



PRESS CONTACT: Thom Trick
503-445-3765
thomt@pcs.org
2/9/07

N E W S

**PORTLAND CENTER STAGE UNLEASHES THE MOST SHOCKING
PRODUCTION OF ITS 2006-2007 SEASON WITH MARTIN McDONAGH'S
*THE PILLOWMAN***

Art and Artist are On Trial in this Macabre, Dire, yet Humorous Modern Classic

“The first job of a storyteller is to tell a story.” *The Pillowman*

February 9, 2007 – **Portland** Winner of the **2004 Olivier Award** for **Best New Play** and nominated for a **2004 Best Play Tony Award**, *The Pillowman*, **Martin McDonagh's** most otherworldly play to date, is finally coming to Portland! Since it premiered in November, 2003 at the Royal National Theatre, and ran from April to September 2005 on Broadway, theaters around the globe have sought the rights to add this fresh and intense work of new drama to their performance seasons. In *The Pillowman*, McDonagh challenges his audience to consider themes of monumental import in a context of disturbing morosity and absurdist comedy powerful enough to fully engage the boldest of theatrical academes and thrill-seekers alike...and to completely unnerve the faint of heart.

Somewhere in an unnamed totalitarian state, Katurian Katurian, author of significant accomplishment but as yet debatable “success,” has been detained for questioning regarding a series of grisly child mutilations and murders. These crimes precisely mimic events in stories that he has written, but never published. Two agents of the law, with skeletons of their own just dying to come out of the closet, are determined to secure his confession and silence his artistic expression. A troubled brother under Katurian's care, who is ever so content to implicate them both, succeeds in complicating this labyrinth of confusion, guilt, innocence and responsibility.

What is the artist's obligation to society? How can conflicting bonds of blood and culture ever be resolved? Can any of us live with the monsters we've created in the process of becoming the heroes we're so proud to be? Do we all take ourselves...and all these questions...a little too seriously?

PCS Associate Artistic Director, Rose Riordan directs *The Pillowman* on the **Gerding Theater at the Armory Main Stage**, 128 NW Eleventh Ave. Preview performances run Tuesday, February 20 - Thursday, February 22; Opening is Friday, February 23 at 7:30 PM and the Closing Performance is Sunday, March 18th at 2 PM. All evening performances take place at 7:30 PM while Noon Thursday and 2 PM Saturday and Sunday matinee dates are also available. Tickets: \$16.50, 30+under Sunday – Thursday Evenings, all others \$28 - \$59.50. PCS Box Office: **503-445-3700**; More information is available at www.pcs.org. *The Pillowman* is the fourth production in PCS's 2006/07 **Key Private Bank Main Stage Series** in the Gerding Theater at the Armory and is generously supported by sponsor, **adidas, The Pearl**.

PCS veterans **Cody Nickell** (*Outrage, Merchant of Venice*) and **Tim True** (*The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow, The Fantasticks, Pride and Prejudice* and others) star as Katurian and his brother Michal. Tim True has

-more-

recent and notable experience with the work of McDonagh, having won a Drammy for Outstanding Performance in a Lead Role in **Third Rail Repertory Theatre's** 2006 production of *The Lonesome West*. **Sean Cullen** and **James Kennedy**, both with distinguished stage and screen credits, make believable buffoonery of the good cop/bad cop duo in their PCS debuts, and two young actors, **Haley Rouselle** and **Tanner Ward** help bring the stories of Katurian to life on stage with an acumen and sensitivity far exceeding the experience of their years.

The Playwright, Martin McDonagh was born to Irish parents in Camberwell, London. He left school at age sixteen and spent five years writing radio scripts and collecting rejection notices until two scripts were taken by stations in Australia. He spent eight days writing his first play, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (1996). McDonagh watched a great deal of television and movies while beginning to write and borrowed a "how to" book on becoming a writer from his brother, screenwriter John McDonagh. Martin found himself bored by theater in London—calling it "dull." He claims to have been significantly influenced by the films of David Lynch, Martin Scorsese, Terence Malick, and Quentin Tarentino. *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (1997-1998 Drama Desk Award) is the first play in a trilogy of plays set in Leenane, a remote small town in Connemara, County Galway, north of the Aran Islands, where some of the people still speak Irish. The second play is *A Skull in Connemara* (1997, Olivier Award Best New Comedy), a dark comedy about death and guilt. The last play in the trilogy, *The Lonesome West* (1997), also set in Leenane, was produced by Third Rail Repertory Theatre in 2006 and won one of two Drammy Awards for Outstanding Play. McDonagh has developed another trilogy, set on the Aran Islands, consisting of *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (2003 Olivier Award, Best New Comedy) and *The Banshees of Inisherin*. *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *The Lonesome West* and *The Pillowman* have all been Tony Award, Best Play nominees. When asked whether he will always explore despair and violence in his plays, McDonagh has said that someday "I'll write a romantic comedy where hardly anyone gets murdered at all."

The Director, Rose Riordan is in her eleventh season at Portland Center Stage where she serves as Associate Artistic Director. Previously at PCS she has directed *The Thugs* by Adam Bock as well as staged readings at two of the PCS JAW/West Playwrights Festivals - *The Thugs* (2005) and *Telethon* (2006). Born and raised in Alaska, she has been an actress, writer, producer and director and has directed plays in Alaska, Seattle, Miami and New York – some of her credits include, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Bent*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, and *Noble & Weller*. In 1999 she co-founded Portland Center Stage's annual Just Add Water/West Playwrights Festival, now in its ninth season. JAW/West has been instrumental in developing new work for the PCS repertory. Some of the plays work-shopped at JAW/West: *Outrage*, *Flesh and Blood*, *O Lovely Glowworm* and this season's *Act A Lady* and *The Thugs* have gone on to stages at other theatres around the country. Rose has an extensive background in writing, directing and new play development. For five years she worked at GeVa Theatre (Rochester, NY) which produced *Reflections*, a summer festival premiering three new plays in rotating repertory under the artistic direction of Anthony Zerbe.

The Cast

Katurian.....Cody Nickell*
 Tupolski.....Sean Cullen*
 Ariel.....James Kennedy*
 Michal.....Tim True*
 Mother.....Susan Norton
 Father.....Damon Kupper
 Girl.....Hayley Rouselle
 Boy.....Tanner Ward

* The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association the national union of actors and stage managers in the United States.

The Creative Team

Director.....Rose Riordan
 Scenic Designer.....Russell Parkman
 Costume Designer.....Jeff Cone
 Lighting Designer.....Daniel Ordower
 Sound Designer.....Casi Pacilio
 Composer.....Twayn Williams
 Fight Director.....John Armour
 Stage Manager.....Jamie Hill*
 Assistant Stage Manager....Mark Tynan*
 Assistant Director.....Megan Ward
 Production Asst.....Devin Zoller

Casting by Rose Riordan with New York Casting by Harriet Bass

- more -

The Pillowman
By Martin McDonagh
Directed by Rose Riordan

Portland Center Stage * Gerding Theater at the Armory * 128 NW Eleventh Ave.
 Tickets \$16.50 - \$59.50 * **Box Office 503-445-3700** * www.pcs.org

EVENINGS 7:30 PM

Tuesdays Feb. 20(P), 27, Mar. 6, 13
Wednesdays Feb. 21(P), 28, Mar. 7, 14
Thursdays Feb. 22(P), Mar. 1, 8, 15
Fridays Feb. 23(O), Mar. 2, 9, 16
Saturdays Feb. 24, Mar. 3, 10, 17
Sundays Feb. 25, Mar. 11

MATINEES

Noon with Q&A

Thursdays Mar. 1, 8, 15

2PM

Saturdays Mar. 3, 17
Sundays Feb. 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18(C)

(P) = Preview

(O) = Opening Night

(C) = Closing Matinee

PLEASE NOTE: THIS PLAY CONTAINS DISTURBING SCENES AND LANGUAGE. IT IS NOT CONSIDERED SUITABLE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN...AND SOME ADULTS.

Student/Senior Matinees and Thursday Q and A

Thursday Matinees at Noon are programmed especially for our student and senior audiences and are available for *The Pillowman* on three Thursday dates noted above. All patrons enjoy discounted ticket prices to these performances and they also include informative **Question & Answer** sessions after the performance with the cast of *The Pillowman*.

Come Early and Get MORE from Prologues on Weekday Evenings

Join us for an intriguing pre-show introduction to *The Pillowman* with PCS Literary and Education staff and/or special guests on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, February 27 – March 15 @ 6:30PM on the Main Stage.

Universal Access

Audio Described Performance

Friday, March 2 7:30 PM

Sign Interpreted Performance

Thursday, March 8 7:30 PM

The Gerding Theater Main Stage is fully accessible to all. **Assistive listening devices** are available from the coatroom, **free** of charge. **Wheelchair accessible** seating is available in a variety of locations for all performances. Please inform your ticket agent **at the time of purchase** if this seating is necessary or preferred and we'll be more prepared to optimize your theater experience when you arrive.

Price List for *The Pillowman*

	Area 1	Area 2
Preview Evenings	\$31.50	\$29.50
Sunday – Thursday Evenings	\$46.50	\$41.50
Friday/Saturday Evenings & Sunday Matinees	\$59.50	\$53.50
Thursday & Saturday Matinees	\$30.00	\$28.00
30 yrs. and under (Sun – Thur. Eve/Sat. Mat only)	\$16.50	\$16.50
18 yrs. and under (all performances)	\$16.50	\$16.50

-more-

About Portland Center Stage

Established in 1988, **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE** is Portland's flagship theater company, attracting more than 90,000 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 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.

The Remaining Portland Center Stage 2006-2007 Inaugural Season in the Gerding Theater at the Armory

- *Act a Lady* by Jordan Harrison, Directed by Cliff Fannin Baker, January 28 – March 11, 2007, Studio
- *The Thugs* by Adam Bock, Directed by Rose Riordan, Feb. 9 – March 10, 2007 (10:30 pm, Friday and Saturday nights only), Studio
- *The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh, Directed by Rose Riordan, February 18 – March 18, 2007, Main Stage
- *Fences* by August Wilson, Directed by Jonathan Wilson, April 10-May 6, 2007, Main Stage A co-production with Hartford Stage Company and Dallas Theater Center
- *Bad Dates* by Theresa Rebeck, Directed by Timothy Near, April 15 – June 10, 2007, Studio

Portland Center Stage's 2006/07 season is made possible in part by support from the Regional Arts & Culture Council, the Oregon Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

www.pcs.org