

Portland Center Stage at

THE ARMORY

BUYER & CELLAR

By Jonathan Tolins

Directed by Rose Riordan

Starring Nick Cearley

January 19 – March 3, 2019

In the Ellyn Bye Studio

Artistic Director | Marissa Wolf

Managing Director | Cynthia Fuhrman

Scenic & Lighting
Designer

**Kristeen Willis
Crosser**

Costume Designer

Alex Meadows

Sound Designer

Casi Pacilio

Video Designer

Will Cotter

Stage Manager

Mark Tynan

Production

Assistant

Alexis Ellis-Alvarez

Performed without intermission.

Original Off-Broadway production produced by Darren Bagert, Dan Shaheen, and Ted Snowdon. World premiere produced by Rattlestick Playwrights Theater (David Van Asselt, Artistic Director; Brian Long, Managing Director).

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 Actor 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.

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FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MARISSA WOLF

In *Tiny Beautiful Things*, Sugar writes, “Be brave. Be brave enough to break your own heart. Look, we’re all going to die. Hit the iron bell like it’s dinnertime.” This full-throated appeal to life is precisely what makes our winter plays burst with luscious language, humor, and a wellspring of emotion. Built around powerful women — both seen and unseen on stage — the winter lineup offers an exuberant and passionate plunge into the depths of the human heart.

Kate Hamill’s adaptation of *Sense and Sensibility*, rendered with exquisite theatricality by director Eric Tucker, harnesses the playful, satirical writing of beloved novelist Jane Austen. We lean forward, rooting for the Dashwood sisters to scale the walls of their restrictive society with wit and intelligence.

Meanwhile, *Buyer & Cellar* is the best dish-session you’ve ever had! Directed with beautiful agility by Rose Riordan, this hilarious play takes wild turns that keep us on our toes, as the character Alex finds himself inside a fantasy world shared with icon Barbra Streisand.

Intimate emotional landscapes finds new form in *Tiny Beautiful Things*, where we are invited directly into Sugar’s home to encounter letters that range from the banal to the profound. Based on Cheryl Strayed’s advice column, this play offers an unflinching look at our most private hopes and sorrows.

“Hit the iron bell like it’s dinnertime.”

Welcome to The Armory! We’re so happy to ring out loud with you as we experience these plays together.

All my best,
Marissa Wolf

10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BARBRA STREISAND

The woman. The icon. The G.O.A.T.*

*Greatest Of All Time [*mic drop*]

- 1. Barbra Streisand is one of the best-selling recording artists of all time**, with more than 68.5 million albums in the U.S. and 150 million albums and singles sold worldwide.
- 2. More than just an E.G.O.T. winner** (an artist awarded an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony), Barbra is the only artist who has received the Directors Guild of America, Golden Globe, National Medal of Arts, and Peabody awards, as well as France’s Légion d’Honneur and the American Film Institute’s Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2015, President Barack Obama presented her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

3. **She was born 'Barbara,' but changed her name ... sort of.**

"Well, I was 18 and I wanted to be unique, but I didn't want to change my name because that was too false. Let's see, if I take out the 'a,' it's still 'Barbara,' but it's unique."

4. **Barbra is the only recording artist to have a number-one album in each of the last six decades.**

5. **For her first motion picture, *Funny Girl*, she won the 1968 Academy Award for Best Actress.**

6. With her song "Evergreen," from her 1976 hit film *A Star Is Born*, Barbra became **the first female composer to win an Academy Award.**

7. **She was almost Canada's First Lady.** Barbra was dating Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (father of current Prime Minister Justin Trudeau) in 1969, but turned down his marriage proposal.

8. **As the first woman to produce, direct, co-write, and star in a major motion picture, *Yentl* in 1983, Barbra fought tirelessly to make the film a reality and won the Golden Globe Award for Best Director. To date, she is the only woman to have won that category.**

9. As a champion of social justice, Barbra was awarded the Commitment to Life Award from AIDS Project L.A., the ACLU Bill of Rights Award, and a Humanitarian Award from the Human Rights Campaign. In a love letter to the LGBTQ community, she wrote: **“We’re all unique and beautiful in our own way and entitled to love and be loved by whomever we choose.”**
10. **Barbra’s underground mall is a verified fact.** Lady Gaga and *American Horror Story* creator Ryan Murphy were recently invited down to the mall. Ryan had this to say:

“We had dinner with Barbra and Jim [Brolin], and Kelly [Preston] and John [Travolta], and Gaga and I. That’s all the people who were invited. And after dinner, she said, ‘Do you want to see the mall?’ And Gaga and I were out of that chair so fast. ... We went down to the mall and spent an hour down there. She pulled out her collection of gowns from *Funny Girl* and *Hello, Dolly!* and then she said, ‘Do you want frozen yogurt?’ I could write a whole book about that night.”

MEET THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Nick Cearley, *Alex More*

Nick is thrilled to return to Portland Center Stage at The Armory after last being seen in *Little Shop of Horrors*. This is his eighth

production of *Buyer & Cellar*, and he is delighted to have performed the role more times than any other actor apart from original cast member Michael Urie. Nick is one-half of the critically acclaimed "undie"-rock comedy duo, The Skivvies, which will be performing at The Armory February 16, 17, and 18. The prestigious *OUT100* list named him one of the most "intriguing and compelling" LGBTQ actors of the year. Off-Broadway: Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Pageant: The Musical*, and *Sex Tips for Straight Women from a Gay Man*. He also appeared in the Broadway First National Tour of *All Shook Up*. Regional credits: Williamstown Theatre Festival, Bay Street Theater, Huntington Theatre Company, American Stage Theatre Company, TheatreWorks, New York Stage and Film, City Theatre, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Berkshire Theatre Group, B Street Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, Two River Theater, Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, Rubicon Theatre Company, American Conservatory Theater, and Bucks County Playhouse.

nickcearley.com

@clearlycearley | @theskivviesnyc

Jonathan Tolins, *Playwright*

Jonathan is the author of *Buyer & Cellar*, which was named "Best Unique Theatrical Experience" by the Off-Broadway Alliance when it premiered at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater. Other plays include *The Twilight of the Golds* (Broadway, Booth Theatre), *If Memory Serves* (Promenade Theatre), *The Last Sunday in June* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Century Center), and *Secrets of the Trade* (Primary Stages). A collection of his plays has been published by Grove/Atlantic. His film work includes *The Twilight of the Golds* and *Martian Child*. For television, he was a writer for *Queer as Folk*, the

Academy Awards, the Tony Awards, and *Partners*. He was the author of *Pushkin 200: A Celebration at Carnegie Hall*, acted as script consultant on *Walking with Dinosaurs: The Arena Spectacular*, and co-wrote *The Divine Millennium Tour* and *The Showgirl Must Go On* for Bette Midler. He has written articles for *Opera News*, *Opera Monthly*, *TheaterWeek*, *Time Magazine*, and *HuffPost*, and is a panelist on the Metropolitan Opera Radio Quiz. He lives in Fairfield, Connecticut, with his husband, the writer and director Robert Cary, and their children, Selina and Henry. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild and the Writers Guild of America.

Rose Riordan, Director

Rose is in her 21st season at Portland Center Stage at The Armory, where she serves as associate artistic director. She most recently directed *A Life*, *Kodachrome*, *Our Town*, and *The Oregon Trail*. Other directing favorites include: *The Typographer's Dream*, *LIZZIE*, *The Mountaintop*, *The Whipping Man*, *The North Plan*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *A Christmas Story*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Receptionist*, *How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found*, and *The Pillowman*. In 1999, she founded the annual JAW: A Playwrights Festival. JAW has been instrumental in developing new work for The Armory repertory, including this season's production of *A Life* and Storm Large's *Crazy Enough*, as well as *Kodachrome*, *The People's Republic of Portland*, *The North Plan*, *The Thugs*, and *A Feminine Ending*. She enjoys being part of a company committed to new play development and having a beautiful building in which to work.

Kristeen Willis Crosser, *Scenic & Lighting Designer*

Kristeen is thrilled to return to Portland Center Stage at The Armory after designing lighting for *Sex with Strangers* and *Mary's Wedding*. Regional theater credits include lighting designs for A Contemporary Theatre and Triad Stage. Her Portland area design credits include *I and You* and *Between Riverside and Crazy* at Artists Repertory Theatre; *The Night Alive* and *Or*, at Third Rail Repertory Theatre; *Snow White* and *Little Red "Riding Hood"* at Northwest Children's Theater and School; *Goosebumps the Musical: Phantom of the Auditorium* and *Fly Guy: The Musical* at Oregon Children's Theater; *Buried Child* and *Thief River* at Profile Theatre; *The Outgoing Tide* and *Luna Gale* at CoHo Productions; and *Oedipus El Rey* at Milagro Theatre.

Alex Meadows, *Costume Designer*

Alex is thrilled to be designing costumes for *Buyer & Cellar*. Regional design credits include shows for TimeLine Theatre, Next Theatre, Organic Theatre Company, Famous Door Theatre, Shattered Globe Theatre, Classical Kids Live, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, and Monomy Theatre in Massachusetts. He received a Jeff Award nomination for *The General from America* at TimeLine Theatre. Alex is the costume shop manager at Portland Center Stage at The Armory and is an adjunct instructor in costume design at Portland State University. He also previously managed the costume shop at Loyola University and taught costume design and costume construction. Alex holds an M.F.A. in costume design from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and a B.A. in theater design from UNC Asheville.

Casi Pacilio, *Sound Design*

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.

Will Cotter, *Projection Designer*

Will makes multimedia art in Portland and other places. Previously, he designed video for *Kodachrome* at Portland Center Stage at The Armory. Chicago credits include dramaturgical research on the world premieres of *The Humans* and *The Project(s)* at American Theater Company, where he also designed projections. In Los Angeles, Will devised *Paradise* and *Moony's Kid Don't Cry* at The Edgemar Center for the Arts, produced by James Franco and Rabbit Bandini Productions. Will is a producing associate at The Armory and a proud member of its devised theater ensemble. He received his B.F.A. at CalArts.

Mark Tynan, *Stage Manager*

Imagine being in a room full of artists, watching the birth of an idea,

a movement given purpose, a sentence, phrase, scene, act given life. Then imagine that room translating to the stage with lighting, sound, costumes, scenery, and props; then you can imagine what Mark's job is like. Special thanks to the stage management apprentices, Alexis Ellis-Alvarez, Molly Reed, and Sarah Stark. Prior to The Armory, Mark toured nationally and internationally with musicals including *Dreamgirls*, *The King and I* with Rudolf Nureyev, *How to Succeed ...*, *Grand Hotel*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Rent*, and *Jersey Boys*. Other Portland credits include several summers with Broadway Rose Theatre Company in Tigard. Regional credits include Alley Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, and Casa Mañana Theatre.

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 BUYER & CELLAR

KELLY DOUGLAS & ERIC SCHOENSTEIN

Although we are not traditional theatergoers ourselves, we love the amazing performances Portland Center Stage at The Armory produces. Without the community's support, this level of professional theater could not be maintained. That is why we are proud to sponsor *Buyer & Cellar*. We look forward to the theater's next 30 years!

YUKI LYNNE & CRAIG JOHNSTON

We are proud to support Portland Center Stage at The Armory and the classics, musicals, new works, and clever comedies it brings to Portland audiences. We believe in the magic of theater — especially in its power to engage and inspire young people. Could watching this play inspire someone to capture a similar what-if scenario and turn it into a play and then a career in theater? We hope so.

HELEN STERN & FAMILY

I am proud to have been associated as a donor for over 30 years, beginning with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. From those beginnings, Portland Center Stage at The Armory has become one of the biggest theaters and greatest in the Northwest in its own

right. It is an honor to be a supporter, a fan in the audience, and a booster for *Buyer & Cellar*. Here's to the next 30 years!