

**PORTLAND  
CENTER STAGE  
AT THE ARMORY**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **National Tour of *Freestyle Love Supreme* Comes to Portland Center Stage Hot Off its Broadway Run**



**Recipient of a 2020 Special Tony Award, this Critically Acclaimed Hip-Hop Sensation Created by Thomas Kail, Lin-Manuel Miranda, and Anthony Veneziale Runs April 8 – May 1, 2022**

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**March 8, 2022 — PORTLAND, OR.** Producers Thomas Kail, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Jenny and Jon Steingart, Jill Furman, and Portland Center Stage announce that the national tour of *Freestyle Love Supreme* will play Portland Center Stage's U.S. Bank Main Stage from April 8 – May 1, 2022. Tickets are on sale now at [pcs.org/freestyle-love-supreme](https://pcs.org/freestyle-love-supreme).

This critically acclaimed hip-hop sensation and recipient of a 2020 Special Tony Award was conceived by Anthony Veneziale and created by Thomas Kail, Lin-Manuel Miranda, and Anthony

Veneziale. *Freestyle Love Supreme* has its origins in 2004 — prior to the world premieres of both *In the Heights* and *Hamilton* — when the artists developed it during rehearsal breaks for *In the Heights* while that musical was still in development.

Portland audiences have a rare opportunity to catch two works created by Thomas Kail and Lin-Manuel Miranda — *Freestyle Love Supreme* and *Hamilton* — in the same month, with the national tour of *Freestyle Love Supreme* opening at PCS one week before the return of *Hamilton*.

Following a highly-anticipated Broadway return and the release of the Grammy-nominated Hulu documentary *We Are Freestyle Love Supreme*, this “hugely entertaining dream of a show and a phenomenon” (*Time Out New York*) is a non-stop blend of hip-hop, improvisational theater, music, and vocal stylings. The 90-minute show, called “completely genius” by *Politico*, is created nightly with the audience and no two shows are ever the same.

“We’ve had many of our happiest and most fulfilling creative moments working on *Freestyle Love Supreme* and are excited to see its next chapter unfold on this national tour,” said Thomas Kail and Lin-Manuel Miranda. “It is a show that consistently surprises us: we have no idea what to expect any time we do it — and isn’t that the true beauty of live theater? *Freestyle Love Supreme* wouldn’t want or have it any other way!”

Directed by Kail, *Freestyle Love Supreme* is a blend of hip-hop, improvisational theater, music, and vocal styling with special surprise local guest artists at select performances. The show that *Entertainment Weekly* calls “lightning in a bottle” and *Rolling Stone* describes as “pure joy” features talented performers providing non-stop action throughout the fast-paced production, spinning suggestions from the audience into humorous bits, instantaneous songs and riffs, and fully realized musical numbers. The electrifying vocals of the performers — from singing to rapping to beat-boxing with harmonies and freestyle flow — are backed by tight tunes from keyboards and human percussion.

*Freestyle Love Supreme's* company on tour includes Andrew Bancroft aka "Jelly Donut"; Richard Baskin Jr. aka "Rich Midway"; Jay C. Ellis aka "Jellis J"; Aneesa Folds aka "Young Nees"; Kaila Mullady aka "Kaiser Rözé"; Morgan Reilly aka "Hummingbird"; James Rushin aka "Not Draggin"; Chris Sullivan aka "Shockwave"; and Anthony Venezia aka "Two Touch."

In name and beyond, *Freestyle Love Supreme* pays homage to John Coltrane's "A Love Supreme," with a nod to musical roots in jazz, soul, blues, and hip-hop. *Freestyle Love Supreme* was originally developed and produced in 2004 by Ars Nova, in association with Jill Furman and Back House Productions. The show has played in all five boroughs of New York and many states, as well as two runs on Broadway, at the U.S. Comedy Festival, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Melbourne Comedy Festival, and the Montreal Just for Laughs Festival.

*Freestyle Love Supreme* is produced by Thomas Kail, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Jenny and Jon Steingart, and Jill Furman. It features set design by Beowulf Boritt; costume design by Lisa Zinni; lighting design by Jeff Croiter; and sound design by Nevin Steinberg.

## **TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

**When:** April 8 – May 1, 2022\*

\*Opening Night/Press Night: Friday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Pay What You Will Performances: April 10 and April 14 at 7:30 p.m.

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

**To Purchase Regular Tickets:** Prices range from \$25 to \$92 and tickets may be purchased at [pcs.org/freestyle-love-supreme](https://pcs.org/freestyle-love-supreme), 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:** *Freestyle Love Supreme* is recommended for ages 13 and up. It contains theatrical haze and adult language. This show is unscripted. Learn more by calling 503-445-3700.

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

Connect with *Freestyle Love Supreme* online:

Website: [freestylelovesupreme.com](http://freestylelovesupreme.com)

Twitter: [@FreestyleLove](https://twitter.com/FreestyleLove)

Facebook: [@FreestyleLoveSupreme](https://www.facebook.com/FreestyleLoveSupreme)

Instagram: [@FreestyleLoveSupreme](https://www.instagram.com/FreestyleLoveSupreme)

## PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

[Portland Center Stage](#) was established in 1988 as a branch of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and became independent in 1994. 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 28 world premieres, many of which were developed at its JAW New Play Festival. Portland Center Stage'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](http://pcs.org/idea).

[Portland Center Stage's 2021-2022 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars the Regional Arts and Culture Council and the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation; Season Sponsors the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the state of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts, and US Bank; and Producing Sponsors Ellyn Bye, Ray and Bobbi Davis, Jess Dishman, Ronni Lacroute, Mark Spencer, Argyle Winery, and Deschutes Brewery.

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