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**GLEN BERGER'S *UNDERNEATH THE LINTEL* FINDS
HISTORY OF THE WORLD IN
OVERDUE BAEDEKER AND LIBRARIAN'S DATE STAMPER**

Portland Center Stage and Multnomah County Library
Celebrate Many and Various Voyages Launched by Books

About Glen Berger's work:

"Whimsically brainy...prismatic...spin[s] cast-off scrap material into theatrical gold."

– *American Theatre*

Praise for *Underneath the Lintel*:

"A blissfully ludicrous vision quest, outrageously funny, madly literate...a Tom Stoppard look-alike...but with a spiritual sensitivity that extends the Librarian's search for an alternate truth to Everyman."

-- *L.A. Weekly*

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE's 2004-05 season ended on a lovely note: citywide acclaim for the world premiere of **Glen Berger's** *O Lovely Glowworm*, with one of the oddest narrators on theatrical record -- a stuffed goat pinched back to life by maggots and memories. Berger returns to launch PCS' 18th season with an earlier, just as quirkily charming work: *Underneath the Lintel*, a one actor, 80-minute, 'round-the-world tale about a librarian obsessed with finding whoever had the gall to return a book 113 years overdue. With the tardy Baedeker as his guide and a date stamper as his neck-slung compass, Berger's Everyman finds himself on a voyage of self-discovery that may – or may not -- have profound meaning for everyone. *Underneath the Lintel* previews at the Winningstad Theatre, 1111 SW Broadway at Main, Tuesday, September 27 - Thursday, September 29; opens Friday, September 30 and closes with the matinée on Sunday, October 30. 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 matinée dates are also available. 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. *Underneath the Lintel* is sponsored by Amec and Bank of America.

Joining in a celebration of books' power of self-discovery, PCS and the Multnomah County Library are cooperating on several programs: Actor **Time Winters** (playing the anonymous Librarian) will give a free reading from the play at Noon on Wednesday, October 5 in the U.S. Bank Room of the Central Branch; PCS will collect donated books in the theater lobby to be distributed to homeless teenagers; librarian Alison Kastner's list of 10 travel-as-quest titles can be found at www.pcs.org/directions_sept/index.html; and anyone presenting a Multnomah County library card at the PCS box office will receive 10% off the ticket price.

An off-Broadway hit with a 15-month run in 2001 and 2002, *Lintel* concerns a hapless librarian from

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Hoofddorp, Holland who sets aside his reference responsibilities to solve the mystery of the meandering miscreant. He addresses his audience in a run-down lecture hall, a portable chalkboard and battered projection screen his principal props. On laundry lines criss-crossing the stage, he hangs his carefully tagged “lovely eveydences,” pulled from his tattered pockets and shabby valise. Those evidences -- a laundry check, a tram ticket, irreparable trousers, an early 20th century wax cylinder – point the way not simply to a dilatory borrower but possibly to the real man behind the myth of the Wandering Jew.

The myth of the Wandering Jew emerged in the late 13th century as an embellishment to the story of the Passion. It claims that a shopkeeper who refused a Calvary-bound Christ a rest against his door jamb (or beneath his *lintel*) was exiled to eternal restless wandering. If the Librarian’s journeying proves the Wandering Jew to be real, so too is proved the existence of God who sent the Wandering Jew on his eternal peregrinations in 33 A.D.

It all begins when library records reveal the Baedeker to have been checked out by “A.” on November 12, 1873, address Dingtao, China. When librarian finds a place marker that’s a 1913 claim for a London laundry, the search begins in earnest. The once Hoofddorp-bound Librarian eventually travels to Germany, Poland, Australia and New York, and more than a dozen international locales in between. He travels in time from 1986 to 1912, 1748 to 1904 and back to 2005. Eventually, he surmises “A.” to be Ahauerus, the name often ascribed to the Wandering Jew. As the circumstantial “eveydence” accumulates, the myth begins to seem more and more real and the anonymous librarian begins to morph from real to myth.

In his pursuit of the myth, the Librarian travels farther and farther from what he knows and learns more and more about what he’s forsaken. As Director **Nancy Keystone** observes, “The Librarian...makes a discovery, the mystery of which knocks on the fortress of his little life, awakening him to the wonders of the world, the large questions of humanity, and the painful lost love of his youth.”

Actor **Time Winters**, an Oregon native now based in Los Angeles, has many Ashland, Broadway, film and TV credits. Director **Nancy Keystone** swept the 2003 Drammy Awards with her production of Edward Albee’s *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Part I of her work-in-progress, *Apollo*, recently premiered in LA to wide acclaim. The development of that work over two years at PCS was funded by a \$100,000 National Endowment for the Arts/Theatre Communications Group Residency grant. In addition to *O Lovely Glowworm* and *Underneath the Lintel*, **Glen Berger** has written three plays and a musical, and is a member of New Dramatists.

Time Winters	Librarian	Justin Townsend	Lighting Designer
Nancy Keystone	Director	Jen Raynak	Sound Designer
Nancy Keystone with Efren Delgadillo	Set Designer	Marcella Y. Crowson	Stage Manager
Jeff Cone	Costume Designer	All actors and the stage manager are Equity members.	

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE is a resident company of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, attracting 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

