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

LEARN HOW TO DISAPPEAR WITH PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

Escape it all at the American Premiere (and third production ever) of Fin Kennedy's award-winning mind and soul-twister of a play at Portland Center Stage starting January 27th.

JANUARY 21, 2009 – PORTLAND, OR. The only play in 40 years to win England's John Whiting Award without having received a full production will make its American premiere at Portland Center Stage this January. [*How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found*](#) will preview January 27 through 29th, with the **Gala Opening Night Performance on Friday January 30th, 2009**. The production will run **Tuesday through Sunday through May 22nd**, 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/disappear for a complete list of show times. Tickets range from **\$23.50 to \$46.50**, with Student and Rush tickets available. Tickets can be purchased through the box office by calling 503.445.3700 or online at www.pcs.org.



A meta-theatrical mash up of *Blade Runner* and *Memento* with a dash of *Fight Club* thrown in for good measure, [*How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found*](#) follows a young ad exec named Charlie whose mounting cocaine debts, irregular business practices and recently deceased mother have taken him right to the brink of breakdown (and into the hovel of Mike, a family friend with a busy practice in identity erasure). What follows is a practical education in deliberate disappearance robed in a pulse-pounding, time-slipping thriller of a plot that pits Charlie against a disorienting array of characters (including a pathologist who insists that Charlie is on her table at the morgue). As Charlie slowly rids himself of the persistent detritus of his old identity, he finds himself faced with new soul-twisting questions about the nature of life and identity itself.

Playwright Fin Kennedy is an award winning playwright. *How to Disappear Completely and Never be Found* was the first unproduced play to win the John Whiting Award in forty years. It was produced to critical acclaim at the Sheffield Crucible and comes to the [Southwark Playhouse](#), London in October 2008. Kennedy has also written several plays for young people as a Writer-in-attachment at the Half Moon Young People's Theatre. In autumn 2008 Fin's long term collaborators [Half Moon Theatre](#) are going to revive *Locked In* (a hip-hop musical for young people) for a national tour. Other works by Kennedy include *Caesar Price Our Lord*, *Theatre Stolen Secrets*, *Unstated*, *We Are Shadows*, *Mehndi Night*, *Selling Babylon*, *Blitz Spirit*, *Sick!* (an adaptation of Moliere's *Hypochondriac* for 11 year olds), *Protection*, *B Minor*, *Fair Trade*, and *To Be Someone*. He was one of nine writers selected for 30th Anniversary celebration of the Pearson Playwrights' Scheme at the National Theatre in 2003.



Director Rose Riordan Rose Riordan is in her 12th season at Portland Center Stage, where she serves as

associate artistic director. Previously at PCS she has directed *The Underpants*, *The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh and *The Thugs* by Adam Bock, which won four Drammy Awards including Best Ensemble and Best Director. Elsewhere, Rose recently directed *The Receptionist* at CoHo Productions. 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. In 1999 she founded Portland Center Stage's annual *JAW: A Playwrights Festival*, which will be celebrating its 10th anniversary next summer. JAW has been instrumental in developing new work for the PCS repertory: *Outrage*, *Flesh and Blood*, *Another Fine Mess*, *O Lovely Glowworm*, *Celebrity Row*, last season's *Act a Lady*, *The Thugs* and this season's *A Feminine Ending*. She directed staged readings for plays at three of the JAW festivals—*The Thugs* (2005), *Telethon* (2006) and *A Story About a Girl* (2007). She enjoys being part of a company committed to new work and having a beautiful building in which to work.

Playing the man who disappears will be **Cody Nickells**, last seen at Portland Center Stage in *Pillowman*. Cody's wife **Kate Eastwood Norris** plays Sophie, a pathologist. The rest of the 20 plus roles are played by three of Portland's most watchable actors (all with a taste for the dark side): **Darius Pierce** (memorable for his turn as Shakespeare in *Beard of Avon*, sharing stage with creepy puppets in the *Long Ride Home*), **Laura Faye Smith** (recently seen in CoHo's *The Receptionist*...and remember her channeling of the little girl with the world's most disturbing imagination in *Mr. Marmalade* at Artists Rep) and **Ebbe Roe Smith** (whose play *Number Three*, premiered at Third Rail last season and who channeled a quasi-mystical goat in *O Lovely Glowworm* at PCS).

Scenic concept is by **Rose Riordan**, scenic design by Chris Rousseau, costume design will be by **Deb Trout**, sound design will be by **Jen Raynak**, lighting will be designed by **Daniel Ordower**.

Additional support for this production has been provided by the James F. and Marion Miller Foundation, AMEC and Ellyn Bye. Media support has been provided by Kink.fm.

Portland Center Stage's 2008/09 season is funded in part by the Regional Arts & Culture Council and Work for Art, the Oregon Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

[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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