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## M E D I A   R E L E A S E

### ***A Streetcar Named Desire*, Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer Prize-winning Masterpiece, Completes Portland Center Stage's 2015-2016 Season**

**Previews Begin May 14 | Opening Night is May 20 | Must Close June 19**

**TICKETS STARTING AT \$25 — ON SALE NOW**



**April 28, 2016 – PORTLAND, OR.** Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, will begin preview performances at Portland Center Stage on May 14; open on May 20; and run through June 19 on the U.S. Bank Main Stage. PCS Artistic Director **Chris Coleman** will direct a cast that includes two actors from NBC's gripping new

drama *Game of Silence* – **Demetrius Grosse** and **Deidrie Henry** – in the roles of Stanley and Blanche.

**Kristen Adele** and **Keith Eric Chappelle** will join them as Stella and Mitch; along with seven Portland actors: **Bobby Bermea**, **Dana Millican**, **Gilberto Martin del Campo**, **Anya Pearson**, **David Bodin**, **Sofia May-Cuxim** and **Blake Stone**.

Speaking about the production after a recent rehearsal, Chris Coleman said, "I saw the movie eons ago, and of course it's one of the most famous plays in the English language. But I had never studied it. I find the story and emotional complexity of the writing thrilling. It's a dangerous, sexual, painful, layered dance between these fascinating characters. And the language is astounding. Hearing this story in the mouths of a group of primarily African American actors sounds at once like it was written for them, and as if you've never heard the story before."

**Regular tickets start at \$25.** Tickets may be purchased at [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org), 503.445.3700, or the Gerding Theater at the Armory box office (128 NW Eleventh Avenue, Portland, OR). Rush tickets are \$20.

Special \$30 tickets in premium seating areas for students and patrons who are 30 or younger. Showtimes are Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding May 29 and June 8, 12 and 18); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding May 14, 15, 21 and June 4 and 18); and Thursday matinees at noon (excluding May 19 and 16). Recommended for ages 14+. More information at <http://www.pcs.org/streetcar>.

## **ABOUT THE PLAY**

*A Streetcar Named Desire* is an exquisite study of the unraveling of Blanche DuBois, a fading southern belle. When she arrives unexpectedly on the doorstep of her sister, Stella, and her brother-in-law, Stanley, Blanche is clinging desperately to a persona designed to help her survive. Over the course of one hot, sultry New Orleans summer, Blanche's fragile facade slowly crumbles as she meets her match in the rough-hewn and hyper masculine Stanley, who is determined to expose her. Portland Center Stage will use a version of the script that was originally edited by Emily Mann for a Broadway production that opened in 2012 at the Broadhurst Theatre featuring a black cast. *A Streetcar Named Desire* is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

## **TENNESSE WILLIAMS**

Tennessee Williams (1911-1983) explored passion with daring honesty, and forged a poetic theater of raw psychological insight that shattered conventional proprieties and transformed the American stage. The autobiographical *The Glass Menagerie* brought what Williams called "the catastrophe of success," a success capped by *A Streetcar Named Desire*, one of the most influential works of modern American literature. An extraordinary series of masterworks followed, including *Vieux Carré*, *Sweet Bird of Youth*, *The Rose Tattoo*, *Orpheus Descending* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.



### **DEIDRIE HENRY**

Deidrie Henry returns to Portland to play Blanche after making her PCS debut in *Closer* in 2001. Henry's television credits include *The Riches*, *Criminal Minds*, *Justified*, *Glee*, *Twisted*, *Touch* and *ER*; she appeared in the films *Beyond the Lights* and *Beautiful Boy*; she also spent four seasons at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and most recently appeared on stage in Los Angeles in

*Raisin in the Sun* and *Parade* at Center Theatre Group.

## DEMETRIUS GROSSE

Demetrius Grosse makes his PCS debut in the role of Stanley. His television credits include *Banshee*, *Justified*, *Westworld*, *ER*, *Heroes*, *Criminal Minds*, *Glee*, *The Riches* and *Edison*; his film credits include *Straight Outta Compton*, *Saving Mr. Banks*, *13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi*, *This is Martin Bonner* (Sundance Audience Award), *The Inheritance*, *Studio*, *A Quiet Fire* (AOF Award), *Samaria* (DGA Award); and his recent theater credits include the Off-Broadway/national tour of *Black Angels Over Tuskegee* (NAACP Theatre Award).



## KRISTEN ADELE

Kristen Adele makes her PCS debut as Stella. Her television credits include *The Mysteries of Laura*, *The Good Wife*, *Blue Bloods* and *Orange is the New Black*. Her recent stage credits include *Desire* at New York Stage and Film, *Clybourne Park* at Cleveland Playhouse and *Jackie and Me* at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

## KEITH ERIC CHAPPELLE

Keith Eric Chappelle makes his PCS debut as Mitch. His television credits include *Madam Secretary*, *Elementary*, *Blue Bloods*, *The Good Wife*, *Person of Interest* and *Law & Order*. Chappelle was on Broadway in *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Cyrano de Bergerac*, with other recent theater credits at The Public Theatre, McCarter Theatre and more.



Completing the cast is a host of talented Portland actors. **Bobby Bermea** returns to play Steve, after making his PCS debut in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* in 2011. Six actors make their PCS debuts: **Dana Millican** will play Eunice; **Gilberto Martin del Campo** will play Pablo; **Anya Pearson** will play Creola; **David Bodin** will play A Doctor/Ensemble; **Sofia May-Cuxim** will play A Mexican Woman/A Nurse/Ensemble; and **Blake Stone** will play A Young Man/A Vendor/Ensemble.

## CREATIVE TEAM

PCS Artistic Director **Chris Coleman** will direct the production (most recently *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *Three Days of Rain* at PCS, and *Threesome* at 59E59 Theaters) joined by Scenic and Costume Designer **G.W. Mercier** (scenic designs for *Dreamgirls* and *Fiddler on the Roof* among others; PCS costume design debut); Lighting Designer **Ann G. Wrightson** (recently *Oklahoma*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Anna Karenina*); PCS Resident Sound Designer **Casi Pacilio** (recently *Great Expectations*, *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *Three Days of Rain*); and **Mary McDonald-Lewis** (Dialect Coach), **John Armour** (Fight Director), **Mark Tynan** (Stage Manager) and **Kristen Mun** (Production Assistant).

## CAST LIST

Deidrie Henry.....Blanche  
Kristen Adele.....Stella  
Demetrius Grosse.....Stanley  
Keith Eric Chappelle.....Mitch  
Dana Millican.....Eunice  
Bobby Bermea.....Steve  
Gilberto Martin del Campo.....Pablo  
Anya Pearson.....Creola  
David Bodin.....A Doctor/Ensemble  
Sofia May-Cuxim.....A Mexican Woman/A Nurse/Ensemble  
Blake Stone.....A Young Man/A Vendor/Ensemble

**Note:** PCS previously announced the role of Stanley would be played by Russell Hornsby; due to a scheduling conflict, Mr. Hornsby is unavailable.

## CREATIVE TEAM

Chris Coleman.....Director  
G.W. Mercier.....Scenic and Costume Designer  
Ann G. Wrightson.....Lighting Designer  
Casi Pacilio.....Sound Designer  
Mary McDonald-Lewis.....Dialect Coach  
John Armour.....Fight Director  
Mark Tynan.....Stage Manager  
Kristen Mun.....Production Assistant

## TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

**When:** May 14\* – June 9, 2016

\*Opening Night/Press Night is Friday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: May 14, 15, 17, 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m.

**Showtimes:** Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding May 29, June 8, 12 and 18);  
Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding May 14, 15, 21, June 4 and 18); and  
Thursday matinees at noon (excluding May 19 and June 16).

**Where:** On the U.S. Bank Main Stage at the [Gerding Theater at the Armory](#).  
128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland, Ore., 97209

**More Info:** <http://www.pcs.org/streetcar>

**To Purchase:** Regular tickets range from \$25 to \$75. Rush tickets are \$20. Students and patrons who are 30 or younger may purchase premium seating areas for \$30. Discounts for groups of 10+.

*Prices vary by date, time and seating area, and are subject to change.*

**Online:** [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org)

**By Phone:** 503.445.3700, 12–6 p.m.

**In Person:** PCS's box office is at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue  
12 p.m. to curtain on performance days  
12 to 6 p.m. on non-performance days

**Groups:** Discounts available for groups of 10+ by calling 503.445.3794.

**Please Note:** Recommended for ages 14+; contains mature content.

**Accessibility:** PCS is committed to making our performances and facilities accessible to all of our patrons. Learn more at <http://www.pcs.org/access/>.

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[Portland Center Stage](#) inspires our community by bringing stories to life in unexpected ways. Founded in 1988, PCS is the city's leading professional theater and one of the top 20 largest regional theater companies in the U.S. PCS attracts more than 150,000 theatergoers annually with its blend of classical, contemporary and premiere works, along with its summer playwrights festival, JAW. PCS also offers a variety of education and community programs tailored for patrons of all ages.

[The Gerding Theater at the Armory](#) houses the 590-seat U.S. Bank Main Stage and the 190-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.

[Portland Center Stage's 2015-2016 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank; Supporting Season Sponsors the Regional Arts and Culture Council, The Wallace Foundation, Work for Art and KINK FM. Support for *A Streetcar Named Desire* is provided by Curtis Thompson, MD and Associates; Argyle Winery; Keith and Sharon Barnes; Don and Mary Blair; John and Linda Carter; Dedre J. Marriott; Drs Ann Smith Sehdev and Paul Sehdev; Steven and Deborah Wynne/Moda; and 92.3 KGON. The official hotel partner for PCS is the Mark Spencer Hotel. PCS is a participant in the Wallace Foundation's [Building Audiences for Sustainability Initiative](#), a four-year effort with a nationwide cohort of 26 performing arts organizations. PCS also receives support from the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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