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WELLS FARGO GIVES \$50,000 TO SPONSOR PORTLAND CENTER STAGE'S MULTI-FACTED STAGE DOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

July 20, 2005, Portland, Ore. □ **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE (Chris Coleman, artistic director)** announces that **Wells Fargo** has given \$50,000 for the title sponsorship of its Stage Door education program. The 2005-06 sponsorship will allow up to 5,000 high school and middle school students from the greater Portland-SW Washington metro area to experience live theater, many for the first time.

Stage Door is an education outreach program for students and their teachers. In 2004-05, its first year, Stage Door served 2,000 middle and high school students from Multnomah, Clackamas, Clark, Washington, Yamhill and Marion counties (see attached list).

“We hope to double that number so that by the end of this season we are serving 5,000 students in the Portland area,” said **Edith Love**, managing director at PORTLAND CENTER STAGE. “The program is designed to support regional curriculum goals, particularly in theater and language arts. Our goal is to provide every Portland area student with at least one live theater experience before they graduate from high school. In addition to educational enrichment, the program seeks to cultivate future audiences for the broad spectrum of the performing arts.”

“More than 152 years ago, Wells Fargo’s stagecoaches transported actors, musicians and other performing artists to communities throughout the West, including Portland,” said **Alan Johnson**, regional president of Wells Fargo in Oregon and southwest Washington. “Today, we’re proud to continue that tradition by helping to bring arts and entertainment to our community through sponsorships such as this one.”

Earlier this year Northwest Business for Culture and the Arts honored Wells Fargo as the leading corporate supporter of arts and culture in Oregon in 2004. The \$50,000 gift is part of the more than \$15 million that Wells Fargo has donated to hundreds of schools and non-profit groups in Oregon in the past nine years.

The Stage Door program provides:

- Steeply discounted and free performance tickets, including 1,000 free tickets to Title I schools and arts magnet schools throughout the metropolitan area.
- Free online study guides, a valuable arts curriculum resource. Last season’s *King Lear* study guide was one of the most frequently visited and downloaded sections of the PCS website (www.pcs.org).
- Free teacher workshops providing a first-hand look at the artistic interpretation of the play and innovative suggestions for incorporating the play into lesson planning. The workshops help teachers meet Continuing Professional Development requirements.
- Free pre-performance student workshops, providing a context for the production students are about to see.

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About Wells Fargo

Founded in 1852, **Wells Fargo & Company** is a diversified financial services company with \$435 billion in assets, providing banking, insurance, investments, mortgage and consumer finance to more than 23 million customers from more than 6,000 stores and the internet (wellsfargo.com) across North America and elsewhere internationally. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. is the only bank in the United States to receive the highest possible credit rating, "Aaa," from Moody's Investors Service.

About Portland Center Stage

Founded in 1988, **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE** began its 18th season on July 1, 2005. PCS is a resident company of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, attracting an annual audience of more than 90,000 theatergoers of all ages. With five mainstage and two second stage productions each season, PCS produces a blend of classic, contemporary and world premiere works in addition to its annual summer playwrights festival, Just Add Water/West. In addition to the Stage Door program, PCS presents Visions and Voices, an in-school playwriting residency program for Portland-area high school students. That program culminates in year-end readings of the students' work by professional actors on stage at the Winningstad Theatre.

Under the leadership of artistic director Chris Coleman, the Board of Directors, and a volunteer committee co-chaired by Julie Vigeland and Henry Wessinger, 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 599-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 \$15.5 million has been secured for the project and efforts are underway to open the new Armory Theater in the fall of 2006. PORTLAND CENTER STAGE's 2005 - 2006 season comprises:

- JAW/West, July 15 - 17, 2005
- Glen Berger, *Underneath the Lintel*, September 27 – October 30, 2005
- 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**

**Participating Schools in Portland Center Stage's
2004-2005 Stage Door Education Outreach Program**

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Aloha High School | Kellogg Middle School |
| Astoria High School | Merlo Station High School |
| Bandon High School | North Clackamas School District |
| Banks High School | Oregon City High School |
| Benson High School | Oregon Episcopal School |
| Buckman Elementary | Regis High School |
| Camas High School | Rex Putnam High School |
| Canby High School | Wilbur D. Rowe High School |
| Century High School | St. Mary's Academy |
| Columbia Adventist Academy | Santiam High School |
| Crescent Valley High School | Sherwood High School |
| Dayton High School | Springwater Trail High School |
| Estacada High School | Straight Ahead Shelter |
| Evergreen Community Education (WA) | Sunrise Middle School |
| Evergreen High School (WA) | Tigard High School |
| Forest Ridge High School | Toledo High School (WA) |
| Gladstone High School | Tualatin High School |
| Grant High School | Upward Bound (Clatsop) |
| Gregory Heights Middle School | Vocational Village High School |
| Hogan Cedars Elementary | Wilson High School |
| Hidden Valley High School | Yamhill-Carlton High School |