, Mar. 7
Saturdays Jan. 19, Feb. 9, 16, Mar. 8(C)
Sundays Jan. 20, Feb. 24

MATINEES

Noon with Q&A after show
Thursdays Feb. 7, 14, 28

2PM
Saturdays Feb. 9, Mar. 1
Sundays Jan. 20, Feb. 3, 17, Mar 2

(P) = Preview • (O) = Opening Night • (C) = Closing Evening

Twelfth Night

Performance and Ticket Information

Portland Center Stage * Gerding Theater at the Armory * 128 NW Eleventh Ave.
Adult Tickets \$30.00 - \$61.50 * Box Office 503-445-3700 * www.pcs.org

EVENINGS 7:30 PM

Tuesdays Jan. 22(P), Feb. 5, 12, 26
Wednesdays Jan. 23(P), Jan. 30, Feb. 20, Mar. 5
Thursdays Jan. 24(P), Feb. 7, 14, 28
Fridays Jan. 25(O), Feb. 8, 15, 29
Saturdays Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 23, Mar. 1
Sundays Jan. 27, Feb. 17

MATINEES

Noon with Q&A after show
Thursdays Jan. 31, Feb. 21, Mar, 6

2PM
Saturdays Feb. 2, Mar. 8
Sundays Jan. 27, Feb. 10, 24,
Mar. 9(C)

(P) = Preview • (O) = Opening Night • (C) = Closing Matinee
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Student/Senior Matinees

For each of these plays, three Thursday matinees at Noon are programmed especially for our student and senior audiences. Patrons enjoy discounted ticket prices and post-show Q&A sessions with the cast and crew. For *The Beard of Avon*, these performances are on February 7, 14 and 28 and for *Twelfth Night*, these performances are on January 31, February 21, and March 6.

Prologues – Eye-opening discussions with cast, crew and topical experts, beginning one hour before curtain on the following dates:

The Beard of Avon

Tue., Jan 29 & Feb 19, 6:30 pm **Wed.**, Feb 6 & 13, 6:30 pm **Thu.**, Jan 31 & Feb 21, 6:30 pm

Twelfth Night

Tue., Feb 5 & 12, 6:30 pm **Wed.**, Jan 30 & Feb 20, 6:30 pm **Thu.**, Feb 7 & 14, 6:30 pm

Access Performances

Audio Described

Beard of Avon - Friday, February 1, 7:30 PM

Twelfth Night – Friday, February 8, 7:30 PM

Sign Interpreted

Thursday, February 21, 7:30 PM

Thursday, February 14 7:30 PM

The Gerding Theater Main Stage is fully accessible for patrons with disabilities. In addition to the above special performances, assistive listening devices are available from the coatroom for any performance.

Ticket Prices

	Area 1	Area 2
Preview Evenings	\$31.50	\$29.50
Sunday – Thursday Evenings	\$46.50	\$41.50
Friday & Saturday Evenings	\$61.50	\$55.50
Sunday Matinees	\$59.50	\$53.50
Thursday & Saturday Matinees	\$30.00	\$28.00
Students (excluding Fri./Sat. Evenings)	\$21.50	\$21.50
18 & Under (all performances with I.D.)	\$16.50	\$16.50

Rush Tickets are available for \$10 each, on a cash-only, space-available basis, beginning 15 minutes prior to curtain for each performance.

***The Beard of Avon* by Amy Freed**

Directed by Chris Coleman

Set Designer - William Bloodgood	Costume Designer – Deb Trout	Choreographer – Jessica Wallenfels
Lighting Designer – Nancy Schertler	Sound Designer - Casi Pacilio	Dramaturg – Kim Crow
Voice / Text Coach – Teresa Thuman	Composer – Josh Kohl	Fight Director – John Armour
Stage Managers	Assistant Stage Managers	Production Assistants
Erin Robson-Smith*(12/1/07 – 1/13/08)	Mark Tynan* (12/1/07 – 1/13/08)	Zachary Lifton
Mark Tynan* (1/14/08 – Close)	Jamie Hill* (1/14/08 – Close)	Ricardo Ramirez
NY Casting by Harriet Bass		Casting by Rose Riordan

The Cast

William Shakspeare.....	Darius Pierce*
Old Colin / Earl of Derby.....	Brad Bellamy*
Richard Burbage / Alexandrio / Mark Antony / Petruccio / Marcus.....	Rob Krakovski*
Anne Hathaway.....	Catherine Lynn Davis*
Geoffrey Dunderbread / Ludibundus / Cleopatra / Lavinia.....	Ben Buckley
Walter Fitch / Grumio.....	Daniel Harray*
Henry Condell / Sir Francis Bacon.....	Brian Thompson*
John Heminge / Lord Burleigh / Player.....	Kenneth Albers*
Minstrel / Wife.....	Jennifer Lee Taylor*
Edward de Vere.....	Brent Harris*
Henry Wriothesly / Lady Lettice.....	John Wernke*
Queen Elizabeth / Player.....	Carol Halstead*

***Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare**

Directed by Jane Jones

Set Designer - William Bloodgood	Costume Designer – Deb Trout	Choreographer – Jessica Wallenfels
Lighting Designer – Nancy Schertler	Sound Designer - Casi Pacilio	Dramaturg – Kim Crow
Voice / Text Coach – Teresa Thuman	Composer – Joshua Kohl	Fight Director – John Armour
Stage Manager – Mark Tynan*		
Assistant Stage Managers		Production Assistants
Erin Robson-Smith* (12/1/07 – 1/13/08)		Zachary Lifton
Jamie Hill* (1/14/08 – Close)		Ricardo Ramirez
NY Casting by Harriet Bass		Casting by Rose Riordan

The Cast

Viola.....	Jennifer Lee Taylor*
Captain / Antonio.....	Rob Krakovski*
Orsino.....	Brent Harris*
Curio / Officer / Priest.....	Ben Buckley
Valentine / Fabian.....	John Wernke*
Sir Toby Belch.....	Kenneth Albers*
Maria.....	Catherine Lynne Davis*
Sir Andrew Aguecheek.....	Darius Pierce*
Feste.....	Brad Bellamy*
Olivia.....	Carol Halstead*
Malvolio.....	Brian Thompson*
Sebastian.....	Daniel Harray*

Recorded music for both plays performed by Joe Bischel (cello, viola de gamba), Beth Fleenor (clarinet, bass clarinet) and Michael Nicoletta (guitar). Music recorded, edited and mixed by Robb Kunz.

*The actors and stage managers employed in these productions are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE inspires our community by bringing stories to life in unexpected ways. Established in 1988 as an off-shoot of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, PCS has been under the leadership of Artistic Director, Chris Coleman since May 2000. The company creates a blend of classic, contemporary and original productions in an effort to appeal to the eclectic palette of theatergoers in Portland. PCS also offers a variety of education and outreach programs for curious minds from 6 to 106, including the PCS GreenHouse, a school of theater.

THE GERDING THEATER AT THE ARMORY houses a 599-seat main stage and a 200-seat black box studio theater. It was the first building on the National Register of Historic Places, and the first performing arts venue, to achieve a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification. The Gerding Theater at the Armory opened to the public on Oct. 1, 2006. The capital campaign to fund the renovation of this hub of community artistic activity continues.

The Remaining Portland Center Stage 2007-2008 Season in the Gerding Theater at the Armory

- *The Beard of Avon* by Amy Freed, Directed by Chris Coleman, January 15 - March 8, 2008, On the Main Stage
- In Repertory With...*
- *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare, Directed by Jane Jones, January 22 – March 9, 2008, On the Main Stage
 - *A Feminine Ending* by Sarah Treem, Directed by Timothy Douglas, Feb. 5 – March 23, 2008 In the Studio
 - *Sometimes a Great Notion* by Aaron Posner, adapted from the novel by Ken Kesey, Directed by Aaron Posner, April 1 - 27, 2008, On the Main Stage
 - *The Little Dog Laughed* by Douglas Carter Beane, Directed by Chris Coleman. April 29 – June 15, 2008, In the Studio
 - *Doubt, A Parable* by John Patrick Shanley, Directed by Rose Riordan, May 20 – June 15, 2008, On the Main Stage

www.pcs.org