

Portland Center Stage at
THE ARMORY

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MEDIA RELEASE

PCS's JAW New Play Festival Returns July 23-25, Featuring Readings of New Scripts by Inda Craig-Galván, Ty Defoe, Rinne Groff, Kate Hamill, and the JAW Teen Playwrights; Natalia Bermudez, Moss Johnson, Aaron Leonard-Graham, Becca McCormick, and Nevaeh Warren



Play Readings, Performances, and Classes will be Offered In-Person and Online

July 1, 2021 — PORTLAND, OR. Portland Center Stage's annual JAW New Play Festival will bring audiences back into The Armory for live theater once again, on July 23-25, for readings of new scripts, along with performances from local artists, classes, and more. **JAW events are free and will be available to watch in-person or online.**

This year's JAW features **Inda Craig-Galván's *A Hit Dog Will Holler***, **Ty Defoe's *Trans World***, **Rinne Groff's *The Red Beads*** (based on *The Singer of His Sorrows* by Osip Dymov), and **Kate Hamill's *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B***. Five local teen playwrights have also been commissioned to develop short scripts that will be read as part of the festival: **Natalia Bermudez, Moss Johnson, Aaron Leonard-Graham, Becca McCormick, and Nevaeh Warren.**

"We are honored to support the buoyant, exciting work of these four incredible writers with our 2021 JAW New Play Festival. This hybrid festival of in-person and virtual offerings is a profound way to celebrate new plays as an essential part of PCS's future," PCS Artistic Director Marissa Wolf said.

In addition to the JAW Play Readings, the festival will feature Press Play performances surrounding the readings. Local artists will include **Sarah Clarke, Rich Hunter, Latoya Lovely**, students from **STEPS PDX**, and a showcase presented by **Jesus Rodales** of **Find A Way**, with street, club, and urban dance styles performed by artists from a variety of local dance crews. For those looking to dig deeper with members of the JAW Company, two **Community Artist Labs** will also be offered, lead by **Brittany K. Allen, Chip Miller, and Anya Pearson** (lab space is limited and admission is by lottery).

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

The JAW New Play Festival events are FREE and can be attended in person at The Armory, or online. Audiences are encouraged to reserve their general admission tickets in advance for the JAW Play Readings; in-person walk ups will be welcome based on availability. The Press Play performances surrounding the readings don't require a ticket. Community Artist Labs are in-person only. Masks will be required in all areas, except for those at seated tables, enjoying a beer in the mezzanine bar. Capacity at The Armory will be limited to 250 people. The full schedule and links to reserve tickets can be found at pcs.org/jaw.

***Trans World* by Ty Defoe**

Directed by Dominique Rider

Friday, July 23 · 7:30 p.m. · U.S. Bank Main Stage* or Online

When seven trans individuals are picked to temporarily live in a house and get filmed non-stop for a new reality TV show, the lines between pretend and real drama become uncomfortably blurred. Inspired by MTV's 90s hit show *The Real World*, celebrated theater artist Ty Defoe brings an abundance of heart and humor to this playful piece. This new play takes a fresh look at what happens when people stop being nice and start getting real.

**Trans World will be a virtual reading, but audiences can attend in-person to watch the livestream on a screen in the gloriously air-conditioned main stage theater.*



Ty Defoe (Giizhig), Oneida and Ojibwe Nations, is a writer and interdisciplinary artist, and Grammy Award winner. Defoe aspires to an interweaving approach to artistic projects with social justice, Indigi-Queering, and environmentalism. Robert Rauschenberg Artist in Residence, Jonathan Larson Award, TransLab Fellow, and Rhinebeck Writers Retreat-er. Works created and authored: *River of Stone*, *Red Pine*, *The Way They Lived*, *Ajijaak on Turtle Island*, *Hear Me Say My Name*, *Copper Horns in Water*, *Before The Land Eroded*, *The Ballad of Smokey Quartz*, *Gwekaanimad<<>>Wind Changes Direction* (w/ Kate Freer), *Trial and Tears* (w/ Dawn Avery), *The Lesson* (w/ Avi Amon and Nolan Doran), among others. Defoe is core member of All My Relations Collective, *GIZHIBAA GIIZHIG | Revolving Sky* (Under the Radar Incoming!, The Public Theater). Movement Direction: *Mother Road*, dir. Bill Rauch (OSF), *Manahatta*, dir. Laurie Woolery (OSF and Yale Rep), and choreographer for Tracy Lett's *The Minutes* (Broadway). Netflix: *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* and Young Jean Lee's *Straight White Men*, dir. Anna Shapiro (Broadway). Degrees from CalArts, Goddard College, and NYU, Tisch. Lives in NYC. He|We, member of: Dramatist Guild Council, ASCAP, SDC, SAG/AEA, and The Phluid Project. allmyrelations.earth • tydefoe.com

***A Hit Dog Will Holler* by Inda Craig-Galván**

Saturday, July 24 · 4 p.m. · U.S. Bank Main Stage or Online

When an agoraphobic political commentator, who lives her life online, has her home invaded by a boots-on-the-ground activist, she must reckon with the legitimacy of her role in the revolution. The two form an unlikely and complex bond, as they deal with manifestations of the fears that accompany being Black women in America.



Inda Craig-Galván is a Chicagoan at heart who lives in Los Angeles. Plays include *Black Super Hero Magic Mama* (Geffen Playhouse) and *I Go Somewhere Else* (Playwrights' Arena). Her work has been developed at the Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, Ojai Playwrights Conference, OSF's Black Swan Lab, and others. Recent honors include Kesselring Prize, Jeffry Melnick New Playwright Award, and The Kilroys List. Current commissions: Old Globe (San Diego) and Primary Stages

(New York). M.F.A. in dramatic writing, University of Southern California. indacraig-galvan.com

***Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B* by Kate Hamill**

Directed by José Zayas

Saturday, July 24 · 8 p.m. · U.S. Bank Main Stage or Online

Adapted from the stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Dive into this irreverent, darkly comic, modern take on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous duo. In this highly theatrical, fast-paced farce, female roommates Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Joan Watson join forces to become a deeply codependent, quasi-dysfunctional, crime solving, butt kicking team ... that is, until they come face to face with the original supervillain: Professor James Moriarty. Steampunk. Feminist. Radical. Extremely thrilling. Occasionally shocking. Highly amusing. By Jove, you're gonna love it!



Kate Hamill is an actor/playwright. *Wall Street Journal* Playwright of the Year, 2017. Previous work includes: *Pride & Prejudice* at Primary Stages/HVSF (originated role of Lizzy; nominee, Off-Broadway Alliance Award), *Sense & Sensibility* at Bedlam (originated role of Marianne; winner, Off-Broadway Alliance Award, nominee, Drama League Award); *Vanity Fair* at the Pearl (originated the role of Becky Sharp; nominee, Off-Broadway Alliance Award), *Mansfield Park* at Northlight,

Little Women at Primary Stages and the Jungle Theater, *Dracula* at Classic Stage Company (originated role of Renfield), *Emma* and *Scarlet Letter* (upcoming premiere at the Guthrie). She is currently developing new adaptations of *The Odyssey* and Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*, plus several original plays (*Scrooge for Senate*, *Prostitute Play*, *Mary/Joan*, *The Piper* — Play Penn; O'Neill NPC finalist,). Her Zoom play *BadAss GalBoss PowerHour 11/18/2020 (Mandatory Meeting)* premieres this fall with Primary Stages. Hamill was last at Portland Center Stage with her *Sense & Sensibility*. She was one of the most-produced playwrights nationwide throughout 2017-2020. kate-hamill.com

JAW Teen Playwrights Showcase

Directed by Margot Bordelon

Sunday, July 25 · 3 p.m. · U.S. Bank Main Stage or Online

Don't miss this chance to experience some of the newest voices in theater! These five teen playwrights have been commissioned by PCS to write short scripts for JAW. They were selected following their deep involvement in PCS's education programming, including in-school playwriting residencies, Teen Council membership, and Teen Academy classes. They have been developing their JAW scripts for the last three weeks, under the mentorship of celebrated Portland playwrights Anya Pearson and Sara Jean Accuardi. This showcase will feature the work they've developed — dynamic two-character, 8-10 minute plays — that will be performed by professional actors.

The 2021 JAW Teen Playwrights are **Natalia Bermudez**, a student from Lincoln High School; **Moss Johnson**, from Mt. Scott Learning Center; **Aaron Leonard-Graham** of La Salle Catholic College Preparatory; and **Becca McCormick** and **Nevaeh Warren**, students from Prairie High School.

***The Red Beads* by Rinne Groff**

Directed by Johanna Gruenhut

Sunday, July 25 · 5 p.m. · U.S. Bank Main Stage or Online

Based on *The Singer of His Sorrows* by Osip Dymov

As adapted by Adrian Guo-Silver & Rinne Groff

From a translation by Adrian Guo-Silver

This charming, comical, and stirring fable is drawn from one of the great tales of the Yiddish theater. When a father's bedtime story magically comes to life, his young daughter is plunged into the world of a poor shtetl poet who is desperately in love with a woman who spurns him. With great wit and even greater heart, *The Red Beads* explores the beauty — and the pain — of letting love triumph over logic.



Rinne Groff's plays and musicals have been produced at the Public Theater, Clubbed Thumb, Playwrights Horizons, Trinity Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Yale Rep, and the Women's Project, among others, in the United States and internationally. Groff is a recipient of the Whiting Writers Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and an Obie Award grant. Founding member of Elevator Repair Service Theater Company. New Dramatists, Dramatist Guild. Head of playwriting in the Department of

Dramatic Writing at NYU, Tisch School of the Arts.

ABOUT JAW

Since launching in 1999, JAW has created a space for playwrights to have complete creative control and the resources to work on whatever they want to develop in their scripts. To date, 87 scripts have been developed at JAW and 19 JAW plays have received fully staged productions at PCS, giving Portland a strong national reputation for not only incubating new work, but helping to see that work to successful fruition. JAW plays have gone on to receive world premiere productions at professional theaters across the country and beyond, including New York Theater Workshop, Steppenwolf Theatre, and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. This year's JAW New Play Festival is supported by the Kinsman Foundation and Oregon Cultural Trust. Support for the JAW Teen Playwrights comes from the PGE Foundation and Herbert A. Templeton Foundation.

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

[Portland Center Stage](#) is among the top 20 regional theaters in the country. Established in 1988 as a branch of Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the company became independent in 1994. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Marissa Wolf and Managing Director Cynthia Fuhrman, 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 new works festival, JAW. Portland Center Stage's home is at 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, and the first performing arts venue in the country, 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.

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; Supporting Sponsors

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