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## M E D I A R E L E A S E

### *TIME MAGAZINE'S #1 SHOW OF THE YEAR COMES TO PORTLAND*

*Portland Center Stage explores the incendiary, tantalizing grey areas of a black and white world in John Patrick Shanley's **Doubt**, playing on the Main Stage through June 15th.*

**May 8, 2008 – PORTLAND, OR.** Prepare to question everything you think you believe at John Patrick Shanley's *Doubt*, a taut, intense and breathtakingly brief Pulitzer and Tony award-winning drama that will close out the Portland Center Stage Main Stage Series. *Doubt* will preview May 20 through 22, with the **Opening Night Performance on Friday May 23, 2008**. The production will run **Tuesday through Sunday through June 15**, with 7:30 pm evening performances Tuesday through Saturday and matinee performances at 2 pm on Sundays. There are alternating Sunday evening and Saturday 2:00 pm matinee performances, plus weekday matinee performances at noon on Thursdays. Go to [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org) or see the attached sheet for a complete list of show times. Tickets range from \$28.00 to \$61.50, with Student and Rush tickets available. Tickets can be purchased through the box office by calling 503.445.3700 or online at [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org).



photo: Owen Carey

Set in a Catholic boy's school in the Bronx in the '60s, *Doubt* uses two of the most incendiary themes in modern American life - racial politics and sexual abuse- to raise profound questions about the consequences of certainty and the nature of truth. In it, Sister Aloysius, the dogmatic and determined nun who runs the school, suspects the young and engaging Father Flynn of having inappropriate contact with a new student. The catch? She has no proof and the student is the school's first African-American pupil. To further complicate her position, the patriarchal structure of the Church means that the young priest's authority trumps her own. She will have little formal recourse, even if her suspicions are true.

But Sister Aloysius is certain, and she enrolls the help of a young naïve nun (Sister James) to dig for potential incriminating evidence. Their discovery: The boy was returned to class one day by Father Flynn, his breath smelling of alcohol. Father Flynn's explanation: He was trying to be a supportive mentor to the boy, knowing how difficult it must be to be a friendless new (black) face in a sea of Irish and Italian immigrant students. Flynn claims he discovered the boy sipping from the altar wine, and covered for him to prevent a scandal, allowing the boy to preserve his reputation. Unconvinced, Sister Aloysius calls in the boy's mother, Mrs. Muller, and attempts to secure her support in taking the matter to the bishop. Mrs. Muller has a completely different take on the situation, throwing into sharp relief the social and racial divides, changing cultural norms and shifting moral calculations that inform a mother's choice about what's best for her son. John Patrick Shanley describes this scene as pivotal, explaining:

*"The black woman says to the white principal, 'Some things are not black and white.'  
Then the woman dressed in black and white says, 'And some things are.'  
Sometimes that's the way my mind works, in some kind of graphic abstract way."*

Through it all, the audience is left gasping as revelation piles on revelation and the truth of what really happened between man and boy remains shrouded in uncertainty.

*Doubt* runs a brisk **hour and twenty five minutes** with no intermission, leaving many to feel that the second act of the play comes afterward, in the heated discussions and thoughtful debates of the theatergoers as they sift through their own feelings about the polarizing events and shifting ambiguities of the play.

Playwright **John Patrick Shanley** is the dramatic writing world's equivalent of a triple threat- in addition to his Tony award and Pulitzer Prize for *Doubt*; he received an Academy Award for the screenplay of *Moonstruck*. Other screenwriting credits include *Joe vs. the Volcano*. His stage work includes *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*, *Italian American Reconciliation*, *Dirty Story* and *Sailor Song*. He is currently working on turning *Doubt* into the first of a three part play cycle. The second play in the cycle, *Defiance*, premiered at the Manhattan Theater Club in 2005.

His official bio reads as follows: John Patrick Shanley is from the Bronx. He was thrown out of St. Helena's kindergarten. He was banned from St. Anthony's hot lunch program for life. He was expelled from Cardinal Spellman High School. He was placed on academic probation by New York University and instructed to appear before a tribunal if he wished to return. When asked why he had been treated in this way by all these institutions, he burst into tears and said he had no idea. Then he went in the United States Marine Corps. He did fine. He's still doing okay.

*Doubt* will be directed by Portland Center Stage's Associate Artistic Director **Rose Riordan**. The cast includes **John Behlmann** as Father Flynn, **Jayne Taini** as Sister Aloysius, **Jennifer Lee Taylor** as Sister James and **Lisa Renee Pitts** as Mrs. Muller. Scenic Design is by **William Bloodgood**, Costume Design will be by **Jeff Cone**, Sound Design will be by **Casi Pacilio** and lighting will be designed by **Daniel Ordower**.

The Main Stage Series is sponsored by **Key Private Bank**. Support for this production was provided by **AMEC**.

**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 became an independent theater in 1994 and has been under the leadership of Artistic Director Chris Coleman since May 2000. The company presents a blend of classic, contemporary and original productions in a conscious effort to appeal to the eclectic palate of theatergoers in Portland. PCS also offers a variety of education and outreach programs for curious minds from six 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. 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 for community artistic activity continues.

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John Patrick Shanley's

# Doubt

directed by Rose Riordan

## Fact Sheet

Portland Center Stage \* Main Stage \* Gerding Theater at the Armory \* 128 NW Eleventh Ave  
**Box Office:** 503.445.3700      **Info, Blogs and Tix by Web:** [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org)

### *The Cast*

Father Flynn.....John Behlmann\*      \*the actors and stage managers in this production are  
Sister Aloysius.....Jayne Taini\*      members of Actors Equity, the union of professional  
Sister James.....Jennifer Lee Taylor\*      actors and stage managers in the United States.  
Mrs. Muller.....Lisa Renee Pitts\*

### Performance Dates

**Previews:** T – Th, May 20-May 22 7:30 pm      Please consult [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org)  
**Opening:** Friday, May 23 7:30 pm      for a complete list of performance  
**Closing:** Sunday, June 15 2:00PM      dates/times.

### 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 *Doubt*. Thursday Matinees with Q&As are available on May 29, June 5 and 12.

Selected **Saturdays include a 2:00 pm Matinee** performance. Saturday Matinees are available on May 31st and June 14.

### Sunday Evenings

Selected Sunday evening 7:30 pm performances are available on May 25, and June 8.

### Audio Described Performance

Friday, May 30 7:30 PM

### Sign Interpreted Performance

Thursday, June 5 7:30 PM

The Gerding Theater Studio is fully accessible for patrons with disabilities. Assistive listening devices are available from the coatroom.

### Studio Ticket Prices

	<b>Area 1</b>	<b>Area 2</b>
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 (cash only, day of show, 10 minutes to curtain)	\$10.00	

**Preferred price range listing:** \$28.00 - \$61.50 adults, with student and group rates available