

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

**Portland Center Stage at The Armory's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season**  
11 productions make up the 2017-2018 season, including the Tony Award-winning *FUN HOME*; the world premieres of *ASTORIA: PART TWO* and *KODACHROME*; the highly anticipated Portland debut of Luis Alfaro's *MOJADA*; the contemporary journey along the Trail of Tears from *Astoria* star DeLanna Studi; and much more.

**March 6, 2017 – PORTLAND, OR.** Portland Center Stage at The Armory kicks off its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with the “heart-gripping and cathartic” musical *Fun Home*, which swept the 2015 Tony Awards with five wins. The season continues with the funny, hopeful and uniquely theatrical *Every Brilliant Thing*; a partnership with Oregon Shakespeare Festival for Luis Alfaro's *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles*; a new holiday offering, *A Christmas Memory paired with Winter Song*, that will feature Portland-favorite Merideth Kaye Clark; the return of the holiday hit *The Second City's A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens*; the world premiere of *Astoria: Part Two*, which will include reprise performances of the box office record-breaking *Astoria: Part One*; the world premiere of *Kodachrome*, which was developed at the company's 2015 JAW: A Playwrights Festival under the title *Colchester*; the “engrossing theatrical hybrid” *The Magic Play*; DeLanna Studi's deeply personal retracing of her ancestors' footsteps in *And So We Walked*; Shaw's witty and timely appraisal of capitalism, war, religion and politics, *Major Barbara*; and an exploration of the life of legendary singer Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*.

**Season packages are on sale now.** To purchase season tickets, call 503-445-3700 or visit [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org). Back by popular demand is the Create Your Own Package, starting at \$86.25 for three plays. The U.S. Bank Main Stage Series starts at \$172.50. The Everything Series starts at \$287.50. Students and those 35 and under enjoy special pricing for both series. The eight-

admission Flexpass is available for \$450. Groups of 10 or more can sign up for the priority seating list today and purchase tickets to the new season starting on July 5, 2017. Groups that book by August 31 receive 30% off regular ticket prices. Groups receive one free ticket for every 20 tickets purchased. To order group tickets call 503-445-3761 or visit [www.pcs.org/groups](http://www.pcs.org/groups). Find out more about the 2017-2018 season at [www.pcs.org/2017-2018-season](http://www.pcs.org/2017-2018-season).

## **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE'S 2017-2018 SEASON**

*Please Note: Date ranges include preview performances.*

*Opening nights/press nights are listed separately.*

### ***FUN HOME***

**Music by Jeanine Tesori; Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron**

**Based on the Graphic Novel by Alison Bechdel**

**Directed by Chris Coleman**

**September 16 – October 22, 2017 | U.S. Bank Main Stage**

**Opening Night/Press Night: September 22 at 7:30 p.m.**

Based on Alison Bechdel's witty and wistful illustrated autobiography of the same name, the Tony Award-winning musical *Fun Home* ushers us inside Alison's head — at three different ages — as she struggles to process the chain of childhood events that made her the adult she is today. Growing up in a funeral home as the closeted lesbian daughter of a father with secrets of his own was complicated. But by looking back on her family life, and remembering all the loving, silly, and even shameful moments, she learns to see her parents — and herself — for who they really are.

- **Winner of five Tony Awards, including Best Musical of 2015!**
- **"Heart-gripping and cathartic, *Fun Home* occupies the place where we all grew up."**  
*-The New York Times*

### ***EVERY BRILLIANT THING***

**By Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe**

**Directed by George Perrin**

**September 23 – November 5, 2017 | Ellyn Bye Studio**

**Opening Night/Press Night: September 29 at 7:30 p.m.**

A kid makes a list for his mom. A list of everything worth living for in the world. He needs her to read the list so she doesn't try to leave the world again. As the kid grows up and experiences more life, more love, and more loss, his list of every brilliant thing gets longer and more vital with each addition. Duncan Macmillan's play shines hilarious and compassionate light in dark corners of the human condition, and the way in which the creators have constructed the performance is refreshingly theatrical. A reminder that hope is never truly lost, and a testament to the healing power of storytelling.

- **"Heart-wrenching, hilarious ... possibly one of the funniest plays you'll ever see, full stop." ★★★★★ -*The Guardian***

***MOJADA: A MEDEA IN LOS ANGELES***

**By Luis Alfaro; Directed by Juliette Carrillo**

**November 4 – November 26, 2017 | U.S. Bank Main Stage**

**Opening Night/Press Night: November 10 at 7:30 p.m.**

In this retelling of *Medea*, playwright Luis Alfaro blends tragedy, wry humor, Mexican folklore and a bracingly modern setting to unleash the power of Euripides' ancient tale, seen through the lens of immigrants in the United States.

- ***The Armory partners with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival to bring this production to Portland.***
- **"*Mojada* is unpretentious and entertaining ... Alfaro understands that humor can act as a kind of escape valve. Alfaro knows how to walk that line between thunderous naturalism and absurdist pulp, being as our lives often seem composed of both." -*Chicago Tribune***

***A CHRISTMAS MEMORY* PAIRED WITH *WINTER SONG***

***An Evening of Holiday Story and Song***

**November 18 – December 31, 2017 | Ellyn Bye Studio**

**Opening Night/Press Night: November 24 at 7:30 p.m.**

***A CHRISTMAS MEMORY***

**By Truman Capote; Directed by Brandon Woolley**

An autobiographical recollection of Truman Capote's rural Alabama boyhood, *A Christmas Memory* is a tiny gem of a holiday story, offering an unforgettable portrait of an odd but enduring friendship between two innocent souls — one young and one old — and the memories they share of beloved holiday rituals.

### ***WINTER SONG***

***-A World Premiere-***

**Created by Merideth Kaye Clark and Brandon Woolley; Directed by Brandon Woolley**

The brilliant singer Merideth Kaye Clark (*Fiddler on the Roof* and *The Last Five Years* at The Armory, *Wicked* national tour) and The Armory's Producing Associate Brandon Woolley are creating an original presentation of songs that celebrate winter holidays and all they represent: love, loss, family, solitude, renewal and friendship.

### ***THE SECOND CITY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL: TWIST YOUR DICKENS***

**By Peter Gwinn and Bobby Mort; Directed by Ron West**

**December 5 – December 31, 2017 | U.S. Bank Main Stage**

**Opening Night/Press Night: December 8 at 7:30 p.m.**

A complete send-up of the holiday classic, this adult comedy is adorned with the improvisational genius of the legendary comedy troupe The Second City, and includes zany holiday sketches, an ever-changing list of drop-in local celebrities and uproarious improv based on audience participation — it's never the same show twice! It has become a Portland holiday favorite, and will return in 2017 after runs at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and Goodman Theatre in Chicago this past season.

- **"Twist comes at humor from so many angles, with such irreverence and zeal, your amusement is practically guaranteed." -Oregon ArtsWatch**

### ***ASTORIA: PART TWO***

***-A World Premiere-***

**Adapted and Directed by Chris Coleman; Based on "ASTORIA: John Jacob Astor and Thomas Jefferson's Lost Pacific Empire, A Story of Wealth, Ambition, and Survival" by Peter Stark**

**January 20 – February 18, 2018 | U.S. Bank Main Stage**

**Opening Night/Press Night: January 26 at 7:30 p.m.**

Continuing the adventure of *Part One*, which told the stories of the expeditions by land and sea to establish trade routes to the Pacific Northwest, *Part Two* is about the extraordinary and ambitious endeavors leading to the establishment of Astoria, the first permanent United States settlement on the West Coast. **For those who missed it, a few reprise performances of *Astoria: Part One* will be offered, including opportunities to experience the full story in a one-day marathon.**

***KODACHROME***

**-A World Premiere-**

**By Adam Szymkowicz; Directed by Rose Riordan**

**February 3 – March 18, 2018 | Ellyn Bye Studio**

**Opening Night/Press Night: February 9 at 7:30 p.m.**

Welcome to Colchester, a small town where everybody knows each other and the pace of life allows the pursuit of love to take up as much space as it needs. Our tour guide is Suzanne, the town photographer, who lets us peek into her neighbors' lives to catch glimpses of romance in all its stages of development. A play about love, nostalgia, the seasons and how we learn to say goodbye.

- **A world premiere from the 2015 JAW festival (previously titled *Colchester*).**

***THE MAGIC PLAY***

**By Andrew Hinderaker; Directed by Halena Kays**

**March 3 – April 1, 2018 | U.S. Bank Main Stage**

**Opening Night/Press Night: March 9 at 7:30 p.m.**

A theater is a realm of illusion. So is a magic show. Playwright Andrew Hinderaker mashes these traditions together with alluring results. *The Magic Play* follows a young magician trying to get through a live show just hours after his partner has left him. As the performance progresses, he confronts the fact that the spectacular tricks that impress people on stage don't serve him as well when it comes to building truthful personal relationships. This mesmerizing new play questions the extent to which we must be honest with ourselves in order to be so with those we love.

- **"The real magic in this engrossing theatrical hybrid ... involves a very different bag of tricks altogether."**

*-Chicago Sun-Times*

## **AND SO WE WALKED**

**Written and Performed by DeLanna Studi; Directed by Corey B. Madden**

**March 31 – May 13, 2018 | Ellyn Bye Studio**

**Opening Night/Press Night: April 6 at 7:30 p.m.**

A frank, funny and sometimes misguided story of a contemporary Cherokee woman who goes on a six-week, 900-mile journey with her father along the Trail of Tears in search of her heroic self.

Through this personal odyssey, her sense of identity — both as a contemporary Cherokee and as a woman — is tested by the people and places she encounters.

- **DeLanna Studi plays Marie Dorion in *Astoria*, and then moves to the Ellyn Bye Studio to star in her own very personal play.**

## **MAJOR BARBARA**

**By George Bernard Shaw; Directed by Chris Coleman**

**April 14 – May 13, 2018 | U.S. Bank Main Stage**

**Opening Night/Press Night: April 20 at 7:30 p.m.**

When her daughters Sarah and Barbara are both engaged to be married, Lady Britomart decides to ask her estranged industrialist husband, Andrew Undershaft, for support. Barbara, a Major in the Salvation Army, agrees to let her father visit her mission in the East End of London. In exchange, she promises to visit his munitions factory. The clash between Barbara's philanthropic idealism and her father's hard-headed capitalism are at the heart of Shaw's witty and timely appraisal of capitalism, war, religion and politics.

- **"Shaw's masterpiece." -*The Irish Times***

## **LADY DAY AT EMERSON'S BAR AND GRILL**

**By Lanie Robertson; Directed by Bill Fennelly**

**May 26 – July 1, 2018 | U.S. Bank Main Stage**

**Opening Night/Press Night: June 1 at 7:30 p.m.**

Featuring iconic songs like "Strange Fruit," "God Bless the Child" and "What a Little Moonlight Can

Do,” *Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill* is an all-access pass to Billie Holiday’s final concert. With humor and hopefulness, the legendary singer takes us on a journey through the highs and lows of her tumultuous life, interspersed with exuberant renditions of her beloved repertoire.

### **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE AT THE ARMORY**

[Portland Center Stage at The Armory](#) is the largest theater company in Portland and among the top 20 regional theaters in the country. Established in 1988 as a branch of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the company became independent in 1994 and has been under the leadership of Artistic Director Chris Coleman since 2000. Around 160,000 visitors attend The Armory annually to enjoy a mix of classical, contemporary and world premiere productions, along with a variety of high quality education and community programs. 11 productions are offered each season, in addition to roughly 400 community events created — in partnership with 170+ local organizations and individuals — to serve the diverse populations in the city. As part of its dedication to new play development, the company has produced 21 world premieres and presents an annual new works festival, JAW: A Playwrights Festival. Home to two theaters, The Armory was the first building on the National Register of Historic Places, and the first performing arts venue, to achieve a LEED Platinum rating.

###