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N E W S

***PRIDE AND PREJUDICE* BRINGS RIVETING ROMANTIC REVERSALS, BRISK LANGUAGE AND TIMELESS WIT TO PORTLAND CENTER STAGE**

Written Almost 200 Years Ago, Interest in the Jane Austen Novel and Its Once-Anonymous Author Attains Cult-Like Status

Seattle Times on Jane Jones' production of *Pride and Prejudice*

"felicitous...thoroughly diverting...keen attention to emotional and comic subtleties."

on Jennifer Lee Taylor as Elizabeth Bennet

and on Andrew DeRycke as Mr. Darcy

"glowing beauty and discerning intelligence."

"a whiz at the still-waters-run-deep school of seduction."

Pride and Prejudice, one of the most popular novels of all time and the best-selling play in **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE**'s 2005-2006 season, opens the **McDonald Financial Group** Mainstage series with contemporary verve. No matter the novel was written almost 200 years ago, the smart, sardonic yet sympathetic Miss Austen continues to find an ardent audience among lovers of romance, literature, film and, now theater. **Marcus Goodwin**'s stage adaptation of **Jane Austen**'s *Pride and Prejudice* was wildly successful in 2000 and 2004 at Seattle's Book-It Repertory Theatre. **Jane Jones**, Book-It's co-artistic director, returns to Portland (she's directed at JAW/West and acted in 1994's *Absurd Person Singular*) to reprise her role as director. *Pride and Prejudice* previews at the Newmark Theatre, 1111 SW Broadway at Main, Tuesday, October 25 - Thursday, October 27; opens Friday, October 28 and closes with the matinee on Sunday, November 20. Evening performances take place at 7 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, Sunday and 8 PM Thursday, Friday, Saturday while Noon Thursday and 2 PM Saturday and Sunday matinee dates are also available. In order to expose more students to *Pride and Prejudice*, Noon matinees have been added on Tuesday/Wednesday, November 15/16; there will be no evening performance on those dates. Tickets: \$15, 30+under, \$20 - \$56, general; box office: 503-274-6588; information: www.pcs.org. This year, second balcony seats for every PCS production are only \$20. This production is sponsored by **The Heathman, Sparling** and **Regional Arts and Culture Council**.

The drawing room dramas of the genteel yet far from rich Bennet family, with its five, yes five!, marriageable daughters, their neighbors, family and suitors in the English countryside are of little consequence. It's Austen's narrative stance and voice, so effectively captured by Marcus Goodwin and conveyed by Jane Jones, that is catnip to all who love wit and words. Lovely Jane (**Molly Wright Stuart**) falls for wealthy Bingley (**Kelsey Tyler**); feisty Elizabeth (**Jennifer Lee Taylor**) unaccountably hews to haughty Darcy (**Andrew DeRycke**); and naughty Lydia (**Stephanie Danna**) nearly ruins what little remains of the family fortunes with the scandalous Wickham (**Alex Podulke**).

Pride and Prejudice is, above all, about romance – and the obstacles placed in its way by issues of money and class in early 19th century England – but it is also about character, social behavior, and the sly amusement that ensues when an observer as astute as Jane Austen trains her keen intelligence on the specific to find the timeless. Her heroine, Elizabeth, skeptical as she is about her contemporaries'

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march to marriage, is far from infallible. She makes mistakes in judgment and through the narrative's arc, she learns about herself. This is one of the *Pride and Prejudice*'s many delights...it takes nothing – including itself! – too seriously. Another is the sheer delight of the wordplay among the witty and the witless, the wicked and the willful.

Director Jane Jones comments, "I think we are all ready for the glorious escapism this story provides. Issues of family and community, the way we perceive and judge ourselves and others – rightfully or wrongly – the status of society, the art of financial acquisition and the heartache of love. What a lovely ride Austen takes us on. And what a delightful retreat from the everyday bleak and sorry happenings that we're greeted with in our daily headlines."

Novelist **JANE AUSTEN** (1775-1817), a minister's daughter, wrote her first book at age 14. In her early twenties, she wrote the novels that were later to be re-worked and published as *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) and *Northanger Abbey*. *Mansfield Park* came out in 1814, followed by *Emma* in 1816 and *Persuasion*, which was published together with *Northanger Abbey* in 1818, the year after her death. None of the books published in her life-time had her name on them -- they were written "By a Lady." In 1816, Miss Austen contracted Addison's Disease, which was then incurable. She died at 41 and is buried in Winchester Cathedral. Her books have often been adapted to stage, film and television. They are the jumping off point for prequels and sequels and hundreds of scholarly studies.

Director **JANE JONES** is founder and co-artistic director of Seattle's Book-It Repertory Theatre, which specializes in adapting literature for the stage. In her 17 years of staging literature, she has performed and directed works by such literary giants as Charles Dickens, Eudora Welty, Edith Wharton, Kurt Vonnegut Jr., Pam Houston, Raymond Carver, Frank O'Connor, Ernest Hemingway, Colette, Amy Bloom, Anne Tyler and John Irving. At Book-It, she's directed *Rebecca*, *Travels with Charley*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Howard's End*, *In a Shallow Grave*, *The Awakening* and *Owen Meany's Christmas Pageant*. She's also been an actress for 25 years, with credits at leading regional theaters as well as on TV and in film.

Playwright **MARCUS GOODWIN** was born in Yorkshire, England. He has worked as a director for theater and opera in England, Italy, Germany and the U.S. He has adapted several novels for the stage, including *Howard's End*, produced at Book-It in 2002. He has also taught theater design in England at the University of Washington.

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE, a resident company of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, attracts more than 90,000 theatergoers annually. With five mainstage and two second stage productions each 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 has embarked upon a \$32.9 million capital campaign to renovate the historic Portland Armory and create a permanent home for the company. The new facility, which will house a 600-seat mainstage and a 200-seat black box theater, is being designed to be the first historic rehabilitation, and hopes to be the first performing arts venue, to achieve a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum rating. To date, more than \$16.6 million has been secured for the project and efforts are underway to open the new Armory Theater in the Fall of 2006. Its remaining 2005 - 2006 season comprises:

- Jane Austen adapted by Marcus Goodwin, *Pride and Prejudice*, October 25 – November 20, 2005
- Conceived by Mark Setlock and adapted for the stage by Steve Murray, *This Wonderful Life*, November 29 – December 24, 2005 -- **World Premiere**
- Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt, *The Fantasticks*, January 10 – February 5, 2006
- Rolin Jones, *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*, February 14 – March 5, 2006
- Regina Taylor, *Crowns*, March 14 – April 9, 2006
- Itamar Moses, *Celebrity Row*, March 21 – April 16, 2006 -- **World Premiere**

- more -

Company

Tobias Andersen*	Sir William Lucas	Laura Faye Smith	Mary Bennet
	Mr. Gardiner	Molly Wright Stuart*	Jane
Spencer Conway	Col. Fitzwilliam	Jennifer Lee Taylor*	Elizabeth
Stephanie Danna	Lydia Bennet	Brian Thompson*	Mr. Bennet
Andrew DeRycke*	Mr. Darcy	Tim True*	Rev. Collins
Kimberly King*	Mrs. Bennet	Kelsey Tyler	Mr. Bingley
	Lady Catherine De	Alison Weller*	Miss Bingley
	Bourgh	Jane Jones	Director
Maya Lawson*	Kitty Bennet	Greg Carter	Set Designer
	Anne DeBourgh	Deb Trout	Costume Designer
	Georgeanna Darcy	Diane Ferry Williams	Lighting Designer
Debera Ann Lund*	Charlotte Lucas	Jen Raynak	Sound Designer
	Mrs. Hurst	Mark Tynan*	Stage Manager
	Mrs. Gardiner	*Actors and the stage manager are Equity members.	
Alex Podulke*	Wickham		

Performance Schedule and Special Events

<u>Evenings</u>	7 PM		8 PM
Tuesdays	Oct 25 (P), Nov 1, 8 *	Thursdays	Oct 27 (P), Nov 3, 10, 17
Wednesdays	Oct 26 (P), Nov 2, 9 *	Fridays	Oct 28 (O), Nov 4, 11, 18
Sundays	Oct 30, Nov 6, 13	Saturdays	Oct 29, Nov 5, 12, 19

<u>Matinées</u>	2 PM		Noon
Sundays	Oct 30, Nov 6, 13, 20 (C)	Thursdays	Nov 3, 10, 17
Saturday	Nov 19	Tuesday	Nov 15*
		Wednesday	Nov 16*

(P) = Preview • (O) = Opens • (C) = Closes

Run time: 2 hours, 45 minutes, with one intermission

* **N.B.** There no evening performances on Nov 15/16 but there are Noon shows on those dates.

Girls Night Out

Tuesdays, November 1, 8 5 PM South Park/1525 SW Park @ Salmon
 Girlfriends gather for early dinner at South Park followed by the 7 PM performance. \$45, **reservations required**: 503-274-6589.

Q&A

Thursdays, November 3, 10 Noon Third floor Gallery

Saturday, November 19 2 PM

Discuss the play in an open dialogue with members of the company, immediately following the performance.

Access Performances

Audio Described

Friday, November 4 8 PM

Sign Interpreted

Thursday, November 10 8 PM

The Newmark is fully accessible for all people with disabilities. Large print programs and assistive listening devices are available from the coatroom, **free** of charge.

Forum

Sunday, November 6 2 PM Third floor Gallery

Join special guests in a discussion of a theme related to the play. Immediately following the matinée.