

PORTLAND
**CENTER
STAGE**
GERDING
THEATER
LIVE

PRESS CONTACT: **Thom Trick**
503-445-3765
thomt@pcs.org
3/29/07

N E W S

Portland Center Stage Closes Studio Season With Theresa Rebeck's *Bad Dates*

Director/Actor duo from San Jose Rep. Team Up to Reprise their
Critically Acclaimed Roles at PCS

March 29, 2007 – PORTLAND To close the 2006-2007 season, PCS brings Theresa Rebeck's hilarious one-woman comedy, *Bad Dates* to the Gerding Theater Studio. **Timothy Near**, artistic director of San Jose Repertory Theatre, directs the remarkably nimble **Carol Halstead** in this entertaining examination of love in the margins of an otherwise over-booked life that delivers the goods on a variety levels.

Haley Walker is a single working mother who manages an upscale Manhattan restaurant owned by the Romanian mafia. Recently she has decided to start dating again and it hasn't been exactly what she expected...don't worry, she'll tell you ALL about it. The action takes place in her bedroom, a shrine to some 600 pairs of shoes and the inner sanctum of her existence. While the chaos of quick music and costume changes garner attention and laughs early, by the end of the play Haley has become your most trusted friend. She lets men and women alike in on the kind of dishy date reviews usually only accessible to a hypnotist, psychotherapist or someone in the women's lounge at just the right time. But beneath Halstead's "pitch-perfect comedic timing," her undeniable sex-appeal and the universal allure of insider information, Rebeck's script unfurls a fresh and complex perspective on the vulnerability and the independent glory of being "single and looking" in the big city.

Bad Dates previews in the Studio at the Gerding Theater at the Armory, 128 NW Eleventh Ave. at Davis, Sunday, April 15 - Thursday, April 19 (Dark Monday); opens Friday, April 20 and closes with a matinee performance on Sunday, June 10. All evening performances take place at 7:30 PM while Noon Thursday and 2 PM Saturday and Sunday matinees are also available. Tickets: \$21.50 - \$41.50, 30+under rate SUN - THUR eves \$16.50; box office: 503-445-3700; information: www.pcs.org.

In 2004 the same Director/Actor team of Timothy Near (yes, Timothy is a woman) and Carol Halstead wowed critics and audiences at San Jose Rep with *Bad Dates*. Near was applauded for turning the bedroom set into a character with her "eye for filling stage space in exciting ways" and for "cooking up some clever transition moments" between scenes while Haley is out on a date. Critics were unanimously endeared to Carol Halstead in the role of Haley calling the show "an irresistible guilty pleasure that had the opening night audience leaping to their feet in a standing ovation."

Special Events: Portland Center Stage and our partners have planned three (3) special community events around the run of *Bad Dates*. In partnership with **Willamette Week Personals** and **Speed D8ting Club**, a round of **Speed Dating** for singles aged 25 – 40, hosted by EBay Power Seller, **AC Dickson**, precedes the performance on May 8th in the Gerding Theater lobby and mezzanine. Speed Dating will commence at 5:30. **\$25** covers your theater ticket, Speed Dating and hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar will be available. **Reservations are required and only 60 people can participate.** Call **503.445.3700** to participate.

The performance on the evening of **Tuesday, May 22** will be a **benefit for Bradley Angle House**, a non-profit providing confidential emergency shelter and other services for battered women and children in Portland since 1975. For this performance, all seats are priced at **\$30** and **50%** of ticket revenue will be directed to support Bradley Angle House, the west coast's oldest shelter for battered women and children.

-more-

Girls Night Out! On five **Tuesday and Wednesday** evenings during the run of *Bad Dates* (May 23, 29, 30 June 5,6), we've got a great way to leave the men behind and make a dramatic evening of it. Enjoy an early (5:30pm) supper at the new **Armory Café** followed by a performance of *Bad Dates* for just **\$45 per person**. Price includes a ticket to the performance and a family-style dinner party on the Mezzanine Level of the Gerding Theater before the show. Appetizers, entree, non-alcoholic beverages and dessert are included. Gratuity is extra. Alcoholic beverages and specialty coffee drinks are available for purchase but not included in the admission price. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm. Minimum number per group is four, and tables are shared with other groups.

Call the PCS Box Office at 503.445.3700 to participate in any of these events or visit www.pcs.org for more info.

The playwright Theresa Rebeck has had many of her plays produced on New York stages, including *Bad Dates*, which was produced at Playwrights Horizons. Her most recent world premieres include *The Bells* at New Jersey's McCarter Theatre in March 2005, *The Scene* at the 2006 Humana Festival of New American Plays, Actors Theater of Louisville, and *Mauritius* at Boston's Huntington Theater in October 2006. Her other plays include *Omnium Gatherum* (co-written with Alexandra Gersten-Vassilaros, and a Pulitzer Prize nominee), *The Butterfly Collection*, *Loose Knit*, *The Water's Edge*, *The Family of Mann*, *View of the Dome*, *Sunday on the Rocks*, *Rebeck Revisited*, and *Abstract Expression*. Ms. Rebeck's plays have been produced at New Georges, the Westbank Cafe, The Actors Studio, Seattle Repertory Theatre, the Source Theatre, Boston's Hunting Theatre Company, Variety Arts Theatre, Alice's Fourth Floor, the Humana Festival, Manhattan Punchline Theatre, Double Image Theatre Festival, Long Wharf Theatre, Theatre Geo, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, Theatre Neo, with Naked Angels (where she is a member), and at numerous workshops and festivals. For television, she has written for the HBO series "Dream On," "Brooklyn Bridge," "L.A. Law," "Maximum Bob," "First Wave," "Third Watch," "NYPD Blue" (where she also worked as a producer), and for Warner Bros/CBS pilot "The Webster Report." Her screenplays include *Kalamazoo*, *Harriet the Spy*, *Gossip*, and *Catwoman*. Ms. Rebeck holds a PhD. from Brandeis University in Victorian Melodrama.

The director Timothy Near is in her nineteenth season as Artistic Director of San Jose Repertory Theatre. Her many directing credits at SJ Rep include *Iphigenia at Aulis*, *Major Barbara*, *Bad Dates*, *Wintertime*, 'ART', *By the Bog of Cats* (starring Holly Hunter), *Amy's View*, *Legacy*, *Three Days of Rain*, *Thunder Knocking on the Door*, *Wallflowering*, *Miss Julie*, *Mirandolina*, *The Caretaker*, *The Baby Dance* and many more. She has directed at numerous theaters around the U.S. including the Guthrie Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Alliance Theatre Company (Atlanta), the Mark Taper Forum (Los Angeles), Tiffany Theater (Los Angeles), Ford's Theatre (Washington, D.C.), Union Square Theater (New York), New York Shakespeare Festival, A Contemporary Theatre and The Intiman Theatre (Seattle). Recently she directed her first opera, *The Crucible*, for Opera San Jose. As artistic director of SJ Rep, Near contributed significant leadership as well as artistic and technical guidance to the design and building of San Jose Rep's new theater. Ms. Near is a recipient of the Woman of Achievement in the Arts Award, given by the San Jose Mercury News and The Women's Fund and the Janet Gray Hayes Leadership Award.

The actor Carol Halstead most recently played Lady Macbeth with Milwaukee Shakespeare and is very happy to move from a world of bloody daggers to one of shoes. She is excited to revisit *Bad Dates* with director Timothy Near – which they first did together in 2004 at San Jose Rep in the West Coast premiere where she received the Dean Goodman Choice Award for Best Solo performance. Carol appeared on Broadway in Gore Vidal's *The Best Man*. Off-Broadway: Eva Elman in *Walking Down Broadway*, Dionyza in *Pericles*, Annie in *Easter Candy*, Digel in Alan Ball's *The Amazing Adventures of Tense Guy*, Anna in *The Mask*, Other New York credits include: *Urgent Fury* (The Cherry Lane), *Alarm Dog Rep Plays Dead* (NY Public Theatre), *Dreams are Funny* (Home Theatre for Contemporary Art), *Planet America* (Ensemble Studio Theatre). Carol is a Resident Director with The Drilling Company in New – York City. Regional Theatre includes; *The Voyage Inheritance* (Baltimore's Center Stage), *All My Sons*, *The Art of Coarse Acting* (The Chautauqua Theatre Company), *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur*, *Arcadia*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Misalliance*, *Racing Demon*, *Life with Father* (The Denver Center Theatre), *Picasso at The Lapine Agile* (The Cleveland Playhouse and Budapest), *Alls Well that Ends Well*, *Love's Labor's Lost* (The Shakespeare Theatre, DC). Carol trained at Florida State University and The American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. Carol teaches yoga and meditation for performers and is an Advanced Brown Belt in Seido Karate under Kaicho Nakamura.

-more-

Bad Dates

By Theresa Rebeck

Directed by Timothy Near * Starring Carol Halstead

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

**Portland Center Stage * Gerding Theater at the Armory * 128 NW Eleventh Ave.
In the Studio**

Tickets \$16.50 - \$41.50 * **Box Office 503-445-3700** * info: www.pcs.org

EVENINGS 7:30 PM

MATINEES

Tuesdays Apr. 17(P), 24, May 1, 8(SD), 15, 22(B), 29(G), June 5(G)
Wednesdays Apr. 18(P), 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23(G), 30(G), June 6(G)
Thursdays Apr. 19(P), 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7
Fridays Apr. 20(O), 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25, June 1, 8
Saturdays Apr. 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9
Sundays Apr. 22(P), May 6, 20, June 3

Noon with Q&A after show
Thursdays April 26
May 3, 10, 17, 24,
June 7

2PM

Saturdays Apr. 28,
May 12, 26
June 9

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

Dial 503.445.3700 to participate in any of the special programs below...

(SD) = **Speed Dating**: 5/8 @ 5:30pm \$25 hors d'oeuvres, Speed Dating and Show

(B) = **Bradley Angle House Benefit** : 5/22 \$30 Ticket, 50% to Bradley Angle House

(G) = **Girls' Night Out!** : 5/23, 5/28, 5/29, 6/5, 6/6 @ 5:30pm \$45 dinner and Show

Sundays Apr. 22
May 6, 13, 20, 27
June 3, 10 (C)

ABSOLUTELY NO LATE SEATING or RE-ADMITTANCE in The Studio

Price List for *Bad Dates* (seating is General Admission for all performances)

	General	30 and Under	18 and Under
Preview Evenings	\$21.50	\$21.50	\$16.50
Sunday – Thursday Evenings	\$31.50	\$16.50	\$16.50
Friday/Saturday Evenings	\$41.50	\$41.50	\$16.50
Sunday Matinees	\$41.50	\$41.50	\$16.50
Thursday/Saturday Matinees	\$26.50	\$16.50	\$16.50

Student/Senior Matinees

Every Thursday Matinee at Noon is programmed especially for our student and senior audiences. Patrons enjoy discounted ticket prices and post-show Q&A sessions with the cast and crew of *I Am My Own Wife*.

Prologues

There will be **no** pre-performance **Prologues** for *Bad Dates*. Instead we invite you to arrive early and enjoy a refreshing beverage or delicious bite to eat in the new **Armory Café**, now scheduled to open **April 11, 2007**.

Prologues will resume with *Cabaret* at the beginning of the 2007-2008 season.

Access Performances

Audio Described

Friday, April 27 7:30 PM

Sign Interpreted

Thursday, May 3 7:30 PM

The Gerding Theater at the Armory's Studio is fully accessible for all people with disabilities. Assistive listening devices are available from the coatroom in the main lobby, **free** of charge.

-more-

About Portland Center Stage

Established in 1988, **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE** is Portland's flagship theater company, attracting more than 100,000 theatergoers annually. With five Main Stage and four Studio productions in the 2006-2007 Season, PCS produces a blend of classical, contemporary and world premiere works, in addition to its annual summer playwrights festival, Just Add Water/West. PCS also offers a variety of education and outreach programs for youth and adults, including the new Portland Center Stage GreenHouse, a school of theater.

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE'S new home in the Gerding Theater at the Armory opened to the public with facility tours and an outdoor community celebration on October 1, 2006. The rehabilitated Armory houses a 599-seat Main Stage and a 200-seat black box Studio, along with production, rehearsal, and administrative office spaces. The facility is also a national model for sustainable design: it is the first building in Portland, the first building on the National Register of Historic Places, and the first performing arts venue in the world to achieve the pinnacle of green building certification, Platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). The \$36.1 M capital campaign to fund this new home continues, with over 76% of that amount raised to date.

Armory Café opens April 11, 2007!

The Portland Center Stage Twentieth Anniversary, 2007-2008 Season in the Gerding Theater at the Armory

Main Stage

Cabaret, September 25 – October 21, 2007

Music by John Kander

Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Book by Joe Masteroff

Directed by Chris Coleman

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, 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 Rose Riordan

A Feminine Ending, February 5 – March 23, 2008

By Sara Treem

Timothy Douglas

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

By Douglas Carter Beane

Directed by Chris Coleman

www.pcs.org