

## MEDIA RELEASE

The Monsters are Among Us This Holiday Season,  
with an all-new *Dracula* adaptation at Portland Center Stage



**Previews begin November 25 | Opening Night December 1 | Closes December 24**  
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**October 20, 2023 — PORTLAND, OR.** This holiday season, Portland Center Stage brings a twist on the classic vampire story that's perfect for the dark, spooky nights of winter in Portland, Oregon. Playwright Kate Hamill's work has been previously seen on PCS stages with *Sense and Sensibility* (2019) and *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B* (2023), and her adaptation of Bram Stoker's beloved novel *Dracula* offers a meditation on toxic masculinity present in those fear-inducing predators who are so often labeled as the sexy, interesting, and captivating protagonists. Put away the twinkly lights and eggnog, and pack your purse full of garlic for *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy, Really*, November 25 through December 24, sponsored by

Portland's Regional community. Tickets are on sale now, including sliding scale tickets for BIPOC Affinity Night, a.k.a. The People's Party, on Wednesday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m.

**"Hamill's adaptations of the classics are endlessly ingenious ... whatever she decides to do, it will be worth seeing." – *The Wall Street Journal's* Playwright of the Year**

Drawn into the story of *Dracula* because of consistently "male-gazed" versions of the vampiric tale throughout media history, Hamill challenges well-worn cliches of helpless damsels and charming villains (you know the ones), transforming the biting classic into a full-throated battle cry as her strong female leads joyfully thrust a stake through the heart of misogyny. In this gory, scary, and playful take on the quintessential vampire tale, which follows *Dracula's* original plot, we learn that the real monsters are walking among us: destroy one, and there's always another in its place. Will Mina Harker save her friend, her husband... herself? Will #NotAllMen-era George Seward get in the way of Dr. Van Helsing's life-saving ministrations? How can one actually put a stake directly into the heart of the insidious and all-too-familiar patriarchy?

"I'm excited to bring this fierce and chilling play to life this holiday season," says Artistic Director Marissa Wolf. "Hamill's text marries the edge-of-your-seat exhilaration of an engrossing thriller with a powerful indictment of the ways that misogyny infects all of humanity. It's going to be a wild, wonderful ride!"

This alternative holiday offering will be led by Portland Center Stage's Artistic Director, Marissa Wolf; crypts, bedrooms, and asylums will be brought to life by Scenic Designer Diggle; modern will meet archaic through costume designs by Jenny Ampersand; foggy nights and eerie vibes will abound through lighting design by Carl Faber; spooky sounds will fill the air with sound design by Ash. Our brilliant, entirely local cast has been gathered by Casting Director Chip Miller. Plus, we'll see gorgeous intimacy and fight choreography from Heath Hyun and Jacqueline Davis, respectively. Yes, there will be wooden stakes and lots and LOTS of blood!

The cast of *Dracula* is an entirely Portland local cast, featuring familiar PCS faces such as Ashley Song (*Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B*, *Rent*, *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *The*

*Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*), Darius Pierce (*Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B, The Great Leap*), Nikki Weaver (*Major Barbara*), Sammy Rat Rios (*Young Americans*), Treasure Lunan (*A Midsummer Night's Dream, It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, August Wilson's Gem of the Ocean, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*), Jamie Rea (*It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*), plus La'Tevin Alexander (*Wine in the Wilderness*), Cycerli Ash (*A Comedy of Errors* reading and JAW 2023), and introducing Setareki Waiqinolo to the PCS stage!

**“This is the kind of horror I could watch all day.” – *Vulture***

For more information on the Portland Center Stage production this winter, please visit <https://www.pcs.org/dracula-a-feminist-revenge-fantasy-really>.

## **ABOUT THE SHOW**

Bouncing between horror and humor, Kate Hamill's adaptation of Bram Stoker's seminal novel is a thrilling play that questions who the true monsters are. Fierce, feminist, and frightening, *Dracula* is a revenge fantasy worth sinking your teeth into! *The Wall Street Journal* called this play “a fresh, theatrically potent spin on the novel ... Hamill has given us a tremendously entertaining *Dracula* that has GREAT BIG HIT stamped all over it.”

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

**[Art Exhibit: Meet Me At The Center by Maria TD Inocencio](#)**

**Through March 31, 2024 • Mezzanine • FREE**

*Meet Me At The Center* celebrates Portland's diversity and the dynamic energy generated by an exchange of ideas and a shared experience. This two-part installation of mixed media collage uses images from nature to represent our city's residents and the ways that their lives intersect. Symbolizing our uniqueness as individuals along with our common humanity, this piece hopes to show that we can respect the beauty within each other while discovering the greater magnitude of beauty possible when we join in community.

### **Workshop: Wig Basics 101 with Jes**

**Sat, Oct 28, 2023 • 1 p.m. • \$40-\$60**

Come join Jes (@TheMagicMakingMermaid on TikTok) as she shows you how to securely prep your own hair for an unbeatable wig-wearing experience. Whether you wear wigs for Halloween, cosplay, theater, or just for fun, this class is for you!

### **Live Stand Up Comedy Special: Lee H. Tillman: Bad At Math**

**Mon, Nov 13, 2023 • 8 p.m. • \$10-\$15**

Join us for the live recording of Portland comic Lee H. Tillman's stand-up comedy special Bad At Math, filmed on location in the Ellyn Bye Studio at Portland Center Stage. Lee H. Tillman has a low-key delivery, but please don't mistake his laid-back delivery for complacency. There are surprises at every turn. In addition to headlining comedy clubs all over the Pacific Northwest, he also performs at comedy shows and festivals throughout the United States and now he'll be recording his first-ever comedy special. This in-person event will be a multimedia experience featuring live music by Portland musicians Dylan Jones (drums), Jay Ringer (keys, melodica), and Sarah Levy (saw and bow).

### **Albina Music Trust & Brown Branch present A Holiday Tribute To Count Basie**

**Mon, Dec 18 & Tue, Dec 19, 2023, 7:30 p.m. • \$40**

Celebrate this holiday season with a musical tribute to Count Basie, led by the Brown Branch Big Band featuring directors Domo Branch and Charlie Brown III. These shows will highlight the compositions of Count Basie and his orchestra with a modern twist. In its third season of holiday performances, the Brown Branch Big Band returns once more to rouse audiences with their swinging big band sounds steeped in the holiday spirit. The Brown Branch Big Band features an all-star lineup of Portland musicians, including saxophonists Max Roark, Kevin Oliver, Mieke Bruggeman, Devin Phillips, Hailey Niswanger; trombonists Kyle Molitor, James Powers, Adriana Wagner, Denzel Mendoza; trumpeters Noah Simpson, Abner Deltle, Cameron Formanczyk, Justin Copeland; Bassist Finn Jones, Guitarist Jack Radsliff, Domo Branch on drums; and Charlie Brown III on the piano.

## **Piano Bar with Courtney Freed and *Liberace & Liza's* David Saffert**

**Tues, Nov 14 & Tues, Dec 12, 2023, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. • FREE**

Are you ready for your time to SHINE? Join this monthly event with local songstress Courtney Freed and Portland-based pianist David Saffert (yes, the same person playing *Liberace* in the *Liberace & Liza* show in the studio this December!) as they host a good old-fashioned PIANO BAR. You are invited to sing your favorite tune, open mic style (bring sheet music), or sit back and enjoy the talent and a delightful glass of wine with friends. Don't miss this rare opportunity to experience this musical magic at PCS every month. Don't forget to tip your hosts and bar staff throughout this free show!

### **THE CAST**

The cast of *Dracula* is an entirely Portland local cast, featuring familiar PCS faces such as Ashley Song as Mina Harker (*Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B, Rent, It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*), Darius Pierce as Dr. George Sewell (*Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B, The Great Leap*), Nikki Weaver as Renfield (*Major Barbara*), Sammy Rat Rios as Lucy Westenra (*Young Americans*), Treasure Lunan as Marilla/Maid (*A Midsummer Night's Dream, It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, August Wilson's Gem of the Ocean, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*), Jamie Rea as Drusilla/Merchant/Maid (*It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*), plus La'Tevin Alexander as Jonathan Harker (*Wine in the Wilderness*), Cyclerli Ash as Doctor Van Helsing (*A Comedy of Errors* reading and JAW 2023), and introducing Setareki Waiqinolo, playing *Dracula*.

### **THE CREATIVE TEAM**

Director Marissa Wolf; Scenic Designer Diggle; Costume Designer Jenny Ampersand; Lighting Designer Carl Faber; Sound Designer Ash; Stage Manager Amanda Vander Hyde; Assistant Stage Manager Dana Peterson; Assistant Director Tyler Andrew Jones; Dramaturg Kamilah Bush; Casting Director Chip Miller; Intimacy Coordinator Heath Hyun; and Fight Choreographer Jacqueline Davis.

## TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

**When: November 25 through December 24, 2023\***

**\*Opening Night/Press Night:** Friday, December 1, at 7:30 p.m.

**Preview Performances:** November 25, 26, 29 & 30 at 7:30 p.m.

**Pay What You Will Performances:** Sun, November 26 and Wed, December 13 at 7:30 p.m.

**The People's Party: BIPOC Affinity Night:** Wednesday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** On the U.S. Bank Main Stage at The Armory, 128 NW Eleventh Ave, Portland, Oregon.

**To Purchase Regular Tickets:** Prices range from \$25 to \$93, and tickets may be purchased at 503-445-3700 or in-person from the box office. *Prices vary by date and time and are subject to change.*

**Ticket Specials:** Visit [pcs.org/deals](https://pcs.org/deals) to view ticket specials, including Rush Tickets, Pay What You Will, Arts for All, Active Duty, Military Veteran, Student, Under 30, The Armory Card, Groups of 10+, and more.

**Please Note:** This production is recommended for ages 13 and up. It contains mature themes and language, domestic violence, suicide, infanticide, and biting.

**Accessibility:** Learn about accessibility options at [pcs.org/access](https://pcs.org/access).

## PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

**Portland Center Stage's** mission is to create transcendent theatrical experiences and community programs that break down the barriers separating people. We support our community in celebrating the full scope of humanity, appreciating difference, and fostering belonging. PCS was established in 1988 as a branch of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and became independent in 1994. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Marissa Wolf and Managing Director Liam Kaas-Lentz, the company produces a mix of classic, contemporary, and world-premiere productions, along with a variety of high-quality education and community programs. As part of its dedication to new play development, the company has produced 29 world premieres, many of which were developed at its JAW New Play Festival. PCS's home is The Armory, a historic building originally constructed in 1891. After a major renovation, The Armory opened in 2006 as the first building on the National Register of Historic Places, the first performing arts venue in the country, and the first building in Portland to achieve a LEED Platinum rating.

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

**The Portland Center Stage 2023-24 Season** is funded in part by Season Superstars Ronni LaCroute, the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, and the Regional Arts and Culture Council; Season Supporting Sponsors Ray and Bobbi Davis and US Bank; Producing Sponsors Ellyn Bye, Mark Spencer, Argyle Winery, and Deschutes Brewery; and Guardian of the Arts Sponsors the National Endowment for the Arts and the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the state of Oregon. *HAIR* is supported by the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer CARE, *Liberace and Liza* is supported by The Watermark at the Pearl, *What the Constitution Means to Me* is supported by the Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation and Chrys Martin and Jack Pessia, and *Quixote Neuvo* is supported by Kelly Bulkeley and Hilary Krane; additional support for *Quixote Nuevo* and for *Clyde's* is provided by the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional program sponsors are the Brown-Forman Company, Multnomah Whiskey Library and NW Natural.

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