

Portland Center Stage at

THE **ARMORY**

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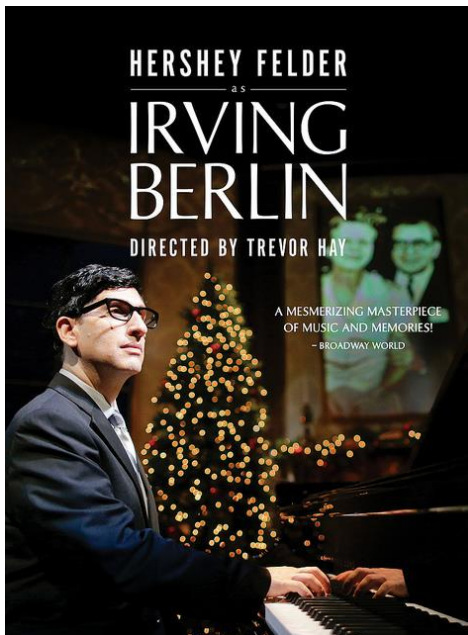
M E D I A R E L E A S E

**Celebrated performer and pianist Hershey Felder brings the story of
“America’s Composer” to life with *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin***

**“FULL OF HUMOR, INSIGHT, COMPASSION AND, OF COURSE, GREAT SONGS”
- *San Francisco Examiner***

Previews Begin Nov. 30 | Opening Night is Dec. 2 | Closes Dec. 30

TICKETS STARTING AT \$25



November 3, 2016 – PORTLAND, OR. Celebrated performer and pianist Hershey Felder brings the remarkable story of beloved composer Irving Berlin to The Armory with his highly acclaimed solo-show, *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin*.

Portland audiences are familiar with Hershey Felder as the adaptor and director of *The Pianist of Willesden Lane*, which played to sold-out houses at The Armory last season and will return in June for a limited engagement. *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin* is directed by Trevor Hay, who collaborated with Felder on *The Pianist of Willesden Lane*, along with a number of other works. *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin* opens on the

U.S. Bank Main Stage on December 2; preview performances begin November 30; and the production runs through December 30.

Regular tickets start at \$25. 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 and patrons who are 30 or younger can purchase \$30 tickets in all premium seating

areas. Showtimes are Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding December 11, 13, 24 and 25); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding December 3 and 25); and Thursday matinees at noon (excluding December 1). Recommended for ages 10 and up. Children under 6 are not permitted at any PCS production. Information at <https://www.pcs.org/irvingberlin>.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Songwriter Jerome Kern said it all: “Irving Berlin ... *IS* American music.” This tour de force performance takes us from the depths of anti-Semitism in Czarist Russia to New York’s Lower East Side — and ultimately throughout America and the world. Featuring Irving Berlin’s most popular and enduring songs, Hershey Felder’s masterful creation of character and musical performance makes this evening with Irving Berlin an unforgettable journey that epitomizes the American dream. Hailed as “the greatest songwriter that has ever lived” by George Gershwin, Irving Berlin is known for innumerable American classics such as “White Christmas,” “God Bless America,” “There’s No Business Like Show Business,” “Alexander’s Ragtime Band,” “Always,” “Blue Skies” and “Puttin’ on the Ritz.” ***Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin* production photos are available on [flickr](#).**

PRODUCTION HISTORY

Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin had its world premiere at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles in 2014. The production was a smash hit, extending for two weeks and breaking box office records. *Los Angeles Times* proclaimed: “That indefatigable purveyor of composers Felder now applies his singular blend of musical biography, character study and piano virtuosity toward the iconic songwriter ... The results are richly entertaining and ultimately touching.” The production was such a hit that Felder returned to Geffen Playhouse in the summer of 2015 for a second engagement and has since performed the show throughout the country at companies such as San Diego’s La Jolla Playhouse, New York’s The Town Hall and Boston’s ArtsEmerson.

HERSHEY FELDER

Over the past twenty years, Hershey Felder has played over 4,500 performances of his acclaimed self-created solo productions at some of the world’s most prestigious theaters. In addition to *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin*, his shows include *George Gershwin Alone* (Broadway’s Helen Hayes Theatre, West End’s Duchess Theatre), *Monsieur Chopin*, *Beethoven*, *Maestro Bernstein*, *Franz*

Liszt in Musik and *Lincoln: An American Story*. His compositions and recordings include *Aliyah*, *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra*; *Fairytale*, a musical; *Les Anges de Paris*, Suite for Violin and Piano; *Song Settings*; *Saltimbanques for Piano and Orchestra*; *Etudes Thematiques for Piano*; and *An American Story for Actor and Orchestra*. Future productions include *Our Great Tchaikovsky* and the new musical *Chosen By G-d* for which he is writing music, book and lyrics. Felder has been a scholar-in-residence at Harvard University's Department of Music and is married to Kim Campbell, the first female Prime Minister of Canada.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Trevor Hay.....Director/Scenic Co-Designer
Richard Norwood.....Lighting Designer
Lawrence Siefert.....Projection Co-Designer
Christopher Ash.....Projection Co-Designer
Erik Carstensen.....Sound Designer/Line Producer
Meghan Maiya.....Production Dramaturg
Kelsey Daye Lutz.....Stage Manager

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: **November 30* – December 30, 2016**

*Opening Night/Press Night: Friday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: November 30 and December 1 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 \$75.** Rush tickets are \$20. Students and patrons who are 30 or younger may purchase premium seating areas for \$30. Discounts for groups of 10+. *Prices vary by date, time and seating area, 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: <https://www.pcs.org/irvingberlin>

Showtimes: Showtimes are Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding December 11, 13, 24 and 25); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding December 3 and 25); and Thursday matinees at noon (excluding December 1).

Please Note: *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin* is recommended for ages 10 and up. Children under 6 are not permitted at any PCS production.

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

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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 has been under the leadership of Artistic Director Chris Coleman since May, 2000. Around 160,000 visitors attend The Armory annually to enjoy a mix of classical, contemporary and world premiere productions, along with a variety of high quality education and community programs. 11 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 21 world premieres and presents an annual new works festival, JAW: A Playwrights Festival. The Northwest Stories series was recently launched to develop and produce works about, or by artists from, the Northwest region. Home to two theaters, The Armory was the first building on the National Register of Historic Places, and the first performing arts venue, to achieve a LEED Platinum rating.

2016-2017 SPONSORS

The [2016-2017 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle, and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank. Further support comes from the Season Sponsors: Regional Arts and Culture Council, The Wallace Foundation and Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the state of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts. Support for *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin* is provided by Delta Air Lines, Garden Bar, The Holzman Foundation/Renée and Irwin Holzman, and Helen Stern. Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner. 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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