



PRESS CONTACT: Cynthia Kirk
503-925-0184
cynkirk@aol.com

N E W S

EDITH LOVE NAMED MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

Nationally Recognized Theater Administrator Joins Portland's Largest Theater

August 20, 2003, Portland, ORE – **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE** announces the appointment of **Edith Love**, a nationally recognized theater executive, as its new managing director. Former managing director for Dallas Theater Center and the Alliance Theatre Company in Atlanta, Ms. Love will begin her official duties at **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE** in late October.

"We are thrilled that Edith Love will become the Managing Director of **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE**," said PCS Board Chair **J. Greg Ness**. "Her experience, knowledge and love for the theater as well as her national reputation can only enhance our work. The combination of Ms. Love as our Managing Director and Chris Coleman as Artistic Director bodes very well for the future of Portland theater."

As **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE**'s chief administrator, Ms. Love will be responsible for the theater's marketing, development and fiscal management; she will advocate for the theater with political/government, business and other civic organizations; and, in partnership with PCS Artistic Director **Chris Coleman**, she will act as the public persona of the theater. She will oversee a staff of 50 and will report directly to the Board of Directors.

Ms. Love joined Dallas Theater Center in 1997. In her five years there, she fostered the Center's growth from a budget of \$3.7 million to \$5.3 million, produced five consecutive years of balanced budgets after 15 years of habitual shortfalls; and eliminated a 32-year accumulated deficit that totaled as much as \$1.7 million. Before Dallas, she enjoyed a long tenure at the Alliance Theatre Company in Atlanta, including 12 years as managing director.

Chris Coleman, who knows Ms. Love well from his years as artistic director of Actor's Express in Atlanta as well as Theatre Communications Group where they are both on the board of directors, adds, "I've known and admired Edith Love for 17 years. I have seen her make significant and lasting contributions to each organization and community she has been a part of. She brings a deep level of experience, acuity and confidence to her work – and will be not only an outstanding partner in leading PCS, but an outstanding addition to leadership in Portland."

"I am looking forward to working with Chris Coleman whom I consider to be one of the nation's most promising and talented artistic directors," said Ms. Love when asked about the appointment. "I am excited by his vision for Portland Center Stage and the promising future that faces the company. PCS has enormous potential to make a huge contribution to lives of the

people of Portland and I feel very fortunate to have been offered the opportunity to play a role at PCS at this unique point in its history.”

Ms. Love joins PORTLAND CENTER STAGE in a period of significant growth: in 2002 – 2003, its subscriber base increased 17% (1,043) to 7,930; earned income exceeded projections by \$39,000 and was up 14.5% over 2001 – 2002. In the 2003 - 2004, the theater launches its Next Stage with opening and closing productions (*Another Fine Mess* and *Fully Committed*, respectively) presented in the much smaller, more intimate Winningstad Theatre (284 seats). The theater’s main stage, the 860-seat Newmark Theatre, houses the other five 03-04 plays (*Bat Boy: The Musical*, *The SantaLand Diaries* with *A Christmas Memory*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *36 Views* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*).

Since 2000, Ms. Love has served on the board of directors of Theatre Communications Group, the national advocacy organization for American regional theaters. From 1987 – 2000, she was an officer of the League of Resident Theatres where she represented the association in national contract negotiations with various theatrical labor unions. While an officer with LORT, she chaired several committees and was vice president from 1997 – 2000.

Ben Cameron, TCG Executive Director, praises Ms. Love’s PCS appointment, "Long considered one of the nation's pre-eminent managers, Edith brings extraordinary skills as well as a deep passion for theater to her new position. Clearly this marks yet another step forward in the exciting growth of PCS--one that the national theatre community will watch with the greatest interest and enthusiasm."

Ms. Love has also served as a visiting lecturer in Financial Management and Strategic Planning at the Yale School of Drama and has lectured on arts administration at the University of Georgia School of management, Duke University, Southern Methodist University and the University of Alabama. In Dallas and Atlanta, she was active in numerous civic and arts organizations. She was raised near Cape Cod, Massachusetts and holds a BFA in Theatre from Denison University and attended graduate school at the University of Colorado.

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE is a resident company of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts and an affiliate of the League of Regional Theatres, Actors’ Equity Association and Theatre Communications Group. PCS embarked on a period of dynamic change when its fourth artistic director, Chris Coleman, joined the theater in May 2000. With a new artistic vision that is vast, eclectic and committed to audience enrichment, PORTLAND CENTER STAGE dares to create theater that is as ravishing, innovative and thought-provoking as our wildest dreams. With an annual budget of \$4.8 million, PORTLAND CENTER STAGE’S 2003 – 2004 season includes

- *Another Fine Mess*, September 23 – November 8, 2003
- *Bat Boy: The Musical*, October 28 – November 23, 2003
- *The SantaLand Diaries/A Christmas Memory*, December 2 – 23, 2003
- *The Merchant of Venice*, January 13 – February 1, 2004
- *36 Views*, February 10 – 29, 2004
- *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, March 9 – April 4, 2004
- *Fully Committed*, April 13 – May 30, 2004

