

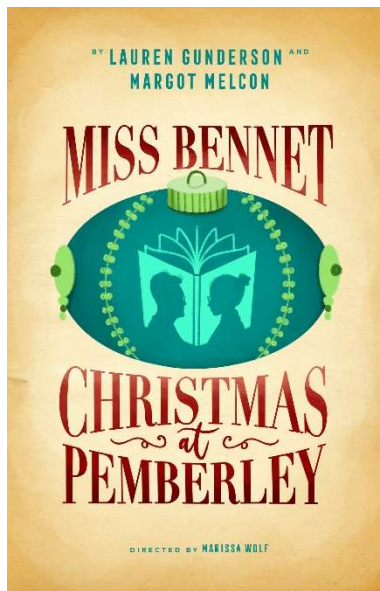
M E D I A R E L E A S E

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MARISSA WOLF MAKES PORTLAND CENTER STAGE
DIRECTING DEBUT WITH JANE AUSTEN HOLIDAY ROMP**

MISS BENNET: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY

Starring Portland Favorite Lauren Modica

Previews Begin Nov. 30 | Opening Night is Dec. 6 | Closes Dec. 29



October 23, 2019 — PORTLAND, OR. Artistic Director Marissa Wolf will make her Portland Center Stage at The Armory directing debut with *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, a delightful Jane Austen-inspired comedy from playwrights Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon. Portland favorite Lauren Modica (*Bedlam's Sense and Sensibility* and *Twist Your Dickens* at The Armory) will star as middle sister Mary Bennet, who takes center stage in this charming and clever sequel to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. When the Bennet sisters gather at the home of Lizzy and Darcy for the holidays, an unexpected guest sparks brilliant, bookish Mary's hopes for independence, an intellectual match, and perhaps even

romance.

"I love the way that Gunderson and Melcon masterfully marry humor and feminism together in this delicious holiday show," Wolf said. "To dive into such a playful project with so many brilliant Portland artists is a real treat for my first production here at Portland Center Stage."

Modica is thrilled to be taking on her first leading role at The Armory. "One of the things I love most about Mary is that she absolutely, 100 percent is who she is at every moment – awkward, and off-beat, but not wrong," Modica said. "Being encouraged to really play up the eccentricities

of this character, while indulging in the vulnerability and sweetness of first real love is something that proved irresistible to me. We've all been Mary – a little outside the action, a little self-contained, but bursting with passion and wit.”

The Armory will host various free community events surrounding the show, including discussions with cast, crew, and community guests, and musical performances by local choirs. Details will be posted at www.pcs.org/missbennet closer to the show.

PLAYWRIGHTS

Lauren Gunderson has been the most produced living playwright in America for the past two seasons. She is the winner of the Lanford Wilson Award and the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award, a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and John Gassner Award, and a recipient of the Mellon Foundation's three-year residency with Marin Theatre Company. She studied at Emory University and NYU Tisch School of the Arts, where she was a Reynolds Fellow. Her work has been commissioned, produced, and developed at companies across the United States, including DCPA Theatre Company (*The Book of Will*), South Coast Repertory (*Emilie*, *Silent Sky*), The Kennedy Center (*The Amazing Adventures of Dr. Wonderful and Her Dog!*), Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Shotgun Players, TheatreWorks, Crowded Fire Theater, San Francisco Playhouse, and more. Her work is published by Dramatists Play Service (*Silent Sky*, *Bauer*), Playscripts (*I and You*, *Exit*, *Pursued by a Bear*, and *Toil and Trouble*), and Samuel French (*Emilie*).

Margot Melcon is a theater artist, administrator, and writer. She was the director of new play development at Marin Theatre Company for seven years, where she dramaturged more than 30 productions — including six world premieres — and administered the company's two annual new play prizes and commissioning programs. She has developed plays with TheatreWorks, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Crowded Fire Theater, Shotgun Players, Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Ground Floor, The Kennedy Center, The New Harmony Project, and The Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis. She is currently the program executive for promoting culture at the Zellerbach Family Foundation. Margot is a graduate of California State University, Chico.

THE CAST

Lauren Modica (*Alice in Wonderland*, *All's Well that Ends Well*, and Titania in the upcoming production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival) returns to The Armory to star as Mary Bennet. Also returning to The Armory: **Quinlan Fitzgerald** (*Bedlam's Sense and Sensibility* at The Armory, *The Wolves* at Portland Playhouse) as Anne de Bourgh, **Charles Grant** (*Redwood* at The Armory, *Bootycandy* at Fuse Theatre Ensemble) as Charles Bingley, **Isaac Lamb** (*Twist Your Dickens*, *Every Brilliant Thing* at The Armory) as Fitzwilliam Darcy, and **Joshua J. Weinstein** (*Major Barbara* at The Armory, *The Baltimore Waltz* at Profile Theatre) as Arthur de Bourgh. Three cast members will be making their debut at The Armory: **Cindy Im** (world premiere of *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* at Marin Theatre Company, *The Great Wave* at Berkley Repertory Theatre) as Elizabeth Darcy, **Treasure Lunan** (*The Most Massive Woman Wins* at Deep End Theater, upcoming productions of *School Girls* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* at The Armory) as Jane Bingley, and **Kailey Rhodes** (*The Wolves* at Portland Playhouse, *Ordinary Days* at Broadway Rose Theatre Company) as Lydia Wickham.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Marissa Wolf (*Fire in Dreamland* at The Public Theater, *Man in Love* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* at Kansas City Repertory Theatre, upcoming productions of *School Girls* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* at Portland Center Stage at The Armory) leads the creative team, which includes Scenic Designer **Peter Ksander** (*Arlington [A Love Story]* at Third Rail Repertory Theatre, *Teenage Dick* at Artists Repertory Theatre), Costume Designer **Alex Wren Medows** (*Buyer & Cellar* at The Armory, *The General from America* at TimeLine Theatre), Lighting Designer **Jennifer Lin** (*Evolve* with the August Wilson Red Door Project, *Arlington [A Love Story]* at Third Rail Repertory Theatre), Sound Designer **Phil Johnson** (*Cop Out*, *Hands Up* with the August Wilson Red Door Project), Dialect Coach **Karl Hanover** (*Orlando*, *The Call* at Profile Theatre), Stage Manager **Mark Tynan**, and Production Assistant **Macarena Subiabre**.

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: Nov. 30 – Dec. 29, 2019*

*Opening Night/Press Night: Friday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 3, 4, and 5 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 \$92. Tickets may be purchased at www.pcs.org, 503.445.3700, or in-person from the box office (128 NW Eleventh Avenue, Portland, OR). Ticket specials are listed at www.pcs.org/tickets/ticket-specials. Rush tickets are \$25. Students and patrons who are 30 or younger get 50% off tickets in seating areas 1-3. Active duty or veteran military personnel and their families get \$15 off regular adult tickets. \$5 tickets are available for Oregon Trail Card holders through the Arts for All program. *All prices vary by date and time, and are subject to change.*

- **Online:** www.pcs.org/missbennet
- **By Phone:** 503.445.3700, 12–6 p.m., Tuesday – Sunday
- **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., Tuesday – Sunday, on non-performance days
- **Groups:** Discounts available for groups of 10+ by calling 503.445.3794.

More Info: www.pcs.org/missbennet

Showtimes: Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding Dec. 15, 24, 25, 29), Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 7, 21); and Thursday matinees at 11 a.m. (excluding Dec. 5). There will be a 2 p.m. performance on Tuesday Dec. 24.

Please Note: Recommended for ages 10 and up.

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

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 is under the leadership of Artistic Director Marissa Wolf and Managing Director Cynthia Fuhrman. Around 160,000 visitors attend The Armory annually to enjoy a mix of classic, contemporary, and world premiere productions, along with a variety of high quality education and community programs. Ten productions are offered this season, in addition to hundreds of community events created to serve the diverse populations in the city. As part of its dedication to new play development, the company has produced 27 world premieres and presents an annual new works festival, JAW: A Playwrights Festival. Home to two theaters, The Armory (originally built in 1891) opened its doors 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.

THE 2019-2020 SEASON

The [2019-2020 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle, Mary and Don Blair, and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank. Further support comes from Season Sponsors Advance Gender Equity in the Arts (AGE); the Regional Arts and Culture Council; and the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the state of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts. Support for *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* comes from Dedre Marriott, U.S. Bank, and ARCIFORM.

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