



PRESS CONTACT: Trisha Pancio
503.445.3763
trishap@pcs.org

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

MEET BUCKY, PORTLAND'S FAIRY GODFATHER OF DESIGN

*The life's work of Bucky Fuller, the iconoclastic prophet of design and sustainability (Hello Portland!), will get the full multi-media treatment in Portland Center Stage's **R. Buckminster Fuller: THE HISTORY (and Mystery) OF THE UNIVERSE**, playing through December 7th in the Studio.*

OCTOBER 1, 2008 – PORTLAND, OR. Portland's technology gurus (Linus Torvald), sustainability prophets (Mike Houk), public policy activists (Sam Adams), Alberta Street hipsters and innovative design firms (Ziba) take heed: you are about to meet your spiritual fairy godfather at D.W. Jacobs's [R. Buckminster Fuller: THE HISTORY \(and Mystery\) OF THE UNIVERSE](#) playing in the Ellyn Bye Studio at Portland Center Stage. Be forewarned: People who see this show have a tendency to come out inspired to create, contribute, devise and explore. All of which can be habit-forming. (Sorry.)



[R. Buckminster Fuller: THE HISTORY \(and Mystery\) OF THE UNIVERSE](#) will preview October 14 through 16, with the **Gala Opening Night on Friday October 17, 2008**. The production will run Tuesday through Sunday **through December 7th**, with 7:30 pm evening performances Tuesday through Saturday and matinee performances at 2 pm on Sundays. There are alternating Sunday evening and Saturday 2:00 pm matinee performances, plus weekday matinee performances at noon on Thursdays. Go to www.pcs.org/bucky for a complete list of show times.

Tickets range from \$23.50 to \$46.50, with an **under 30 discount** of \$21.50. Tickets can be purchased through the box office by calling 503.445.3700 or online at www.pcs.org.

Weird, wild, and wicked smart, **R. Buckminster Fuller** was a designer's poet and a poet's engineer. In 1927, rattled by the death of his first daughter (a death he blamed on the drafty, poorly ventilated design of the low income apartment housing his family lived in at that time), he devoted himself to embark on "*an experiment, to find what a single individual [could] contribute to changing the world and benefiting all humanity.*" The result was a lifetime of big ideas, intriguing inventions (including the geodesic dome) and the creation of a set of sustainable design principles that are still hugely influential in fields as diverse as architecture, economics, sustainability, industrial design and performance art.



Author/Director **D.W. Jacobs** has taken the heady soup of Bucky's books, lectures, letters and ephemera (some of it gathered from Bucky's Dymaxion ChronoFile, a exhaustive catalog that documented Bucky's life in 15 minute increments) and turned it into a highly physical (and moving) multi-media investigation of one man's vision and its impact on the fate of the world.

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D.W. Jacobs co-founded San Diego Repertory Theatre in 1976 with Sam Woodhouse, where he worked as artistic director for more than twenty years. He resigned in 1997 to give more focus to his own creative projects. In 2001, he received a commission from Z Space Studio to write a stage adaptation of Edward Bellamy's 19th C. utopian novel *Looking Backward*. In 2002, he wrote and directed *Remember Me*, a video short, co-produced with Kovarova. With Scott Feldsher, he co-wrote and co-directed *The Whole World is Watching* (an adaptation of the Oedipus trilogy as TV talk show). Directing credits include Mac Wellman's *Albanian Softshoe* (with Michael Roth), Tennessee Williams' *Suddenly Last Summer*, Ric Najera's *A Quiet Love*, Ariel Dorfman's *Death and the Maiden/La Murete y La Doncella* (in English and Spanish), Antonio Skarmeta's *Burning Patience/Ardiente Paciencia* (with Jorge Huerta, in English and Spanish), Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*, *Othello*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *King Lear*, *Titus Andronicus*, and his own adaptation of Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. *R. Buckminster Fuller: THE HISTORY (and Mystery) OF THE UNIVERSE* premiered at San Diego Rep in 2000. The Foghouse production played in San Francisco, Chicago and Seattle (Intiman Theatre). In 2005, *R. Buckminster Fuller: MEMOIRES (et Mysteres) DE L'UNIVERS*, played in Montreal, produced by Theatre Alambic and Theatre Denise-Pelletier. In 2005, with improvisational artist Nina Wise and chaos mathematician Ralph Abraham, he worked on a Kepler/Galileo project as participants in the Djerassi Resident Artists Program. He has won over 15 awards from Dramalogue and San Diego Critics Circle for his work as a director and actor.

The role of Buckminster Fuller is performed by **Doug Tompos**, an actor whose performance work includes Dr. Frank-n-furter in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* for the 5th Avenue Theater in Seattle, Dan Quayle in *Dan Quayle: In His Own Words* and Tennessee Williams in *Bent to the Flame-, an evening with Tennessee Williams*, which won outstanding solo show at the NY International Fringe Festival.

Scenic and Lighting Design is by **David Cuthbert**, Costume and Projection Design will be by **Darla Cash** and Sound Design will be by **Luis Perez**.

Support for this production was provided by **The Oregon Arts Commission**, the **Regional Arts and Culture Council's Work for Art** program, Curtis T. Thompson, Sue Horn-Caskey & Rick Caskey, and Jean & Dennis Wilde. Media support was provided by **Kink.fm** and **Trimet**.

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE inspires our community by bringing stories to life in unexpected ways. Established in 1988 as an off shoot 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 the PCS GreenHouse, a school of theater.

THE GERDING THEATER AT THE ARMORY houses a 599-seat Main Stage and a 200-seat black box 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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