

Portland Center Stage at

THE **ARMORY**

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**M E D I A   R E L E A S E**

**Will you die of dysentery? Are you fully equipped to traverse life?**

**- Press Space Bar to Continue -**

**The Computer Game and Real-Life Trail Collide in**

**Bekah Brunstetter's *The Oregon Trail***

**Previews Begin Oct. 29 | Opening Night is Nov. 4 | Must Close Nov. 20**

**TICKETS STARTING AT \$25**



**October 13, 2016 – PORTLAND, OR.** Portland Center Stage at The Amory continues its Northwest Stories series with Bekah Brunstetter's *The Oregon Trail*, opening on the U.S. Bank Main Stage on November 4, with previews beginning October 29 and performances through November 20. **Associate Artistic Director Rose Riordan directs a cast that includes local favorites Alex Leigh Ramirez, who will traverse the country in 1848 as Then Jane; Chris Murray who will play both pre-pubescent Billy and the general store owner, Matt; and Leif Norby**

**who will play the omnipotent Voice of The Oregon Trail, as well as Then Jane's father, Clancy. Making their company debuts are Sarah Baskin, who will play angsty gamer Now Jane; and Emily Caitlin Yetter, who will play the obnoxiously perfect sister of both Janes.**

**Regular tickets start at \$25.** Tickets may be purchased at [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org), 503.445.3700, or in-person from the box office (128 NW Eleventh Avenue, Portland, OR). Rush tickets are \$20. Students and patrons who are 30 or younger can purchase \$30 tickets in all premium seating areas. Showtimes are Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding November 13);

Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding October 29, 30 and November 5); and Thursday matinees at noon (excluding November 3). Recommended for ages 16+. Contains mature content, explicit language and adult situations. Information at <https://www.pcs.org/oregontrail>.

## **ABOUT THE PLAY**

*You have died of dysentery!* For those who grew up playing The Oregon Trail computer game, dysentery was serious business. In this fresh and funny retelling of our history, two Janes traverse The Oregon Trail. Now Jane is playing the computer game in 1997; Then Jane is in a covered wagon in 1848. A judgey game show narrator, a domineering sister and two oxen try to corral the two Janes. Fate maneuvers them both to a conclusion that changes their lives and sends them to the end of the trail.

## **PRODUCTION HISTORY**

*The Oregon Trail* was developed at Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwrights Conference in 2013 and further developed at The Lark Play Development Center. In 2014, the play was included on the very first list created by [The Kilroys](#), a gender parity advocacy group dedicated to ending the underrepresentation of female and trans playwrights in American theater (Bekah Brunstetter is a founding member of The Kilroys). *The Oregon Trail* had its world premiere in 2015 at Flying V Theatre as part of the Women's Voices Theater Festival in Washington, D.C. – the first city-wide effort to address the gender gap in theater, in which more than 50 companies united to produce world premieres of plays written by females within one season. During the festival, *The Washington Post* called *The Oregon Trail* an “appropriately playful, thoughtful show,” noting that “Brunstetter draws you in with puckish humor” and “uses the game frame to her wry advantage.”

## **BEKAH BRUNSTETTER**

Bekah Brunstetter's plays include *The Cake*, *Going to a Place where you already are*, *Cutie and Bear*, *A Long and Happy life*, *Be A Good Little Widow*, *Oohrah!*, *Nothing is the end of the World (except for the end of the world)*, *House of Home* and *Miss Lilly Gets Boned*. She is an alumni of Center Theatre Group's Writers Group, Ars Nova's Play Group, Primary Stages' Writers Group, Playwright's Realm and the Women's Project Theater Lab. She is currently a member of The Echo Theater Company's Playwright's Lab. She is based in LA, where she has written for MTV's

*Underemployed* and *I Just Want My Pants Back*; ABC Family's *Switched at Birth*; and Starz's new series, *American Gods*, which is slated to premiere in early 2017. Brunstetter is currently a co-producer on NBC's *This Is Us*. She holds a B.A. from UNC Chapel Hill and an M.F.A. in Dramatic Writing from the New School for Drama. For more information visit [bekahbrunstetter.com](http://bekahbrunstetter.com).

## THE CAST

The cast features **Sarah Baskin as Now Jane** (recent Off-Broadway credits include *The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore* and *Wolves*); **Emily Caitlin Yetter as Mary Anne** (the national tour of *Peter Pan* and *The Exorcist* at Geffen Playhouse); **Alex Leigh Ramirez as Then Jane** (pictured above, recent local credits include *Antigone Project* with Profile Theatre/String House Theatre and *TeatroSOLO: Deseo* with Boom Arts Theatre); **Chris Murray as Billy/Matt** (previously at The Armory in *Great Expectations*, *Our Town* and many others), and **Leif Norby as Voice of The Oregon Trail/Clancy** (previously at The Armory in *Our Town*, *Cyrano* and many others). **Please note: An earlier press release incorrectly listed Sarah Baskin's role as Then Jane, instead of Now Jane.**

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

Directing the production is Portland Center Stage at The Armory's Associate Artistic Director **Rose Riordan**, who most recently directed *Our Town*. Joining her is Scenic Designer **Misha Kachman** (*Stupid Fucking Bird* at The Armory); Costume Designer Alison Heryer (most recently *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *Our Town* at The Armory); Lighting Designer William Kirkham (*Little Shop of Horrors* at The Armory); Resident Sound Designer Casi Pacilio (most recently *Little Shop of Horrors* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* at The Armory); Projection Designer Liam Kaas-Lentz (Production Manager for Portland Center Stage at The Armory); with Stage Manager Janine Vanderhoff and Production Assistant Will Bailey.

## TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

**When: October 29\* – November 20, 2016**

\*Opening Night/Press Night is Friday, November 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: October 29, 30 and November 1, 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** On the U.S. Bank Main Stage at [The Armory](#)  
128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland, Ore., 97209

**To Purchase:** Regular tickets range from \$25 to \$70. Rush tickets are \$20. Students and patrons who are 30 or younger may purchase premium seating areas for \$30. Discounts for groups of 10+. *Prices vary by date, time and seating area, and are subject to change.*

**Online:** [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org)

**By Phone:** 503.445.3700, 12–6 p.m.

**In Person:** The box office is at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue  
12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on performance days  
12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on non-performance days

**Groups:** Discounts available for groups of 10+ by calling 503.445.3794.

**More Info:** <https://www.pcs.org/oregontrail>

**Showtimes:** Showtimes are Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding November 13); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding October 29, 30 and November 5); and Thursday matinees at noon (excluding November 3).

**Please Note:** *The Oregon Trail* is recommended for ages 16+. Contains mature content, explicit language and adult situations.

**Accessibility:** Learn about our accessibility options at <http://www.pcs.org/access/>.

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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. Around 150,000 visitors attend 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. 11 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.

### **THE 2016-2017 SEASON**

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. Support for *The Oregon Trail* is provided by Argyle Winery and Curtis Thompson, MD and Associates. 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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