

Portland Center Stage at

THE **ARMORY**

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M E D I A R E L E A S E

Portland Center Stage presents

-LIMITED RETURN ENGAGEMENT-

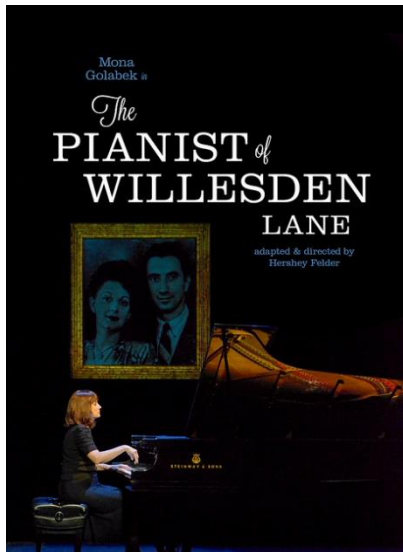
Mona Golabek in *The Pianist of Willesden Lane*

Based on the book *The Children of Willesden Lane* by Mona Golabek and Lee Cohen

Adapted and Directed by Hershey Felder

TWO WEEKS ONLY | JUNE 17 – 30, 2017

-TICKETS START AT \$25-



May 11, 2017 — PORTLAND, OR. Grammy-nominated artist Mona Golabek will return to Portland Center Stage at The Armory for a limited engagement of *The Pianist of Willesden Lane*, adapted and directed by Hershey Felder and based on the book *The Children of Willesden Lane: Beyond the Kindertransport; A Memoir of Music, Love, and Survival* by Mona Golabek and Lee Cohen. *The Pianist of Willesden Lane* runs for only two weeks, following a sell-out run at The Armory in 2016. The return engagement opens on June 17 and runs through June 30 on the U.S. Bank Main Stage.

Regular tickets start at \$25 and are on sale now. Tickets may be purchased at 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 \$40 tickets in all premium seating areas. Showtimes are Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m (there is no matinee performance on opening night, Saturday, June 17). *The Pianist of Willesden Lane* is recommended for ages 12+; children under 6 are not permitted at any production. Information at <https://www.pcs.org/pianist>.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Set in Vienna in 1938 and in London during the Blitzkrieg, *The Pianist of Willesden Lane* tells the true and inspirational story of Lisa Jura, a young Jewish musician whose dreams are interrupted by the Nazi regime. In this poignant show, Grammy-nominated pianist Mona Golabek performs some of the world's most stunning music as she shares her mother's riveting true story of survival. *The Pianist of Willesden Lane* is infused with hope and invokes the life-affirming power of music. Beloved selections from composers such as Bach, Beethoven, Chopin and Rachmaninoff enhance this captivating story.

Download Photos: Mona Golabek performing in *The Pianist of Willesden Lane*

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/portlandcenterstage/albums/72157658376853101>

Please credit Patrick Weishampel/blankeye.tv.

PRODUCTION HISTORY

The Pianist of Willesden Lane opened at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles in 2012 to wide acclaim. *The Los Angeles Times* called it an "arresting, deeply affecting triumph" and Golabek was nominated for the 2012 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Theatrical Excellence. Since the world premiere, Golabek has performed the show to sold-out houses across the country. It was a *New York Times* Critics' Pick, noted for being "deeply affecting." The *San Francisco Chronicle* called it an "astonishing tour de force" and the *Chicago Tribune* called it a "stirring case of art preserving life ... Golabek sitting down at the Steinway piano is enough to make your mouth fall open with a certain wonder at the way of the world." Most recently, the *Londonist* hailed it as "deeply moving ... an uplifting story of extraordinary love and endurance told through timeless music that is by turns haunting and joyful, sobering and spellbinding." *The Pianist of Willesden Lane* debuted in Portland at The Armory in 2016, playing to sold-out houses April 2 through May 1.

MONA GOLABEK

American concert pianist Mona Golabek has appeared at the Hollywood Bowl, The Kennedy Center and Royal Festival Hall. She is a Grammy nominee who has been the subject of several documentaries, including *Concerto for Mona* with conductor Zubin Mehta. Her recordings include *Carnival of the Animals* and *Ravel's Mother Goose Suite* featuring Meryl Streep, both recorded with Mona's sister, Renee Golabek-Kaye. Both daughters were taught by their mother, Lisa Jura, who is the subject of Mona's acclaimed book, *The Children of Willesden Lane*. Mona's father, Michele Golabek, received the

Croix de Guerre for his role in the French Resistance. Mona founded Hold On To Your Music, a foundation devoted to spreading the message of the power of music. With the help of the Milken Family Foundation, Facing History and Ourselves, and the Annenberg Foundation, she created educational resources which, with her book, have been adopted into school curricula across America. Additional educational partnerships have been formed with the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, Mashplant and the USC Shoah Foundation — all helping to bring forth the story of Lisa Jura.

HERSHEY FELDER – ADAPTOR/DIRECTOR

Hershey Felder performed *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin* at The Armory this past winter to much acclaim. He has played over 4,500 performances of his self-created solo productions and has broken box office records consistently. His work was named in *Time Magazine's* Top 10 Plays and Musicals in 2016. His shows include *George Gershwin Alone* (Broadway's Helen Hayes Theatre, West End's Duchess Theatre); *Monsieur Chopin*; *Beethoven*; *Maestro (Leonard Bernstein)*; *Franz Liszt in Musik*; *Lincoln: An American Story* and *Our Great Tchaikovsky*. In addition, he performs concerts of "The Great American Song Book Sing-Along" at every theater where his shows are presented as well as private venues. His future productions include the new musical, *Chosen by God*, for which he is writing music, book and lyrics. His compositions and recordings include *Aliyah, Concerto for Piano and Orchestra*; *Fairytale*, a musical; *Les Anges de Paris, Suite for Violin and Piano*; *Song Settings*; *Saltimbanques for Piano and Orchestra*; *Etudes Thematiques for Piano*; and *An American Story for Actor and Orchestra*.

CREATIVE TEAM

Scenic Design	Hershey Felder and Trevor Hay
Costume Design	Jaclyn Maduff
Lighting Design	Christopher Rynne
Assistant Lighting Design	Jason Bieber
Sound Design/Production Manager	Erik Carstensen
Projection Design	Andrew Wilder and Greg Sowizdrzal
Video Director	Lawrence Siefert
Production Dramaturg	Cynthia Caywood, Ph.D.
Associate Direction	Trevor Hay
Production Stage Manager	Kelsey Daye Lutz

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: June 17* – June 30, 2017

**Opening night is Saturday, June 17 at 7:30 p.m.*

Showtimes: Showtimes are Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (there is no matinee performance on Saturday, June 17).

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

More Info: <http://www.pcs.org/pianist/>

To Purchase: **Regular tickets range from \$25 to \$85.** Rush tickets are \$20. Students and patrons who are 30 or younger can purchase \$40 tickets in all premium seating areas. Discounts for groups of 10+. *Prices vary by date, time and seating area, and are subject to change.*

Online: www.pcs.org

By Phone: 503.445.3700, 12–6 p.m.

In Person: PCS's 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.

Please Note: Recommended for ages 12 and up.

Accessibility: PCS is committed to making our performances and facilities accessible to all of our patrons. Learn more 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 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 23 world premieres and presents an annual new works festival, JAW: A Playwrights Festival. 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 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 Pianist of Willesden Lane* comes from Production Sponsors the Portland Timbers and Work for Art. Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner. 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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