

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

Make Time for Play: October Events at The Armory

A 10th Anniversary Open House Celebration; Partnerships with Oregon Nikkei Legacy; a Showcase of Plays by Residents of Affordable Housing; and Classes Taught by Matthew B. Zrebski, Laura Faye Smith and Courtenay Hameister



September 22, 2016 – PORTLAND, OR. October marks Portland Center Stage's 10th anniversary in The Armory, the historic building that was constructed 125 years ago and opened its doors in 2006 as the country's first building on the National Register of Historic Places, and the first performing arts venue, to achieve a LEED Platinum rating. To celebrate the occasion, an open house on October 2 will include live music, backstage tours, and a retrospective display of costumes and production photos. Volunteers will also be on hand to help visitors register to vote (#PlayOurPart).

Other October events include a happy hour with *Hold These Truths* playwright Jeanne Sakata and the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center; a First Thursday event featuring a performance by Mic Crenshaw and a meet and greet with members of the *Little Shop* creative team; *Vision & Vigilance*, a dramatic reading and civil rights discussion; Portland Poetry Slams; post-show Perspectives Series for *Hold These Truths*; *We Are Visible*, a short-play showcase benefiting The Giving Tree; and adult classes on playwriting, improv and memoir writing.

All events are held at The Armory (128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland, OR, 97209). Details at <https://www.pcs.org/community>, 503.445.3700, or in person. Information on accessibility options available at <https://www.pcs.org/access>. *Events, dates and times are subject to change.*

ON STAGE IN OCTOBER

***Little Shop of Horrors* | No through October 16, 2016**

By Howard Ashman and Alan Menken; Directed by Bill Fennelly

On the U.S. Bank Main Stage | Tickets start at \$25 | <https://www.pcs.org/littleshop>

***Hold These Truths* | October 1 – November 13, 2016**

By Jeanne Sakata; Directed by Jessica Kubzansky

In the Ellyn Bye Studio | Tickets start at \$25 | <https://www.pcs.org/truths>

***The Oregon Trail* | October 29 – November 20, 2016**

By Bekah Brunstetter; Directed by Rose Riordan

On the U.S. Bank Main Stage | Tickets start at \$25 | <https://www.pcs.org/oregontrail>

SPECIAL EVENTS IN OCTOBER

The Armory Open House: Celebrating 10 Years!

October 2016 marks Portland Center Stage's 10th anniversary in The Armory. Join us for an open house celebration with live music, a costume and production retrospective, a free film screening, backstage tours and more. Volunteers will be on hand to help guests register to vote. #PlayOurPart

October 2 | 12 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. | FREE, *snacks and drinks available for purchase*

<https://www.pcs.org/blog/armory-open-house>

- 12 p.m. and 5 p.m., Backstage Tours
- 12:45 p.m., Music by Santi Elijah Holley
- 2:30 p.m., Music by Annalise Tornfelt
- 4 p.m., Film: *A Personal Matter: Gordon Hirabayashi vs. the United States*
Playwright Jeanne Sakata will be in attendance for a discussion about the film.
- 4 p.m., Music by Freddy Vilches Trio

Happy Hour: Jeanne Sakata and the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center

Meet *Hold These Truths* playwright Jeanne Sakata and enjoy musical performances by Peter Zisa and Yukiko Vossen.

October 4 | 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Mezzanine | FREE, *complimentary snacks and drinks*

<https://www.pcs.org/blog/happy-hour-with-hold-these-truths-playwright-jeanne-sakata>

First Thursday: Mic Crenshaw and members of the *Little Shop* creative team

Mic Crenshaw will perform and members of the cast and crew of *Little Shop of Horrors* will be in attendance, including Audrey II puppeteer, Stephen Kriz Gardner.

October 6 | 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. | Mezzanine | FREE, *drink specials available*

<https://www.pcs.org/blog/first-thursday-with-mic-crenshaw>

***Vision & Vigilance*: Dramatic Reading and Civil Rights Discussion**

A reading of excerpts from Holly Yasui's play *Citizen Min*, followed by a roundtable discussions with panelists who will connect their work in civil and human rights to the work of Minoru Yasui.

Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center's traveling photo exhibit *Never Give Up – The Minoru Yasui Story* will be on display.

October 9 | 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. | Ellyn Bye Studio | FREE, *reservations encouraged*

<https://www.pcs.org/blog/visions-vigilance-with-the-oregon-nikkei-legacy-center>

Portland Poetry Slam

Poetry readings and slams held at The Armory (usually every other Sunday).

October 9 and 23 | 6:30 p.m. | Lobby | \$5 suggested donation

<http://portlandpoetryslam.com/schedule>

Post-show Perspectives Series for *Hold These Truths*

Post-show discussions developed in partnership with the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center. Hear and share personal reactions and thoughts inspired by the play, filtered through the perspectives of our Japanese American community, social justice activists, scholars, and historians.

October 16, 23 and 30 | 3:30 p.m. | Ellyn Bye Studio | FREE

<https://www.pcs.org/blog/perspective-series-for-hold-these-truths>

We Are Visible: Short Play Readings Benefiting The Giving Tree

An afternoon of short play readings and visual art created by residents of affordable housing who receive support from [The Giving Tree](#), an organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of underserved populations. Community members spent eight weeks working with director and dramaturg Jessica Dart to learn storytelling techniques and theatrical conventions to develop original works for this showcase. The program was modeled after Portland Center Stage's student playwriting program, Visions and Voices, and was developed in partnership with a Visions and Voices alumnus, Evan P. Thomas, the board president for The Giving Tree.

October 22 | 2 p.m. | Ellyn Bye Studio | \$5 suggested donation, free with Oregon Trail Card

<https://www.pcs.org/blog/we-are-visible-a-short-play-showcase-benefiting-the-giving-tree>

GET SCHOOLED AT THE ARMORY

Playwriting Toolbox Class with Matthew B. Zrebski

Designed as an intro for the beginner or as a brush-up for the seasoned writer, this course focuses heavily on tools that will spark ideas on both what and how to write.

October 15 – November 5 | 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Conference Room | \$130

<https://www.pcs.org/blog/playwriting-toolbox-class-with-matthew-b-zrebski>

Fundamentals of Improv with Laura Faye Smith

Chock-full of simple takeaways that you can rely on every day, this light-hearted workshop focuses on accepting the best of what's right in front of you, finding humor without jokes, and what to do when your mind goes "blank."

October 24 | 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. | Vigeland Rehearsal Hall | \$70

<https://www.pcs.org/blog/fundamentals-of-improv-classes>

Comedy Memoir Writing with Courtenay Hameister

Whether you're hoping to inject some humor into your blog, write a Bossypants-style memoir, or learn to look at those awkward, humiliating and/or litigation-worthy moments as funny instead of tragic, this class is for you. Courtenay Hameister will talk about the power of the ugly truth, the

judicious use of self-deprecation, and turning the catastrophic into the ridiculous.

October 29 and 30 | 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. | Vigeland Rehearsal Hall | \$100

<https://www.pcs.org/education-and-community-programs/adults>

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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. An estimated 150,000 people visit 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. Community Programs are supported in part by contributions from U.S. Bank and The Wallace Foundation. Education Programs are supported in part by contributions from Wells Fargo, PGW Foundation and Mentor Graphics. 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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