

Portland Center Stage at

THE ARMORY

CRAZY ENOUGH

Written & Performed by Storm Large

Music Co-created by

Storm Large & James Beaton

June 25 – 30, 2019

On the U.S. Bank Main Stage

Artistic Director | Marissa Wolf

Managing Director | Cynthia Fuhrman

CRAZY ENOUGH

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Music Director
James Beaton

Scenic Designer
Derek Easton

Lightning Designer
Daniel Meeker

Sound Designer
Evan Duckworth

Stage Manager
Mark Tynan

THE BAND

James Beaton
Keys

Scott Weddle
Guitar

Matthew Brown
Bass

Greg Eklund
Drums

Performed with no intermission.

Crazy Enough was originally conceived by Chris Coleman and commissioned by Portland Center Stage at The Armory. *Crazy Enough* was developed at JAW: A Playwrights Festival in 2008 and had its world premiere production at The Armory in the Ellyn Bye Studio in 2009.

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 Manager 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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TAKING THE ARMORY BY STORM

This historic building has seen its fair share of ammunition, but nothing has ever exploded onto our stage quite like Storm Large. Here's a little blast from the past of our flaming hot relationship with Storm.

“When you write a song, you hope it's a hit. There's a combination of rhythm, melody, and harmony that makes you jump up and down, and you hope it hits everybody else the same way. So maybe this show can help other people who feel like freaks and misfits. It might help them to hear how I made it through.” –Storm Large in an interview with *The Oregonian* in 2009 before *Crazy Enough* opened.

Storm made her Portland Center Stage at The Armory debut in 2007 as Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*. The show was a smash hit. It also stoked the fires of Storm's love of theater and ultimately paved the way for *Crazy Enough*.

Crazy Enough was the first theater piece Storm had ever written. Fortunately, she had help from a crack team of local writers who supported her throughout the process. Dubbed the “Big Brain Trust,” it included Marc Acito, Courtenay Hameister, Christine McKinley, Cynthia Whitcomb, and Daniel H. Wilson. Back in 2009, prior to the world premiere of *Crazy Enough*, Marc Acito reflected on the development process:

“When I think of Storm, I think of how she thinks, of a woman whose brain roams to the outer reaches of acceptability and whose mouth runs right along with it. ... Every artist needs outside perspective. In Storm's case, it was particularly necessary because writing this show required that she take a long walk deep into the forest of her own life, which, as

you will soon learn, was often a dark and scary place. The rest of us sat at the mouth of the forest, picnicking and enjoying Storm's songs and tales, occasionally consulting the map or stepping in to hack away some brambles so she could swing from the trees. ... And, like you will at this performance, we reveled in the sheer force of nature that is Storm Large."

Storm wrote eight new songs for *Crazy Enough*, with the help of longtime collaborator and co-founder of The Balls, James Beaton. They released a studio recording to coincide with the opening. It's still available at cdbaby.com for those who didn't snag it the first time around.

Crazy Enough blazed onto the stage on April 3, 2009. It was originally slated for 8 weeks in the Ellyn Bye Studio, but it became a massive hit. After selling out almost every performance, the show was extended twice and played for 143 performances. To this day, it is still the longest-running production in our company's history.

The extensions meant a special treat. On June 25, 2009, Storm played a performance of *Crazy Enough* on her 40th birthday. We surprised her by handing out party hats at the door and having the entire audience sing to her after the performance. She was floored. Now, 10 years later, we get the enormous honor of sharing another milestone with this incredible woman. This year's run kicks off on her 50th birthday! So thank you for coming out for this landmark reunion. Please join us as we raise a glass and keep the celebrations running all week long for the one-and-only STORM LARGE.

Written by Claudie Jean Fisher, Associate Director of Marketing & Communications

STORM LARGE, *Writer and Performer*

Storm is a musician, actor, playwright, and author. She shot to national prominence in 2006 as a finalist on CBS's *Rock Star: Supernova*. Storm spent the '90s singing in clubs throughout San Francisco. She moved to Portland to pursue a career as a chef, but a last-minute cancellation in 2002 at Dante's turned into a standing Wednesday night engagement for Storm and her new band, The Balls. It wasn't long before she had a cult-like following in Portland and a renewed singing career that was soon to be launched onto the international stage. Storm made her debut at Portland Center Stage at The Armory in 2007 as Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*. The company then commissioned her to create the autobiographical musical *Crazy Enough*, which she developed JAW: A Playwrights Festival in 2008. *Crazy Enough* premiered in 2009 in the Ellyn Bye Studio, playing to packed houses during a record-breaking 143-performance run. The show inspired Storm's album and memoir of the same name. The memoir was named Oprah's Book of the Week and won the Oregon Book Award for Creative Nonfiction. Storm went on to perform a cabaret version of *Crazy Enough* at Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the Adelaide Festival in Australia, and Joe's Pub at The Public Theater in New York. In 2011, she made her debut as guest vocalist with the band Pink Martini, singing four sold-out concerts with the National Symphony Orchestra at The Kennedy Center. She continues to perform with the band, touring nationally and internationally. As a soloist, Storm has made repeated appearances at Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, and The Hollywood Bowl. Storm has also sung with Grammy-winner k.d. lang, pianist Kirill Gerstein, punk rocker John Doe, singer/songwriter Rufus Wainwright, and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer George Clinton. Storm and her band Le Bonheur also tour concert halls across the country.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

James Beaton, *Music Director/Keys*

Originally from the Bronx in New York City, James is an award-winning composer, music director, and pianist living in Portland, Oregon. After graduating from The Evergreen State College, he toured and recorded extensively with the rock band Everclear, with numerous appearances on film and television, before co-founding the notorious cabaret band The Balls. With Storm Large, his collaborator for nearly two decades, James composed and music directed *Crazy Enough*, which debuted at Portland Center Stage at The Armory in 2009, with further productions in Australia and at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Since 2010, they have premiered new works annually with the Oregon Symphony. In 2014, James was nominated for a Drammy Award for the musical direction of the rock opera *Lizzie*. James continues to compose and tour internationally. He is delighted to be returning to The Armory.

Scott Weddle, *Guitar*

Scott is originally from Montana and graduated from Lewis and Clark College. He was a member of the Portland Americana band The Flatirons before founding the Portland group Amelia. Scott played drums in the original 2009 production of *Crazy Enough* and has accompanied Storm on the guitar ever since. He returned to Portland Center Stage at The Armory in 2014 to play guitar in *LIZZIE*. Scott also records and performs with his talented singer/songwriter wife, Sarah Gwen, and makes music under the name Neighbor Boy.

Matthew Brown, *Bass*

Born in Oregon, Matt is a multi-instrumentalist who studied music at the University of North Texas and Mount Hood Community College. Matt currently plays regularly with Storm Large, Redray Frazier, and Miss

Michael Jodell. He's also been a member of She & Him, The Motels, and The Baseboard Heaters.

Greg Eklund, *Drums*

Unable to be involved in the original debut of *Crazy Enough* due to the birth of his second child, Greg was asked by Storm and James to play on *Crazy Enough's* original soundtrack. He joined Storm's band later that year, and for the last decade has performed with her on stage from Portland's own Dante's to The Kennedy Center and the Sydney Opera House. He performed in *Crazy Enough* at Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2010 and the Adelaide Cabaret Festival in 2011. For his work with '90s Portland rock band Everclear, Greg was inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame in 2012. He would like to thank his wife, Ellina, and sons, Desmond and Dekker, for their love and support over the past 10 years.

Derek Easton, *Scenic Designer*

Derek is excited to be working as a scenic designer for Portland Center Stage at The Armory for the first time, starting small and looking forward to the next opportunity. Derek has also been The Armory's technical director for the last two years. His past credits include scenic, lighting, and video design for over 50 shows at Theatre Cedar Rapids in Iowa, as well as being the company's technical director for seven years. Prior to that, Derek worked for Actors Theatre of Louisville's lighting department, and did lighting design work with Aspen Music Festival and School's opera program, Theatreworks, in Colorado Springs and for StageOne Family Theatre in Louisville. If interested in seeing more of his work, visit derek-easton.com.

Daniel Meeker, *Lighting Designer*

Portland Center Stage at The Armory: lighting for *Twist Your Dickens*, *Lauren Weedman Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, and *Wild and*

Reckless; scenery for *A Christmas Memory/Winter Song*, *The People's Republic of Portland*, and *Red* (Drammy Award); 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 Theatre, Profile Theater, and Artists Repertory Theatre. Outside of theater, Daniel is the lighting director for Pickathon 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.

Evan Duckworth, *Sound Designer*

Evan is excited to pick up his first design credit here at The Armory. Hailing from Chicago, he bounced around the Midwest mixing and programming before making his way out to Portland last July. Recent credits include programming work for Steppenwolf Theatre Company's 2017-2018 season, serving as A1 for *Million Dollar Quartet* at The Little Theatre on the Square, and returning to his alma mater to design *The Phantom of the Opera*. Since starting at The Armory, he has served as A1 on *The Color Purple* and *Sense and Sensibility*.

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 Portland Center Stage at 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.

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS OF *CRAZY ENOUGH*

Curtis T. Thompson M.D. & Associates

Curtis T. Thompson M.D. and Associates is thrilled to again sponsor Storm Large's *Crazy Enough*. Storm's compelling and personal story, paired with lively, touching, and sometimes raw music, makes this production an amazing experience!

The Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation/Arlene Schnitzer & Jordan D. Schnitzer

We believe theater is a reflection of our lives. We are very lucky to have Portland Center Stage at The Armory bring such thought-provoking work to our community. The Harold and Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation is proud to support this production of *Crazy Enough*. We have such respect and admiration for Storm Large's talent, and we're thrilled she has made Portland her home.