

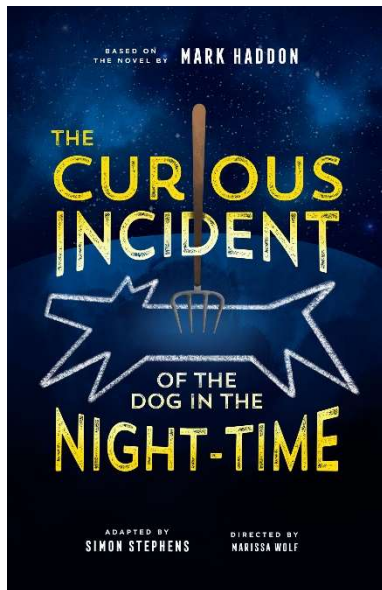
M E D I A R E L E A S E

**TONY AWARD-WINNING PLAY OF BEST-SELLING NOVEL
THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME TO OPEN AT
PORTLAND CENTER STAGE AT THE ARMORY**

*** Introducing The Armory's First Sensory-Friendly Performance ***

"Dazzling, pulse-pounding, and remarkable." – *Time Out New York*

Previews Begin Feb. 29 | Opening Night is Mar. 6 | Closes Apr. 5



Jan. 27, 2020 — PORTLAND, OR. The Tony award-winning play based on the 2003 best-selling novel, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* will open at Portland Center Stage at The Armory this March. The production follows Christopher, an exceptionally intelligent (and exceptionally honest) 15-year-old boy on the autism spectrum who is under suspicion of killing his neighbor's dog. Determined to find the true culprit, Christopher's detective work takes him on a deeply personal quest that upturns his world.

Portland Center Stage Artistic Director Marissa Wolf, who previously directed *Curious Incident* at Kansas City Repertory Theatre, will direct. "*Curious Incident* is powerful, funny, and deeply life affirming," said Wolf, "I love the way the play invites us into Christopher's world, and audiences get to experience a hero's quest through the lens of this brilliant teenage boy, for whom autism is both a challenge and a super power."

Several artists from the KCREp production will join The Armory's production, including Jamie Sanders, who reprises his starring role as Christopher. *PerformInk Kansas City* wrote that Sanders' "generous and vulnerable Christopher is captivating, believable, and a true delight."

While at KCRep, Sanders talked about how having Tourettes Syndrome informs his portrayal of Christopher. “I have a different set of circumstances than Christopher. I have Tourettes, and it causes me to be sensitive to the world around me, particularly to touch and sound,” Sanders said. “Like Christopher, I perceive rules in the world that I have to follow but that no one else sees, and for me that’s an everyday reality.”

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is based on Mark Haddon’s best-selling novel of the same name. It was adapted for the stage by Simon Stephens and received its world premiere at the Royal National Theatre in 2012, before moving to the West End. The play opened on Broadway in 2014, and went on to tour internationally.

Various community events will be held surround the show, including discussions with cast, crew, and community guests, a pre-show musical performance by PHAME Academy, and a gallery show featuring work by artists with autism.

There will also be a special sensory-friendly performance of *Curious Incident* on March 31, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. This family-friendly performance is designed to be enjoyed by all, and will include some changes for those who are on the autism spectrum or have other sensory issues. The production and theater environment will be altered, including modifications to sound and lighting. Patrons are invited to make sounds, enter and exit as needed during the performance. A quiet space will be available for people who want a break.

PLAYWRIGHT

Simon Stephens is an award-winning playwright whose plays have been translated into more than 30 languages and produced all over the world. He is a professor of playwriting at Manchester Metropolitan University, an associate playwright at the Royal Court Theatre, the artistic associate at the Lyric Hammersmith in London, and the Steep Associate Playwright at Steep Theatre in Chicago. His work includes *Bluebird*, *Hérons*, *Port*, *Christmas*, *Country Music*, *On the Shore of the Wide World*, *Motortown*, *Harper Regan*, *Sea Wall*, *Pornography*, *Punk Rock*, *The Trial of Ubu*, *A Thousand Stars Explode in the Sky*, *Marine Parade*, *Wastwater*, *I am the Wind*, and *Three*

Kingdoms. TV credits include an adaptation of *Pornography* for Coming Up (Channel 4) and *Dive* (Granada/BBC).

AUTHOR

Mark Haddon is a British novelist and poet. He was educated at Uppingham School and Merton College, Oxford, where he studied English. Haddon won the 2003 Whitbread Book of the Year Award and the 2004 Commonwealth Writers' Prize Overall Best First Book for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. His second adult novel, *A Spot of Bother*, was published in 2006. Haddon is known for his series of *Agent Z* books, one of which, *Agent Z and the Penguin from Mars*, was made into a 1996 Children's BBC sitcom. He also wrote the screenplay for the 2004 BBC television adaptation of Raymond Briggs's story *Fungus the Bogeyman* and the 2007 BBC television drama *Coming Down the Mountain*. Haddon lives in Oxford with his wife Dr. Sos Eltis, a fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford, and their two young sons.

THE CAST

Walter Copping (*Fences* at Kansas City Repertory Theatre), **Bree Elrod** (*Coriolanus* at The Public Theater), **Nicole Marie Green** (*Pride and Prejudice* at KCRep), and **Jamie Sanders** (*The Seagull* for Hunter Theater Project) all return to *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* following KCRep's production. They're joined by Portland favorites **Ayanna Berkshire** (*The Revolutionists* at Artists Repertory Theatre), **Delphon "DJ" Curtis Jr.** (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*), **Karl Hanover** (*In the Next Room or the vibrator play* at Profile Theatre), **Treasure Lunan** (*School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play*), **Leif Norby** (*Tiny Beautiful Things*), and **Ithica Tell** (*Hedwig*).

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Marissa Wolf (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*) leads the creative team, which includes Choreographer **Erika Chong Schuch** (*The Heal*, a Getty Villa Outdoor Theater Production), Scenic Designer **Arnulfo Maldonado** (*Off-Broadway: Paris*), Costume Designer **Alison Heryer** (*Redwood*), Lighting Designer **Robert Aguilar** (*In the Heights*), Associate Choreographer and Dance Captain **Natalie Greene**, Stage Manager **Mark Tynan**, Production Assistant **Danny Rosales**, Neurodiversity Consultant **Christine McNair**, and Dialect Coach **Scott Stackhouse**.

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: Feb. 29 – Apr. 5, 2020*

*Opening Night/Press Night: Friday, Mar. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: Feb. 29 and Mar. 1, 3, 4, and 5 at 7:30 p.m.

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

128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland, OR, 97209

To Purchase: Regular tickets range from \$25 to \$92. Tickets may be purchased at www.pcs.org, 503.445.3700, or in-person from the box office (128 NW Eleventh Avenue, Portland, OR). Ticket specials are listed at www.pcs.org/deals. Rush tickets are \$25. Students and patrons who are 30 or younger get 50% off tickets in seating areas 1-3. Active duty or veteran military personnel and their families get \$15 off regular adult tickets. \$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/curious
- **By Phone:** 503.445.3700, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday – Sunday
- **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., Tuesday – Sunday, on non-performance days
- **Groups:** Discounts available for groups of 10+ by calling 503.445.3794.

More Info: www.pcs.org/curious

Showtimes: Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding March 15, 24, 29 and April 5), Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding Feb. 29 and March 1, 7, and 21); and Thursday matinees at 11 a.m. (excluding March 5).

Please Note: Recommended for ages 13 and up. Contains adult situations and explicit language.

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

IDEA: Portland Center Stage at The Armory is committed to identifying and interrupting instances of racism and all forms of oppression, through the principles of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA). www.pcs.org/idea

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 160,000 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. Ten productions are offered this season, in addition to hundreds of community events created to serve the diverse populations in the city. As part of its dedication to new play development, the company has produced 28 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 2019-2020 SEASON

The [2019-2020 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle, Mary and Don Blair, and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank. Further support comes from Season Sponsors Advance Gender Equity in the Arts (AGE); the Regional Arts and Culture Council; and the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the state of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts. Support for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* comes from Brigid Flanigan, GBD Architects, Judith Goldsmith, and Dr. Barbara Hort.

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