

Portland Center Stage at

THE **ARMORY**

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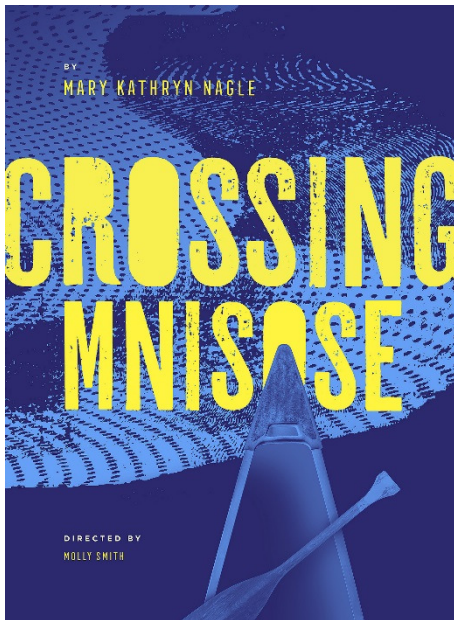
M E D I A R E L E A S E

MARY KATHRYN NAGLE'S *CROSSING MNISOSE* WEAVES TOGETHER
SACAJAWEA'S STORY WITH THE CONTEMPORARY FIGHT
TO PROTECT THE MNISOSE (MISSOURI RIVER)

A Northwest Stories World Premiere

Previews Begin April 13 | Opening Night is April 19 | Closes May 5

Tickets start at \$25



March 13, 2019 — PORTLAND, OR. Mary Kathryn Nagle's world premiere play *Crossing Mnisose* weaves together Sacajawea's story with that of the contemporary fight to protect the Mnisose (what Europeans named the Missouri River) from the Dakota Access Pipeline. As in her celebrated plays *Manahatta* and *Sovereignty*, Nagle draws a clear, urgent line between the past and the present. Nagle's frequent collaborator Molly Smith (*Sovereignty* at Arena Stage) will direct.

Crossing Mnisose was commissioned by Portland Center Stage at The Armory for its Northwest Stories series.

"We've heard the Sacajawea story through the diaries of Meriwether Lewis and some heroic statues. Thankfully, thrilling writers like Mary Kathryn Nagle are telling Sacajawea's story from a Native American point of view," Smith said. "The fight for the Missouri River (Mnisose) is past and present in our play *Crossing Mnisose*. In both 1805 and 2016, the fight is visceral; the present story

is informed by the bloodlines of the past.”

Nathalie Standingcloud (Nagle’s *Return to Niobrara* at The Rose Theater) makes her debut at The Armory as Sacajawea/Carey, leading a cast of Nick Ferrucci, Gavin Hoffman, Sera-Lys McArthur, Robert I. Mesa, and Chris Murray.

The Armory will host several free community events surrounding *Crossing Mnisose*, including pre-show happy hours with Mt. Hood Cherokees and the Columbia Land Trust, and an art exhibit on the gallery level featuring Native artists chosen by Nagle.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Crossing Mnisose tells the story of one of America's first feminists, Sacajawea. The play draws a line from a completely original view of Lewis and Clark to the present day, where descendants of the Dakota and Lakota Nations continue their fight to protect the Mnisose and the lands that contain the burials of their ancestors. From celebrated playwright, activist, and attorney Mary Kathryn Nagle, whose *Manhatta* captivated audiences at Oregon Shakespeare Festival last season.

THE PLAYWRIGHT

Mary Kathryn Nagle is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation. She currently serves as the executive director of the Yale Indigenous Performing Arts Program. She is also a partner at Pipestem Law, P.C., where she works to protect tribal sovereignty and the inherent right of Indian Nations to protect their women and children from domestic violence and sexual assault. Nagle is an alumna of the 2012 Public Theater Emerging Writers Group, where she developed her play *Manhatta* in Public Studio (2014). Productions include *Miss Lead* (Amerinda Inc., 59E59 Theaters, 2014), *Fairly Traceable* (Native Voices at the Autry, 2017), *Sovereignty* (Arena Stage, 2018), *Manhatta* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival, 2018), and *Return to Niobrara* (The Rose Theater, 2019).

THE CAST

The following cast members will be making their debut at The Armory: Sera-Lys McArthur (Off-

Broadway: *Smoke and Sacagawea: Bird Woman*) will play Otter Woman/Rose, Robert I. Mesa (Tecumseh in the miniseries *The Men Who Built America: Frontiersmen*, 2018) will play Coyote/Travis, and Nathalie Standingcloud (*Return to Niobrara* at The Rose Theater, Sterlin Harjo's *Mekko*, 2015) will play Sacajawea/Carey. Returning to The Armory are Nick Ferrucci (*Astoria: Part One and Two*, JAW: A Playwrights Festival) who will play Meriwether Lewis/Colonel; Gavin Hoffman (*Major Barbara*, *Astoria: Part One and Two*) who will play Charbonneau/Carl; and Chris Murray (*Sense and Sensibility*, *Major Barbara*) who will play Captain Clark/Patrick Morgan.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Director Molly Smith (the artistic director at Arena Stage) leads a creative team that includes Tony Award-winning Scenic Designer Todd Rosenthal (Broadway: *August: Osage County*, *The Motherf**ker with the Hat*), Costume Designer Alison Heryer (*Sense and Sensibility*, *Fun Home*), Lighting Designer Sarah Hughey (*Sense and Sensibility*, *A Christmas Memory*/ *Winter Song*), Sound Designer Roc Lee (*Snow Child*, *The Price* at Arena Stage), Text Director and Vocal Coach Anita Maynard-Losh (*Sovereignty* at Arena Stage), Fight Director Kristen Mun (*The Color Purple*), Dramaturg Benjamin Fainstein (*Astoria: Part One and Two*), Stage Manager Mark Tynan, and production assistants Lilo Alfaro and Alexis Ellis-Alvarez. Glenn Drapeau (Cultural Consultant, Yankton Sioux Nation) and Lauren Cordova (Cultural Consultant, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes) round out the creative team.

NORTHWEST STORIES SERIES

Portland Center Stage at The Armory's Northwest Stories series is a celebration of the essence of the region. From fresh looks at history to dynamic explorations of contemporary culture, Northwest Stories blends adventurous storytelling with local impact, all created with the immediacy and vibrancy that only live performance can bring. This season's Northwest Stories offerings include the world premiere of Mary Kathryn Nagle's *Crossing Mnisose*, along with *Winter Song*, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, and the return engagement of Storm Large's *Crazy Enough*.

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: April 13 – May 5, 2019*

*Opening Night/Press Night: Friday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: April 13, 14, 16, 17, and 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: On the U.S. Bank Main Stage at [The Armory](#)

128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland, Ore., 97209

To Purchase: Regular tickets range from \$25 to \$87. Tickets may be purchased at www.pcs.org, 503.445.3700, or in-person from the box office (128 NW Eleventh Avenue, Portland, OR). Rush tickets are \$20. Students; patrons who are 30 or younger; and active duty or veteran military personnel and their families get 50% off tickets in seating areas 1-3. \$5 tickets are available for Oregon Trail Card holders through the Arts for All program. *All prices vary by date and time, and are subject to change.*

Online: www.pcs.org

By Phone: 503.445.3700, 12–6 p.m.

In Person: The box office is at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue

12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on performance days

12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on non-performance days

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

More Info: www.pcs.org/crossing

Showtimes: Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding April 28); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding April 13, 14 and 20); and Thursday matinees at noon (excluding April 18).

Please Note: Recommended for ages 16 and up. Contains adult situations and explicit language.

Accessibility: Learn about our accessibility options at www.pcs.org/access.

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 is under the leadership of Artistic Director Marissa Wolf and Managing Director Cynthia Fuhrman. Around 150,000 visitors attend The Armory annually to enjoy a mix of classic, contemporary, and world premiere productions, along with a variety of high quality education and community programs. Eleven 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 26 world premieres and presents an annual new works festival, JAW: A Playwrights Festival. Home to two theaters, The Armory (originally built in 1891) opened its doors in 2006 as the first building on the National Register of Historic Places, and the first performing arts venue in the country, to achieve a LEED Platinum rating.

THE 2018-2019 SEASON

The [2018-2019 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank. Further support comes from Season Sponsors the Regional Arts and Culture Council, and Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the state of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Wallace Foundation. Support for *Crossing Mnisose* comes from the Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation; Jess Dishman; Hilary Krane and Kelly Bulkeley; Dedre J. Marriott; Stoel Rives, LLP; Moda; the National Endowment for the Arts; and Women's Series Sponsors Ronni Lacroute, Brigid Flanigan, Diana Gerding, and Mary Boyle. Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner for the company. Portland Center Stage at The Armory was selected as a participant of the Wallace Foundation's [Building Audiences for Sustainability Initiative](#), a four-year effort with a nationwide cohort of 26 performing arts organizations.

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