

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

**A blood-thirsty plant, a love-sick florist, a demented dentist and a rockin' score kick off the 2016-2017 season at The Armory**

**Previews Begin Sep. 10 | Opening Night is Sep. 16 | Must Close Oct. 16**

**TICKETS STARTING AT \$25!**



**August 10, 2016 – PORTLAND, OR.** Portland Center Stage at The Armory's 2016-2017 season kicks off with the hilarious and rockin' sci-fi musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*, based on the film by Roger Corman, with book and lyrics by Howard Ashman and music by Alan Menken. The demonic plant will take over the U.S. Bank Main Stage with preview performances beginning September 10; an opening night on September 16; and performances running through October 16. Bill Fennelly directs

a cast featuring Nick Cearley, Gina Milo, Jamison Stern, Chaz Rose, David Meyers, Ebony Blake, Johari Nandi and Alexis Tidwell.

**Regular tickets start at \$25.** Tickets may be purchased at [www.pcs.org](http://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 September 25 and October 2); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding September 10, 11, 17 and October 1); and Thursday matinees at noon (excluding September 15). *Little Shop of Horrors* is recommended for ages 12+. Contains theatrical haze and mature content. Information at <https://www.pcs.org/littleshop>.

Bill Fennelly (most recently *Black Pearl Sings!*) returns to direct this musical thriller, as a co-production with Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. "I'm looking forward to bringing one of the most

beloved and hilarious American musical comedies to spine-tingling life in a brand new production at The Armory,” said Fennelly. “The year is 1963,” he continued, “America is a country on the brink, and a terrifying creature is blossoming on Skid Row to begin his quest for world domination. Set to the rhythm of a rockin' Motown beat, it's suspenseful ... it's romantic ... it's bone-chilling ... it's *Little Shop of Horrors!*”

## THE MUSICAL

With a score that is part rock 'n' roll, part doo-wop and part Motown, *Little Shop of Horrors* is the story of the shy and love-struck florist's assistant, Seymour, who finds fame, fortune and a whole lot more when he nurtures a strange little plant with a strong — and scary — thirst. Based on the darkly comic 1960 Roger Corman film of the same name, Howard Ashman and Alan Menken (who also collaborated on *The Little Mermaid*, *Aladdin* and *Beauty and The Beast*) created a unique musical that swept the Off-Broadway awards when it premiered at the Orpheum Theatre in 1982 (New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Musical, Outer Critics Circle Award). In 1986, the musical was made into a film directed by Frank Oz. A revival of the musical debuted on Broadway at the Virginia Theatre in 2003.

## THE CAST

Starring as the insecure florist clerk Seymour is **Nick Cearley** (*All Shook Up*, First National Tour; most recently *Sex Tips for Straight Women from a Gay Man*, Off-Broadway); his naive love interest, Audrey, will be played by **Gina Milo** (*Les Misérables*, Broadway and National Tour; *Annie*, National Tour); the maniacal dentist Orin will be played by **Jamison Stern** (*By Jeeves* and *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* on Broadway; *Little Shop of Horrors*, National Tour); and the owner of the East Side florist shop, Mr. Mushnik, will be played by local actor **David Meyers** (Drammy Award for *The Light in the Piazza* at Portland Playhouse). Making up Skid Row's Greek chorus-style trio with a Motown sound is **Ebony Blake** as Ronnette (*The Book of Mormon*, First National Tour); **Johari Nandi** as Chiffon (*Les Misérables*, The Muny); and **Alexis Tidwell** as Crystal (*Little Shop of Horrors* at Gretna Theatre). Taking on the voice of the blood-thirsty plant Audrey II is **Chaz Rose** (*Black Angels Over Tuskegee*, Off-Broadway). The plant — built in-house for this production — will be operated by **Stephen Kriz Gardner** and members of The Armory running crew.

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

Director **Bill Fennelly** (*Gypsy* and *Black Pearl Sings!*; his work has been seen on Broadway and Off-Broadway; most recently he received S.A.L.T. Awards for Director of the Year/Production of the Year for both *Hairspray* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Syracuse Stage) leads a creative team featuring Musical Supervisor **Rick Lewis** (most recently *Ain't Misbehavin'*); Choreographer **Kent Zimmerman** (most recently *Ain't Misbehavin'*); Scenic Designer **Michael Schweikardt** (debut; Off-Broadway productions include *The Bus* and *Gates Of Gold*); Costume Designer **Kathleen Geldard** (debut at The Armory; designs for Actors Theatre of Louisville, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and others); Lighting Designer **William Kirkham** (debut; designs for American Music Theatre Project, Arizona Broadway Theatre and others); Sound Designer **Casi Pacilio** (most recently *A Streetcar Named Desire*); with Stage Manager **Mark Tynan**, Assistant Stage Manager **Janine Vanderhoff**, Production Assistant **Bailey Anne Maxwell**, and Plant Operator/Production Assistant #2 **Stephen Kriz Gardner**. Bringing the Motown-infused score to life is **Jeffrey Childs** (Conductor/Piano), **Tim Ribner** (Keyboards), **Will Amend** (Bass), **Mitch Wilson** (Drums) and **Eric Toner** (Guitar).

## TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

**When:** September 10\* – October, 2016

\*Opening Night/Press Night is Friday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: September 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15 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](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/littleshop>

**Showtimes:** Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding September 25 and October 2); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding September 10, 11, 17 and October 1); and Thursday matinees at noon (excluding September 15).

**Please Note:** Recommended for ages 12 and up. Contains theatrical haze, some mature content and language. The estimated run time is approximately 2 hours.

**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. 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 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.

### **THE 2016-2017 SEASON**

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 *Little Shop of Horrors* is provided by the Mark and Ann Edlen family; Christine and David Vernier; GBD Architects; Hoffman Construction; and KPFF/Glumac. 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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