

MEDIA RELEASE

WORLD PREMIERE OF *HOWARDS END* AND *CAMBODIAN ROCK BAND* CANCELED DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS Remaining performances of *9 Parts of Desire* also canceled

March 30, 2020 — PORTLAND, OR. In response to the public health pandemic, Portland Center Stage at The Armory has canceled the final two productions in the 2019-2020 season; the world premiere of *Howards End* and *Cambodian Rock Band*. The remaining performances of *9 Parts of Desire* have also been canceled. These unprecedented cancellations will result in serious and lasting hardships for the company, staff, and artists.

“It is heartbreaking to cancel the rest of the 2019-2020 season. Losing the opportunity to share these breathtakingly beautiful productions with Portland has deep impacts on our fantastic staff and artists.” said Artistic Director Marissa Wolf. “We’re doing our best to support the staff and artists most affected by these cancellations, and we thank our community for the generosity and assistance we have received during this critical time. That continued support will be crucial as we look forward to coming back strong in the season ahead.”

The building will be closed to the public until further notice, but patrons are still able to purchase tickets for the 2020-2021 season and make donations online. Patrons with tickets to canceled performances will be contacted and can choose from several options, including:

- Donating their tickets and claiming a tax-deduction for the ticket value
- Crediting their tickets towards a future performance in the 2020-2021 season

“More than 60% of Portland Center Stage’s revenue comes from ticket sales, concessions, and venue rentals, with many of the costs laid out upfront, which means they can’t be recouped by canceling performances,” Managing Director Cynthia Fuhrman said. “We are truly grateful to everyone who is stepping in to begin to help fill that gap. Donating tickets for canceled

performances, subscribing to our 2020-2021 season, or donating to Portland Center Stage are all invaluable ways of supporting us through this difficult time.”

CONTACTING THE BOX OFFICE

Due to the high number of transactions, patrons should contact the box office by filling out the form online at <https://www.pcs.org/canceled-performance-preference>, or by calling and leaving a voicemail at 503.445.3700.

TICKETS & DONATIONS

Tickets for the 2020-2021 season start at \$101 for three-play packages and can be purchased at <https://www.pcs.org/shows/2020-2021-season>. Donations of any size are greatly appreciated and can be made at <https://www.pcs.org/donate>.

IDEA

Portland Center Stage at The Armory is committed to identifying and interrupting instances of racism and all forms of oppression, through the principles of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA). www.pcs.org/idea

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 28 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 *9 Parts of Desire* was generously provided by Reynolds Potter, Sharon Mueller, and The Franklin and Dorothy Piacentini Charitable Trust. Support for *Howards End* was generously provided by Argyle Winery, Oakwood, and KeyBank. Support for *Cambodian Rock Band* was generously provided by Diana Gerding.

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