

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Spend Your Holidays at the Mansion with a Tribute to Liberace & Liza Minelli, beginning November 11 through Christmas Eve



**Previews begin November 11 | Opening Night November 17 | Closes December 24**  
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**October 1, 2023 — PORTLAND, OR.** High-voltage virtuosity meets comic chemistry in this uproarious tribute to Liberace & Liza Minnelli. Liberace & Liza, played by local actors and musicians David Saffert & Jillian Snow, have schemed up a brand new show of songs and hijinks to welcome in the holidays. Liberace's mansion, located in the Ellyn Bye Studio at Portland Center Stage, will be filled with an outlandish affair full of candelabras, mistletoe and the neon glow from the Las Vegas Strip. Joining in the mayhem is a band led by the real Liberace's music director of 13 years, Bo Ayars. Don those sequins and get ready to party as Liberace & Liza entertain with their own unique twist on the holiday season, November 11 through December

24. 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.

**“Saffert has devoted serious time to developing piano skills that rival Liberace’s. He didn’t just impersonate the pianist, he really embodied his whole spirit.” - *San Francisco Chronicle***

David Saffert, like Liberace, is a classically trained pianist from Wisconsin. He has been seen on stage in sketch comedy, improv, solo piano concerts, and in his very own music & comedy variety shows. David has worked as a pianist (sans sequins) with such organizations as the Guthrie Theater (MN), Oregon Ballet Theatre, Portland Opera, Oregon Symphony, Portland Center Stage and the Interlochen Arts Camp. Some of David’s favorite Liberace tribute highlights have been at 54 Below (NY), Feinstein’s at the Nikko (CA), Feinstein’s at Hotel Carmichael (IN), eSPACE King Edward (Calgary, AB), The Underground (MN), Portland Center Stage, Broadway Rose Theatre & CoHo Theatre (OR), and on All Classical Portland radio's live broadcasts of Thursday's @ 3. He appeared as the featured guest on two Under the Vegas Sun television episodes which were filmed at the Liberace Mansion in Las Vegas.

**“I don’t know if I’ve ever heard Liberace played like that other than the last time I heard Liberace play like that” -Steve Schorr; Host of VegasLifeTV’s *Under the Vegas Sun***

Jillian Snow is a singer and actor who graduated from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City. She has worked predominantly in comedy, gracing the stages of Gotham Comedy Club, the Laugh Factory, and Comix NYC as a Liza Minnelli impersonator. After seeing her perform, Michael Musto of the Village Voice said, “This could open up Minnelli to a whole new audience!” Jillian temporarily hung up the Liza wig when she was offered the part of Janis Joplin in the Off-Broadway production of “27 Heaven.” Soon after, her love for portraying those for whom she idolized became a fruitful and fulfilling venture. Eventually, Jillian fled New York so she could get some sleep and found exile in Portland, Oregon. She was recently featured in the U.S. premiere of *Liza, Liza, Liza* and is often invited to perform portraying not only Liza, but also Bernadette Peters, Marlene Dietrich, Patsy Cline, and Judy Garland. While her

sharp comic timing and exaggerated Liza quirks will have audiences doubled over in laughter, it's when she starts belting out songs that it quickly becomes clear that her talent is no joke.

**"At the urging of the audience, Harris delivered one last performance — her version of Minnelli's version of 'Toxic.' The moment was a surreal yet oddly perfect number that somehow brought us all full circle." - *San Francisco Chronicle***

David and Jillian, along with Liberace's longtime musical director, Bo Ayars, are joined by a spectacular creative team. Scenic designer Tyler Buswell is bringing Liberace's Moroccan Room to life in the Elyn Bye Studio, accented by the neon lights of Vegas created by the talented lighting designer Joel Ferraro. The dulcet tones of Liberace and Liza will be enhanced by sound designer Sammi Kelly, along with fellow musicians Amy Roseler and Kurt Deutcher, and special guests are bound to show up throughout for this joyful holiday-cabaret extravaganza with upbeat tunes, mystery audience presents and lasagna!

**"Gives off the sparks of a well-programmed Vegas act." - *Oregon Arts Watch***

For more information on Liberace & Liza, A Tribute, please visit [liberaceandliza.com](http://liberaceandliza.com). For more information on the Portland Center Stage production this winter, please visit [pcs.org/liberace-liza-holiday-at-the-mansion-a-tribute](http://pcs.org/liberace-liza-holiday-at-the-mansion-a-tribute).

#### **ABOUT THE PLAY**

Don't miss this exhilarating parade of musical and comical fireworks! Local favorites David Saffert and Jillian Snow have dazzled audiences from New York to Portland. Get ready for nonstop glamor and glitz as they take the stage as Liberace and Liza Minnelli! Featuring rousing musical numbers, enchanting costumes, and unforgettable laughs, this cheeky and delightful show will have your holidays sparkling.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **Art Exhibit: *Meet Me At The Center* by Maria TD Inocencio**

**September 30, 2023 - March 31, 2024 • Mezzanine • FREE**

**Artist Talk: Saturday, October 14 from 6:30-7:15 p.m. • 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. *Featured artist Maria TD Inocencio will be in attendance for an artist talk about the exhibit on Saturday, October 14, from 6:30-7:15 PM.*

### **Front Porch Sessions presents Maui Fire Relief Benefit**

**Tue, October 10, 7-9 p.m. • \$15 (or donate more)**

On October 10th, Front Porch Sessions, in collaboration with Portland Center Stage, will host a fundraiser to assist those affected by the Maui fires. This evening will be filled with stories, compassion, and joy, as we come together in community to make a meaningful impact. 100% of ticket sales and donations will go directly to families in Maui, in collaboration with Peacekeeper Society mutual aid efforts. Through your attendance and support, we can provide direct contributions to the families who lost homes, livelihoods, and precious memories.

### **Portland Center Stage's Pre-Halloween Costume Sale!**

**Fri, Oct 13 - Sun, Oct 15, 2023 • 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Starting this Friday the 13th, come by The Armory and discover that spooky accessory to inspire your cosplay creativity, or maybe snag a fly new coat or pair of boots in time for fall weather. Who knows what you might find! The sale will be ongoing over three days, Oct. 13-15 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., but come early to catch the best items before they walk out the door!

### **Espacio Flamenco presents *iBailaoras!***

**Sat, Oct 14, 2023, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. • \$30 advance (\$35 at the door)**

Espacio Flamenco is proud to present *¡Bailaoras!* An exciting evening of live flamenco music and dance featuring special guest bailaora Kayla Lyall (Albuquerque) and violist Devesh Nirmul. Blending composition and improvisation, you won't want to miss this show celebrating the spirit of spontaneity that is at the heart of this powerful art form.

### [Portland Center Stage's Pre-Halloween Costume Sale!](#)

**Sun, Oct 22, 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 show!) 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**

Liberace will be played by musician and performer extraordinaire David Saffert, and Liza Minelli will be brought to life by Jillian Snow. Both actors are Portland locals and have been seen throughout Portland's creative community. The show will also feature special guests.

#### **THE CREATIVE TEAM**

Created and performed by David Saffert and Jillian Snow; Music Director Bo Ayars; Scenic Designer Tyler Buswell; Lighting Designer Joel Ferraro; Sound Designer Sammi Kelly; Musicians Amy Roseler and Kurt Deutcher; Stage Manager Janine Vanderhoff; and Assistant Stage Manager Alea Tran.

#### **TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

**When: November 11 through December 24, 2023\***

**\*Opening Night/Press Night:** Friday, November 17, at 7:30 p.m.

**Preview Performances:** November 11, 12, 15, 16 at 7:30 p.m.

**Pay What You Will Performances:** Sunday, November 26 and another performance TBD.

**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.

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

## PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

[Portland Center Stage's](https://pcs.org) 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 28 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 Sponsor, 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 Chrys Martin and Jack Pessia, and Quixote Neuvo is supported by Kelly Bulkeley and Hilary Krane. Additional program sponsors are the Brown-Forman Company, Multnomah Whiskey Library and NW Natural.

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