

Portland Center Stage at

# THE **ARMORY**

## **A CHRISTMAS MEMORY**

By Truman Capote

*-paired with-*

## **WINTER SONG**

By **Merideth Kaye Clark & Brandon Woolley**

Directed by **Brandon Woolley**

**November 24 – December 30, 2018**

**In the Ellyn Bye Studio**

Artistic Director | Marissa Wolf

Managing Director | Cynthia Fuhrman

Music Director  
**Mont Chris  
Hubbard**

Scenic Designer  
**Daniel Meeker**

Costume Designer  
**Paula Buchert**

Lighting Designer  
**Sarah Hughey**

Sound Designer  
**Casi Pacilio**

Stage Manager  
**Janine Vanderhoff**

Production Assistant  
**Alexis Ellis-Alvarez**

Featuring **Merideth Kaye Clark & Leif Norby**  
Accompanied by **Mont Chris Hubbard**

Original Underscore Music by **Mont Chris Hubbard**

Arrangements by **Merideth Kaye Clark & Mont Chris Hubbard**

Performed without intermission.

Videotaping or other photo or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

If you photograph the set before or after the performance, please credit the designers if you share the image.

The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

**Season Superstars:**

Tim & Mary Boyle

Umpqua Bank LCC

**Supporting Season Sponsors:**

RACC

Oregon Arts Commission

The Wallace Foundation

Artslandia

Arts Tax

**Show Sponsors:**

The Shubert Foundation

NW Natural

Delta Air Lines

Dr. Barbara Hort

**Studio Sponsor:**

Mary & Don Blair

**What She Said Sponsors**

*A Celebration of Women Playwrights*

Ronni Lacroute

Brigid Flanigan

Diana Gerding

Mary Boyle

## FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MARISSA WOLF

Welcome to the holiday season at Portland Center Stage at The Armory! It's drizzly outside, but warm and bright inside our theater. We hope you'll enjoy grabbing a hot drink and cozying up with us for these spirited, playful holiday shows.

One of the things I love about the 2018-2019 season lineup is that there's something for everyone. With wicked humor and stirring stories, our holiday shows give us the chance to laugh, celebrate, and reflect on our own personal holiday memories.

As a new Portlander myself, I'm thrilled to support two holiday shows that showcase the incredible work of our local artists on and off stage. From the on-your-toes improv in *Twist Your Dickens*, to intricate storytelling in *A Christmas Memory*, beautifully rendered songs in *Winter Song*, and the exceptional work of our artisans and crew members backstage, these teams bring phenomenal talent to the season.

Thank you for spending your winter holidays with us! We look forward to seeing you again in the new year with a slate of boisterous, relevant new plays.

All my best,  
*Marissa Wolf*

## **FROM THE DIRECTOR: BRANDON WOOLLEY**

It is a gift to be able to return to *A Christmas Memory* and *Winter Song* this holiday season. We had the privilege of creating this special pairing last year and it is an honor to share it once again. So often shows come and go, but The Armory has allowed us to revisit, refresh, and revitalize this unique piece.

Our show is about stories and memories: remembering days gone by, while also looking ahead. The nostalgia of *A Christmas Memory* reminds us of a simpler time, when happiness was the annual tradition of making fruitcake with an unlikely friend. And *Winter Song* has been lovingly created to allow you, our audience and co-storytellers, the chance to look within your own well of memories.

There's nothing better than sharing stories and songs. Enjoy a drink and a cookie, and relax into this cozy, birch tree-filled studio and let the words of Truman Capote and the lyrics of some of the best songwriters of our time fill you up during this winter season.

## **STORY & SONG**

Merideth Kaye Clark and Brandon Woolley first collaborated on Clark's performances of Joni Mitchell's album *BLUE*, which debuted in this space in 2015. In 2017, Portland Center Stage at The Armory commissioned Merideth and Brandon to create the world premiere

of *Winter Song* paired with Truman Capote's beloved holiday gem, *A Christmas Memory*, which Woolley also directed.

“Winter is the most emotionally complicated season. The music that it inspires is rich. There are, of course, holiday songs. But we were more interested in the music that captures other winter feelings. Traveling home or hunkering down in the cold. The loneliness and isolation the darkness brings. The gatherings of families and communities. The first day of winter, the solstice, is the shortest and darkest of the whole year. From there, every day is longer and brighter than the one before. Knowing that, feeling that, brings hope.” – Merideth Kaye Clark, Performer & Co-Creator of *Winter Song*

Want to take *Winter Song* home with you? Co-creators Merideth Kaye Clark and Brandon Woolley recently produced the *Winter Song* album. Learn more at [meridethkayeclark.com](http://meridethkayeclark.com)

## **THE MUSIC IN *WINTER SONG***

### **CAN'T FIND MY WAY HOME**

Written by Steve Winwood

Kobalt Music Publishing

## **HOME AGAIN**

Written by Carole King

Sony Music Publishing

## **SONG FOR A WINTER'S NIGHT**

Written by Gordon Lightfoot

Warner/Chappell Music Publishing

## **CANTIQUE DE NOËL**

Music by Adolphe Adam

Set to the poem "Minuit, chrétiens" by Placide Cappeau

## **TAKE 5**

Written by Paul Desmond

Desmond Music Company

## **MY FAVORITE THINGS**

Music by Richard Rodgers, Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Imagem Music Publishing

## **IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER**

Music by Gustav Holst

Set to the poem by Christina Rossetti

## **LITTLE TREE**

Music by Merideth Kaye Clark

Set to the poem by E.E. Cummings

## **DECK THE HALLS**

Lyrics by Thomas Oliphant

Music from the Welsh traditional "Nos Galan"

## **ANY PLACE I HANG MY HAT IS HOME**

Music by Harold Arlen, Lyrics by Johnny Mercer

Warner/Chappell Music Publishing

## **HOMeward BOUND**

Written by Paul Simon

Paul Simon Music Publishing

## **MEET THE ARTISTS**

### **Truman Capote, *Author of A Christmas Memory***

Truman (September 30, 1924-August 25, 1984) was born in New Orleans, LA. Early writings include *Other Voices, Other Rooms* (1948); *A Tree of Night and Other Short Stories* (1949); and *The Grass Harp* (1951), which Capote adapted into a play that debuted on Broadway in 1952. The novella *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1958; film adaptation by George Axelrod released in 1961) introduced the charming, hedonistic Holly Golightly. Childhood reflections formed the basis of two short stories, *A Christmas Memory* (1956) and *The Thanksgiving Visitor* (1968). Capote's groundbreaking novel *In Cold Blood* (1966) was a pioneering work in the true crime genre and the basis for three film adaptations, including the 2005 film *Capote*,



starring Philip Seymour Hoffman. Other works include *The Dogs Bark: Public People and Private Places* (1973) and *Answered Prayers*, an unfinished novel, published posthumously in 1987.

**Merideth Kaye Clark, Performer and Co-Creator of Winter Song**

Merideth has played definitive leading theatrical roles nationwide, such as Elphaba in the First National Tour of *Wicked*, Eva Perón in *Evita* (Northern Stage), Nancy in *Oliver!* (5th Avenue Theatre), and has originated roles in two Off-Broadway musicals. Clark is a sought after concert artist described as "plain astonishing" and "a masterful performer" with "powerhouse pipes." She is a multi-instrumentalist and plays anything with strings, most notably the guitar, dulcimer, and viola. Her solo album *Young Stellar Object* garnered critical praise from New York theater reviewers. Portland credits include: Cathy in *The Last Five Years* and Tzeitl in *Fiddler on the Roof* at Portland Center Stage at The Armory; Clara in *Light in the Piazza* at Portland Playhouse; and Lilli/Kathryn in *Kiss Me Kate* (Clackamas Repertory Theatre), as well as her acclaimed concert with Mont Chris Hubbard, Joni Mitchell's *BLUE*. Many thank yous to everyone who helped create this show!

**Leif Norby, Performer**

Leif was last seen in *Astoria: Part One and Two*. Other appearances at The Armory include: *Wild and Reckless*, *The Oregon Trail*, *Our Town*, *Cyrano*, *Othello*, *Anna Karenina*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *The 39 Steps*, *Ragtime*, and *Guys and Dolls*. Other recent Portland appearances include: *Adroit Maneuvers* (Lighthouse

Productions); *Man of La Mancha* (Lakewood Theatre Company); *In the Next Room* (Profile Theatre); *The God Game* (Brandon Woolley prod.); *Mr. Kolpert* and *Mystery of Irma Vep* (Third Rail Repertory Theatre); *And So It Goes ...* and *Red Herring* (Artists Repertory Theater); and *Beauty and the Beast* (Pixie Dust). TV credits include *Portlandia* and *Leverage*. Leif is a proud member of Actors' Equity. He sends love to his wife, Susie, and wishes you and yours a happy holiday!

### **Brandon Woolley, Director & Co-Creator**

Brandon is a director, producer, and collaborator in Portland, Oregon. Directing credits include: *Mary's Wedding, Sex with Strangers*, and *JAW: A Playwrights Festival* (The Armory); *Luna Gale, International Falls*, and *The Few* (CoHo Productions); *The God Game* (self-produced); *The End of Sex* (Theatre Vertigo); and *Dial M for Murder* (Bag&Baggage Productions). Brandon has worked on multiple shows at The Armory as an assistant director, including *Astoria: Part One and Two*, *LIZZIE*, *The Whipping Man*, *Red*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and *A Christmas Story*. He has also collaborated with The Oregon Symphony and Michael Curry on *Persephone*, and with Third Rail Repertory Theatre, Broadway Rose Theatre Company, and Live On Stage. From 2010 to 2018, Brandon worked at The Armory in various capacities, most notably as associate producer and JAW co-producer. Brandon currently serves as head of theatrical projects for Michael Curry Design. Much love to Sean. [brandonwoolley.me](http://brandonwoolley.me)

### **Mont Chris Hubbard, *Music Director & Accompanist***

Mont Chris is an accomplished Portland composer, performer, and music director. He is the creator and host of Portland's most endearingly-strange variety show, *The Mont Chris Hubbard Bonus Show*, and hosts an occasional late-night piano bar around town. He has released five CDs of solo piano improvisations, and his band Scotland Barr & The Slow Drags won the 2012 Portland Music Award for their final album, *We Will Be Forgotten*. He is a proud member of the American Federation of Musicians, the union of professional musicians, and a proud supporter of the labor movement. Despite his curmudgeonly disposition, he loves working on this show with Merideth, Leif, Brandon, Janine, and The Armory crew. [montchrishubbard.com](http://montchrishubbard.com)

### **Daniel Meeker, *Scenic Designer***

Previously at The Armory: lighting for *Twist Your Dickens*, *Lauren Weedman Doesn't Live Here Anymore* and *Wild and Reckless*; scenery for *The People's Republic of Portland* and *Red* (Drammy Award); and scenery and lighting for *Kodachrome*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *The Typographer's Dream*, *LIZZIE* (Drammy Award for Lighting), *The Last Five Years*, and *The Mountaintop*. Local design credits include shows for Portland Playhouse, Portland Opera, Oregon Children's Theater, Profile Theater, and Artists Repertory Theater. Outside of theater, Daniel is the lighting director for the Pickathon festival and the principal designer of The American Art Fair and The Winter Antiques Show. Daniel is a

graduate of Ithaca College and The Yale School of Drama, and a member of United Scenic Artists.

**Paula Buchert, *Costume Designer***

Paula has worked as a cutter/drafter in the costume shop for Portland Center Stage at The Armory for the past 16 seasons. She has also had the privilege of creating garments for singers, dancers, and actors at such venues as Seattle Opera, American Players Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Glimmerglass Opera, Pacific Northwest Ballet, The Shakespeare Theatre, and Portland Opera. She holds a degree in fine arts with a theater emphasis from the University of Wisconsin, as well as a degree in fashion design with a lingerie emphasis from the Fashion Institute of Technology. Paula lives in North Portland with her five companion house rabbits. She would like to thank her family for their love, support, and encouragement.

**Sarah Hughey, *Lighting Designer***

Sarah is happy to return to The Armory and this favorite holiday show. Other credits at The Armory include *Major Barbara* and two upcoming shows, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Crossing Mnisose*. Additional design credits include projects at Steppenwolf Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Northlight Theatre, City Theatre Company, Writers Theatre, Chicago Children's Theatre, Victory Gardens Theater, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, The Black Rep (St. Louis), and Court Theatre. Other upcoming projects include *As You Like It* at Guthrie Theater, *The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors* at

Oregon Children's Theatre, and *The Cake* at Asolo Repertory Theatre. She has taught lighting design at Northwestern University, Columbia College Chicago, and Willamette University. She holds an M.F.A. from Northwestern University and is a member of USA Local 829. [skhugheylighting.com](http://skhugheylighting.com)

### **Casi Pacilio, *Sound Designer***

Casi's home base is The Armory, where credits include sound design for over 40 productions and 12 seasons of JAW: A Playwrights Festival. National shows: Holcombe Waller's *Surfacing* and *Wayfinders*; *Left Hand of Darkness*, *My Mind is Like an Open Meadow* (Drammy Award, 2011), *Something's Got Ahold Of My Heart*, and *PEP TALK* for Hand2Mouth Theatre. Other credits include Squonk Opera's *Bigsmorgasbord-WunderWerk* (Broadway, PS122, national and international tours); *I Am My Own Wife*, *I Think I Like Girls* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Playland*, *10 Fingers*, and *Lips Together*, *Teeth Apart* (City Theatre, PA); *2.5 Minute Ride* and *Fires in the Mirror* (Profile Theatre). Film credits include *Creation of Destiny*, *Out of Our Time*, and *A Powerful Thang*. Imagineer/maker of the Eat Me Machine, a dessert vending machine.

### **Janine Vanderhoff, *Stage Manager***

Janine is thrilled to be back for her fourth season at The Armory. She recently stage managed *The Color Purple*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, and *Kodachrome*. Other favorites include: *Wild and Reckless*, *The Santaland Diaries*, *The Oregon Trail*, and *Great Expectations*. In New York, Janine worked on *The Lion*

*King*, as well as with many Off-Broadway and regional companies. Portland credits: *Sweeney Todd* (Portland Opera), *Play, How to End Poverty in 90 Minutes*, and *The Other Place* (Portland Playhouse). Touring: *The Graduate*, *Cats*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, and *Show Boat*. Production management: *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* “Democalypse 2012 Republican National Convention” (Tampa, FL); Straz Center (Tampa, FL); The Fox Theatre (Atlanta, GA). Proud NYU graduate and AEA member.

**Alexis Ellis-Alvarez, *Production Assistant***

Alexis is thrilled to be starting her first season as a stage management apprentice at Portland Center Stage at The Armory. Outside of Portland, she has worked at Huntington Theater Company as the production assistant for *Tartuffe*; ArtsEmerson as the assistant stage manager for the world premiere of *Mala*; and Cygnet Theatre as the production assistant for *Animal Crackers*, and the stage manager for staged readings of *Spamalot* and *Hair*. Alexis studied stage and production management at Emerson College, where she worked on *Antigone Project* as the stage manager and *Guys and Dolls* as the production assistant. Alexis would like to send love to her parents and sister, who have always been extremely supportive of her.

## **THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS OF A *CHRISTMAS MEMORY AND WINTER SONG***

### **NW NATURAL**

NW Natural grew up in the Pacific Northwest, and we feel a responsibility support the community. Along with our employees, we have a long history of working to make the communities we serve better places to live, work, and learn. Investing in the arts and cultural institutions that serve our region is one way we do this. We are proud to support Portland Center Stage at The Armory and the production of Truman Capote's family classic *A Christmas Memory* paired with *Winter Song*.

### **DELTA AIR LINES**

With 39 peak-day departures to 10 nonstop destinations, connecting to 600+ cities including Amsterdam, Tokyo and new service to London, Delta connects Portlanders not only to the arts in our home town but to destinations across America and the globe. Plan your next trip at [delta.com](http://delta.com).

### **DR. BARBARA HORT**

As we skitter around the holidays, seeking shelter from so much that is slick and superficial, we find *A Christmas Memory/Winter Song* to be a rare interlude of depth and delight. Leif and Merideth blend their prodigious talents and genuine warmth to create a space in which we can reconnect with the best of what the holidays mean to us. It is a pleasure and an honor to support this heartfelt

offering by two gifted artists and the theater that appreciates their gracious and authentic creativity.

## **LEAD CORPORATE CHAMPION**

### **Umpqua Bank**

Actors take chances. Sometimes they work. Sometimes they don't. But none of these actors would be on stage tonight without taking chances. It's part of growth, and we're all made to grow. That's why we're such a proud supporter of Portland Center Stage. Let this performance inspire you to take the chances that power your own growth.