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M E D I A R E L E A S E

DESPERADOES, BURGLARS AND ALLEYWAY BULLIES BEWARE!

*Ralphie Parker, in his quest for the elusive Red Ryder BB Gun,
returns to Portland Center Stage beginning November 20.*

November 2, 2011 – PORTLAND, ORE. It's time to get out those leg lamps, footie pajamas (we know you have them) and secret decoder pins; the second annual production of [A Christmas Story](#) is returning to the Main Stage at Portland Center Stage. [A Christmas Story](#) previews on Sunday, November 20, opens on **Friday,**



November 25 and runs Tuesday through Sunday through **December 24, 2011**. Tickets **start at \$29**, with tickets for those under 30 at **\$25** (ID required) and student discounts also available. Rush tickets are \$20.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays and matinees at noon on select Thursdays. There are also 2 p.m. matinees on December 20, 21 and 23.

There is no performance on Thanksgiving (November 24). Christmas Eve (December 24) has both a noon and a 5 p.m. performance. See the show calendar at www.pcs.org/xmas-story-2011/ for the complete performance schedule. Tickets can be purchased online at www.pcs.org, by phone at 503.445.3700 or by visiting the box office located at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue.

A Christmas Story, directed by associate artistic director **Rose Riordan**, was adapted for the stage by **Phil Grecian** from the cult holiday film by **Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown** and **Bob Clark**. The motion picture was originally based on a series of semi-autobiographical childhood stories by New York underground radio raconteur Jean Shepherd. First recounted both on his late-night radio program in the '60s and in a series of *Playboy* magazine articles, Shepherd's anecdotes were subsequently turned into short stories that appeared in the collections *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash* and *Wanda Hickey's Night of Golden Memories and Other Disasters*. The story follows young Ralphie Parker on his quest for the quintessential Christmas present – a Red Ryder Carbine-Action 200-Shot Range Model Air Rifle.

Returning to PCS to reprise their roles in *A Christmas Story* are Portland favorites **Darius Pierce** as Adult Ralph, **Laura Faye Smith** as Miss Shields and **Valerie Stevens** as Mother. PCS alum **Tim True** joins the cast as The Old Man. Ralphie will be played by PCS newcomer **Jack Clevenger**, who recently received a Drammy Award for Outstanding Young Performer of 2011. Rounding out the all-local cast is an ensemble of eight children, including **Harrison Goyette** as Ralphie's kid brother Randy, **Hannah Wilson** as Ralphie's love interest Esther Jane, and **Dylan Earhart** and **Avish Menon** as Ralphie's best buddies Flick and Schwartz, respectively. **Jeff Schell** will play schoolyard bully Scut Farkus and **Hannah Baggs** will play Helen, joined by ensemble members **Olivia Rentz** and **Matthew Snyder**.

Scenic designer **Tony Cisek** returns this year to recreate the vintage '40s Lake Michigan industrial town, supported by costume designer **Jeff Cone's** bunny suits, cowboy hats, jailbird stripes and snowsuits. The sounds and mood of a winter playground will be created by sound designer **Casi Pacilio** and lighting designer **Nancy Schertler**. Fight director **Ted deChatelet** will coordinate the schoolyard scuffles.

Additional support for this production has been provided by **Berry Wealth Strategies** and **The Oregonian**. Portland Center Stage's 2011/12 season is funded in part by **Umpqua Private Bank**, our lead corporate champion; the **Regional Arts & Culture Council** and **Work for Art**; the **Oregon Arts Commission**; the **Paul G. Allen Family Foundation**; **Helen and Jerry Stern**; and **Tim & Mary Boyle**. The Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner of Portland Center Stage.

[PORTLAND CENTER STAGE](#) inspires our community by bringing stories to life in unexpected ways. Established in 1988 as a branch of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, PCS became an independent theater in 1994 and has been under the leadership of Artistic Director Chris Coleman since May 2000. The company presents a blend of classic, contemporary and original productions in a conscious effort to appeal to the eclectic palate of theatergoers in Portland. PCS also offers a variety of education and outreach programs for curious minds from six to 106, including discussions, classes, workshops and partnerships with organizations throughout the Portland metro area.

THE GERDING THEATER AT THE ARMORY houses a 599-seat Main Stage and the 200-seat black box Ellyn Bye Studio. It was the first building on the National Register of Historic Places, and the first performing arts venue, to achieve a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification. The Gerding Theater at the Armory opened to the public on Oct. 1, 2006. The capital campaign to fund the renovation of this hub for community artistic activity continues.

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