

MEDIA RELEASE

Portland Center Stage's PCS Remix: Play Readings series
brings Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* to the virtual stage with a
reading of selected scenes directed by Desdemona Chiang

Live virtual event on September 26, 2020, at 5 p.m.



September 2, 2020 — PORTLAND, OR. Portland Center Stage's PCS Remix: Play Readings series kicks off with a reading of Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*. Seattle and Ashland-based director Desdemona Chiang will direct the reading, featuring selected scenes coupled with conversations and insights from the artists. The live, virtual reading will be presented on September 26, 2020, at 5 p.m. Tickets are on sale now.

"We wanted to channel the raw, exciting energy of a play reading — actors, scripts, music stands, audience — through the digital medium. Exploring delicious scenes, alongside conversations from collaborators and, occasionally, elements of design, feels like a treat as we consider what plays and musicals to produce in the seasons to come," Artistic Director Marissa Wolf said.

"Desdemona Chiang is one of my favorite directors," Wolf continued. "She is diving into the playful possibilities that *The Comedy of Errors* offers, when the role of twins can be achieved by two camera angles, and a little zany humor is born when actors live in one household."

Two sets of twins, a shipwreck, and mistaken identities ignite one of Shakespeare's liveliest and most playful comedies. The cast for this play reading — to be announced soon — will bring together New York and Portland actors to find out what happens when madcap physical comedy meets the virtual realm ... with a few "outside the box" surprises thrown in!

DESDEMONA CHIANG

Desdemona Chiang will make her Portland Center Stage mainstage debut directing the upcoming world premiere of [Lauren Yee's *Young Americans*](#). Chiang is a stage director and co-founder of Azeotrope (Seattle). Directing credits include productions at Guthrie Theater, Alley Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, California Shakespeare Theater, and Seattle Repertory Theatre. Chiang is the recipient of a Princess Grace Award (Robert and Gloria Hausman Theater Honor), Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise in Theatre, SDC Sir John Gielgud Directing Fellowship, Drama League Directing Fellowship, TCG Young Leader of Color, Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab and Directors Lab West, and Gregory Award Recipient for Outstanding Direction. [Download Desdemona Chiang's headshot here.](#)

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are on sale now. Pay What You Will pricing starts at \$5. Suggested higher tiers range from \$10 to \$30 but audiences can select any price point that feels right to them. Tickets can be purchased at pcs.org or by calling the box office at 503.445.3700. More information is available at pcs.org/the-comedy-of-errors-play-reading.

RELATED EVENT

Quick Tips on Craft for the Actor and Director with Desdemona Chiang

September 28, 2020, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., \$30

This workshop will focus on four mechanical elements of the actor's craft - physical, verbal, rhythm, and behavior. Using a series of brief exercises, performers will pick up quick and dirty tips and skills that help add detail and shape to an existing body of work. More information is available at www.pcs.org/events.

PCS REMIX: PLAY READINGS

The [PCS Remix: Play Readings](#) series provides the opportunity to perch on the cutting edge of theater as we create week-long workshops of new and classic plays, followed by public scene readings that include conversations with the artists. Held either virtually, or in person, each play reading will provide an opportunity to engage with raw, remarkable scripts that just might reach PCS stages in the years to come.

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.

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