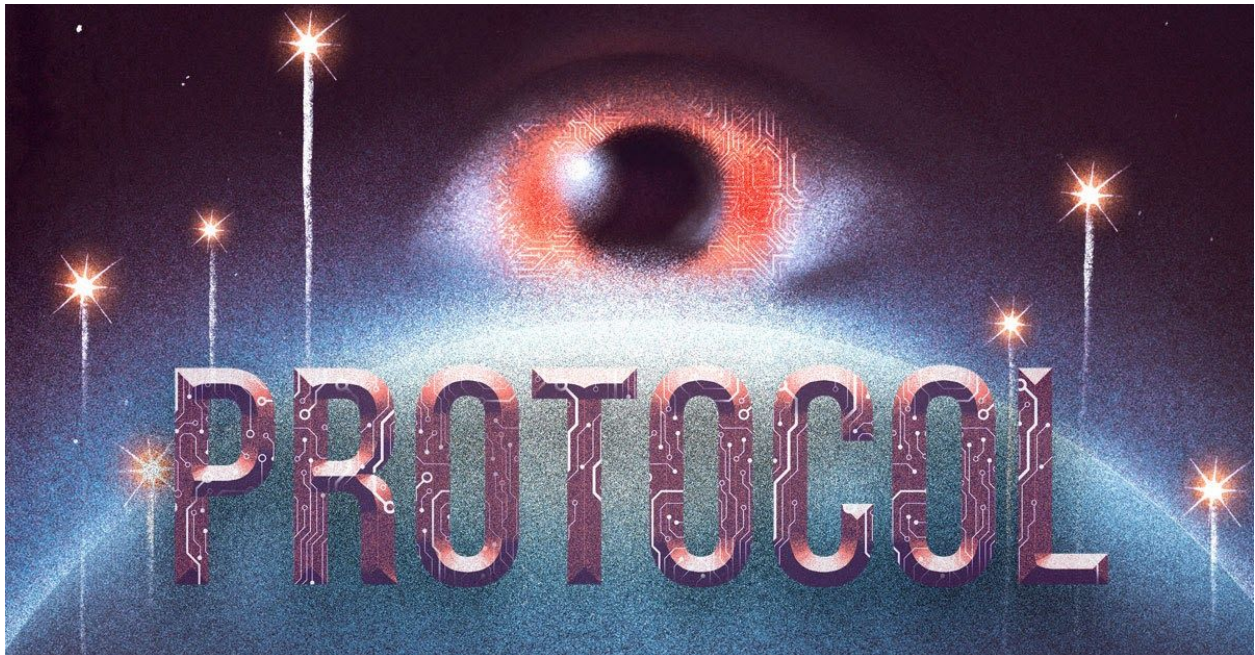


MEDIA RELEASE

The Afro-futurist, sci-fi audio thriller *PROTOCOL: Episode 1* is the latest release from the PCS Remix: Original Works series

• Helmed by Portland-based artist Phil Johnson •



Launch w/ Artist Q&A on March 9 at 7:30 p.m.; available through April 4

February 17, 2021 — PORTLAND, OR. The latest release from the PCS Remix: Original Works series is a venture into the world of audio, with the Afro-futurist sci-fi thriller *PROTOCOL: Episode 1*. Conceived and created by Portland-based, multi-disciplinary artist **Phil Johnson**, the project is a pilot episode for a podcast series Johnson plans to release at a later date.

PROTOCOL: Episode 1 will be launched on March 9 at 7:30 p.m., with a listening party and live Q&A with the artistic team. Following the release, the episode will be available for listening through April 4. Tickets are free and can be reserved at pcs.org/protocol.

PROTOCOL: Episode 1 was written by Johnson, **Bobby R. Bermea**, **Tyharra Cozier**, and **Ashley Song Mellinger**. Bermea, Cozier, and Mellinger will also star in the show, alongside **Kayla Kelly**, **Victor Mack**, **Julana Torres**, and **Ken Yoshikawa**. They're joined by sound designer **Sharath Patel**, composer **Derek Graham**, dramaturg **Kamilah Bush**, and stage manager **Kristen Mun**.

"My goal was to expand the audio genre and create something unique, yet reminiscent of the way folks used to gather around the radio for their weekly audio dramas. This new genre I define as 'audiography,' the amalgamation of cinematography and podcasting," Johnson said.

"The pilot of *PROTOCOL* was conceived with a group of futurists and sci-fi genre benders of color, who were poised with the task of writing a script outside the normal clichés of race and gender — to create a piece of art that not only looks forward through technology, but through ideology as well," he continued.

PROTOCOL: EPISODE 1

When an unexpected tragedy befalls the crew aboard space cruiser *Elegua IV*, they are thrust into a thrilling mystery which threatens their mission to preserve humanity. This science fiction audio experience traverses multiple times, dimensions, and galaxies. Immerse yourself in the pilot episode of *PROTOCOL*, a new podcast which explores how the systems we trust may not always be on our side.

PHIL JOHNSON

Phil Johnson is a visual and theatrical artist and the host of the Radical Listening Podcast (Coho Productions). His work is known to PCS audiences through his visual art exhibit for the Community Voices Project and his sound designs for *Redwood*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at*

Pemberley, and *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play*. Johnson is a self-proclaimed futurist and surrealist who focuses on the realities of the human condition, especially as it relates to his experience as an African American male. Phil is also highly concerned with the effect that technology plays on mental and emotional health and expresses that through his work, whether it is storytelling, painting, or sound design. Johnson has a B.F.A. and M.A. from Ohio University. philjohnsondesignstheworld.com

PCS REMIX: ORIGINAL WORKS

The PCS Remix: Original Works series gathers artists from a broad spectrum of creative expressions to make short, devised theatrical pieces. The goal is collaboration and experimentation, rather than finished works of art. These projects allow PCS to support brilliant artists and give them the opportunity to explore whatever direction inspires them — and to deepen connections with the community by sharing this exciting exploratory work. The PCS Remix: Original Works series is supported in part by the Kinsman Foundation, Oregon Cultural Trust, and AHA, Inc.

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 is funded in part by Season Superstars the Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank and the Regional Arts and Culture Council. Further support comes from Mary and Don Blair; Tim and Mary Boyle; the National Endowment for the Arts; and the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the state of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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