

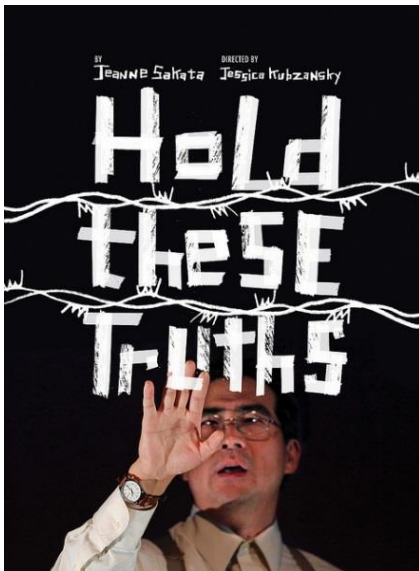
## M E D I A R E L E A S E

**The Northwest Stories series debuts at The Armory with  
*Hold These Truths*, a play about civil rights hero Gordon Hirabayashi**

**Previews Begin Oct. 1 | Opening Night is Oct. 7 | Must Close Nov. 13**

**TICKETS STARTING AT \$25!**

**“A gripping, suspenseful, yet also frequently funny play which honors  
Hirabayashi’s battles and celebrates his ultimate victory.” –*LA Stage Scene***



**September 7, 2016 – PORTLAND, OR.** Portland Center Stage at The Armory debuts its new Northwest Stories series with Jeanne Sakata’s *Hold These Truths*, a play inspired by the life of civil rights hero Gordon Hirabayashi, a Seattle native who was posthumously awarded the 2012 Presidential Medal of Freedom. *Hold These Truths* opens in the Ellyn Bye Studio on October 7, with previews beginning October 1 and performances running through November 13. *Hold These Truths* will be directed by Jessica Kubzansky, who directed the world premiere at East West Players in Los Angeles. Actor Ryun Yu, who originated the role of Hirabayashi at East West Players, will once again play the role in Portland.

**Regular tickets start at \$25.** Tickets may be purchased at [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org), 503.445.3700, or in-person at the box office (128 NW Eleventh Avenue, Portland, OR). Students and patrons who are 30 or younger can purchase \$30 tickets (available for all dates/times). Rush tickets are \$20. Groups of 10+ save 25% off adult tickets. Recipients of Oregon Trail Card benefits can purchase \$5 tickets. Showtimes are Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding October 16 and October 30, and November 1, 8 and 13); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding October 1, 2,

8, 22, and November 5); and Thursday matinees at noon (excluding October 6 and October 10).

Recommended for ages 14+; contains mature language. Information at

<https://www.pcs.org/truths>.

## **ABOUT THE PLAY**

During World War II, University of Washington student Gordon Hirabayashi fights the government's orders to forcibly remove and mass incarcerate all people of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast. As he struggles to reconcile his country's betrayal with his passionate belief in the U.S. Constitution, Hirabayashi journeys toward a greater understanding of America's triumphs — and a confrontation with its failures. *Hold These Truths* was first produced in 2007 by East West Players in Los Angeles under the title *Dawn's Light: The Journey of Gordon Hirabayashi*. Since the critically acclaimed world premiere, director Jessica Kubzansky and actor Ryun Yu have partnered on several productions of *Hold These Truths*, most recently at Act Theatre in Seattle, where *Seattle Weekly* said the play, "Stunningly shines a light on a shameful chapter of Northwest (and national) history ... At its heart, *Hold These Truths* is an excellent exploration of being a patriot precisely when it's most unpopular."

## **FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT**

"When I discovered Gordon's story in the late 1990's — so full of heartbreak, but also his irrepressible humor and zest for life — it was a life-changing experience," said playwright Jeanne Sakata. "I knew I had to try to bring his story to the American stage, not just as an act of healing for myself, my family and my community, but also to inspire and give hope to any American citizen who has been denied equal treatment under the law promised by our Constitution because of factors such as race, gender, sexual orientation, and who must battle constantly to make those promises a living reality."

## **FROM THE DIRECTOR**

"As I worked on this play (which in some ways is a love story between a man and his Constitution), I realized that for the first time in my life I was encountering a true American hero," said director Jessica Kubzansky. "Gordon Hirabayashi lived his beliefs in the face of enormous opposition and adversity, and did so with humility and grace. The relevance of this story resonates more

powerfully than ever during this election season. Today more than ever we *need* people like Gordon Hirabayashi, who, in the way they conduct themselves in times of extraordinary challenge, model courage and integrity for us.”

### **PERFORMER RYUN YU**

Ryun Yu’s credits include: Mark in the film adaptation of David Henry Hwang’s *Bondage*; the fictional David Henry Hwang in *Yellow Face* in the first adaptation of a major theatrical play for YouTube; Takeshi in the world premiere of *Tokyo Fish Story* at South Coast Repertory; the West Coast premiere of Richard Greenberg’s *Take Me Out* at Geffen Playhouse; Philip Kan Gotanda’s *Sisters Matsumoto* at Seattle Repertory Theatre and Huntington Theatre Company; the world premiere of Lloyd Suh’s *American Hwangap* at San Francisco’s Magic Theatre; *Art* and the Los Angeles premiere of Julia Cho’s *The Language Archive* at East West Players; and *Sea Change* at the Gay and Lesbian Center. Film appearances include *Only the Brave*, *The Brothers Solomon* and *The Mikado Project*. TV appearances include *Fuller House*, *Bones*, *Good Luck Charlie* and *Castle*. Yu co-wrote, co-produced, directed and starred in the feature film *The Last Tour* that debuted at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival earlier this year. Yu was the first Korean-American to train at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and has the first theater degree ever awarded by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

### **PLAYWRIGHT JEANNE SAKATA**

Jeanne Sakata is an acclaimed actor who made her playwriting debut with *Hold These Truths*. As an actor, Sakata performed for Portland Center Stage at The Armory in David Henry Hwang’s *M. Butterfly* and Chay Yew’s *Red*, as well as for The Public Theater, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Kennedy Center, Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Repertory, La Jolla Playhouse, Intiman Theatre, ACT Theatre (Seattle), ACT (San Francisco) and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Film and TV appearances include *Advantageous* (2015 Sundance Film Festival) and guest starring roles on *True Fiction*, *Dr. Ken*, *NCIS Los Angeles*, *Tyler Perry’s Meet the Browns*, *Desperate Housewives* and *ER*, among others. Honors include the Lee Melville Award for outstanding contributions to the Los Angeles theatre community; Outstanding Artist Award from LA Asian Pacific American Friends of Theatre; and the establishment of the Jeanne Sakata Collection in the Library of Congress Playwrights Archive, Asian American Pacific Islander Collection. Find out more at

[www.jeannesakata.com](http://www.jeannesakata.com) and [www.holdthesetruths.info](http://www.holdthesetruths.info).

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

**Jessica Kubzansky**, who previously directed *I Love to Eat* at The Armory, is the co-artistic director of The Theatre @ Boston Court in Pasadena. Her recent credits include the New York premiere of Sheila Callaghan's *Everything You Touch* for Rattlestick at The Cherry Lane and *Stupid Fucking Bird* at ACT Theatre in Seattle. For the Portland production of *Hold These Truths*, Kubzansky will be joined by two members of the creative team from the recent Seattle production: Scenic and Lighting Designer **Ben Zamora** (whose work has been seen at The Barbican Centre and Royal Festival Hall, Mariinsky Theatre, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Brisbane Festival, and others); and Sound Designer and Original Music Composer **John Zalewski** (last at The Armory for *I Love to Eat*). **Alex Wren Meadows**, the new resident costume shop manager at The Armory, will coordinate costumes inspired by the original designs from **Soojin Lee** for the 2007 world premiere. Completing the creative team are Rehearsal Stage Manager **Alyssa Escalante**, Performance Stage Manager **Kelsey Daye Lutz** and Production Assistant **Kristen Mun**.

## TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

**When:** **October 1\* – November 13, 2016**

\*Opening Night/Press Night is Friday, October 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: October 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** In the Ellyn Bye Studio at [The Armory](#)

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

**To Purchase:** Regular tickets range from \$25 to \$55. \$25 tickets are available on Tuesday night performances only, in select quantities, first-come, first-served. Students and patrons who are 30 or younger can purchase \$30 tickets (available for all dates/times). Rush tickets are \$20. Groups of 10+ save 25% off adult tickets. Recipients of Oregon Trail Card benefits can purchase \$5 tickets. *Prices vary by date, time and seating area, and are subject to change.*

**Online:** [www.pcs.org](http://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/truths>

**Showtimes:** Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding October 16 and October 30, and November 1, 8 and 13); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding October 1, 2, 8, 22, and November 5); and Thursday matinees at noon (excluding October 6 and October 10).

**Please Note:** Recommended for ages 14 and up. Contains mature language. The estimated run time is approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

**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 150,000 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. 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 20 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 SEASON SUPPORTERS**

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 following 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 *Hold These Truths* is provided by an anonymous donor; The Boeing Company; Diana Gerding; Yuki Lynne and Craig Johnston; Chrys A. Martin and Jack Pessia; and Marcy and Richard Schwartz. Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner. Further support is provided by Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts. 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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