

MEDIA RELEASE

***Summerfield Estates* marks the final PCS Remix: Original Works offering, helmed by Ashley Song Mellinger**



“Do you like fun? If you like fun, you’ll like this show!” –Ashley Song Mellinger

June 9, 2021 — PORTLAND, OR. Portland-based theater artist and filmmaker Ashley Song Mellinger will helm the final offering from the PCS Remix: Original Works series, which brings multidisciplinary artists together to create short theatrical works with complete artistic freedom to explore whatever direction inspires them.

“*Summerfield Estates* is a choose-your-own-adventure sci-farce that gives the audience a chance to participate in a weird, cinematic adventure,” said Mellinger, who is the lead artist and

will also star as the central character Mouser — a rogue secret agent who wakes up in a retirement home not knowing how she got there.

Joining Mellinger is Xzavier Beacham in the role of Felix, Mouser's rival in the cat-and-mouse games that ensue. They're joined by Treasure Lunan as Dallas, the charming and ever-so-helpful sapient being that rounds out the cast.

Live performances will be presented digitally via Zoom, where the audience will have the opportunity to help guide the story. There are four opportunities to catch this campy, off-kilter adventure: June 25 and 26 at 7:30 p.m., and June 26 and 27 at 2 p.m. Tickets are Pay What You Will, starting at \$5, and can be reserved at pcs.org/summerfield-estates.

SUMMERFIELD ESTATES

Imagine waking up in a strange place with no memory of how you got there or who you are. Step into the shoes of Mouser, a special agent of dubious background, who wakes up on the bathroom floor of a retirement community and must rely entirely on the decisions made by the audience to figure out what she's doing there and how to get out! Viewers will help craft the story in this techno/choose-your-own-adventure/sci-farce created by Ashley Song Mellinger. Streamed live and changing in real-time, *Summerfield Estates* offers a thrilling, hilarious journey that can be taken again and again.

ASHLEY SONG MELLINGER

As a theater artist and filmmaker, Mellinger is committed to re-imagining traditional narratives and including marginalized voices, without centering exclusively on their identities and trauma. She is an award-winning, half-Korean actor and producer, who co-founded Desert Island Studios to increase artists' accessibility to film resources. Her theater credits include: *The Winter's Tale* (Portland Shakespeare Project); *BLISS (or Emily Post is Dead!)* (Defunkt Theatre); *Redwood* (world premiere, Portland Center Stage); *Girl vs. Troll* (CoHo Labs); and *Night Shift* (Profile Theatre 72-Hour Play Fest).

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Summerfield Estates is created and conceived by Mellinger, and directed and written by Joe Bowden. PCS Literary Manager Kamilah Bush is the dramaturg; Trent Eccles is the lighting designer and board operator; Casi Pacilio is the sound designer and audio engineer; Will Cotter is the video designer; Jamie Lynne Simons is the stage manager, Asia Brown is on Camera 1 and Edward Davee is on Camera 2.

SPECIAL EVENTS

[Panel Discussion: Immersive Technology, Gaming Culture, and Theater](#)

June 24 • 7 p.m. • FREE • Streamed on YouTube, Facebook, and Twitch.

Inspired by the immersive experience of *Summerfield Estates*, this panel discussion will take a deep dive into the wild and wonderful world of interactive design. Ashley Song Mellinger will moderate this discussion with some of Portland's most exciting vanguard artists in the field, including Nisha Burton, Will Lewis, and Reese Bowes.

TICKETS FOR SUMMERFIELD ESTATES

Tickets can be purchased at pcs.org or by calling the box office at 503.445.3700, Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m to 4 p.m. The run time for this original work is approximately 60 minutes. More information can be found at pcs.org/summerfield-estates.

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 Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank and the Regional Arts and Culture Council. Further support comes from US Bank; 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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