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

Portland Center Stage presents

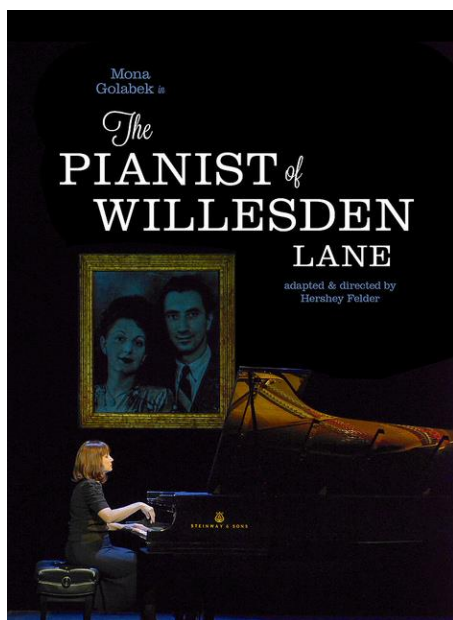
Mona Golabek in *The Pianist of Willesden Lane*

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

Adapted and Directed by Hershey Felder

Previews Begin April 2 | Opening Night is April 8 | Must Close May 1

TICKETS STARTING AT \$25 — ON SALE NOW



March 2, 2016 – PORTLAND, OR. Portland Center Stage presents the Grammy-nominated artist Mona Golabek in *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* opens at Portland Center Stage on April 8, with preview performances beginning April 2, and performances running through May 1 on the U.S. Bank Main Stage. *The Pianist of Willesden Lane* comes to Portland following its critically acclaimed debut on London’s West End at the St. James Theatre.

Regular tickets start at \$25. Tickets may be purchased at www.pcs.org, 503.445.3700, or the Gerding Theater at the Armory box office (128 NW Eleventh Avenue, Portland, OR). Rush tickets are \$20. Special \$25 tickets in premium seating areas for students and patrons who are 30 or younger. Showtimes are Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding April 17 and May 1); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding April 2, 3, 9 and 23); and Thursday matinees at noon (excluding April 7). Recommended for ages 12+. More information at <http://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 Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Rachmaninoff and more enhance this captivating story. Mona's book, *The Children of Willesden Lane*, will be available for purchase in the lobby.

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."

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 – ADAPTER/DIRECTOR

Hershey Felder created and performed *George Gershwin Alone*, which played on Broadway at the Helen Hayes Theatre, in the West End at the Duchess Theatre, and in theaters around the country. His *Composers Sonata* — *George Gershwin Alone; Monsieur Chopin; Beethoven, As I Knew Him; Maestro Bernstein; Hershey Felder as Franz Liszt in Musik; and Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin* — has been presented at dozens of theaters across the U.S. and around the world. 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; Love Songs of the Yiddish Theatre; Back from Broadway; and An American Story for Actor and Orchestra*. He created Eighty-Eight Entertainment in 2001; its newest division, Hershey Felder Presents, continues in the creation of new works of musical theater. Current projects include the musical play *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin*, as well as the upcoming *Hershey Felder Tchaikovsky* and several musical theater projects in development. He produced and created scenic design for Taylor Hackford's *Louis and Keely 'Live' at the Sahara*. Mr. Felder has been a scholar-in-residence at Harvard University's Department of Music and is married to Kim Campbell, the first female Prime Minister of Canada.

CREATIVE TEAM

Trevor Hay.....Associate Director/Scenic Co-Designer with Hershey Felder
Jaclyn Maduff.....Costume Designer/Executive Director
Christopher Rynne.....Lighting Designer
Jason Bieber.....Assistant Lighting Designer
Erik Carstensen.....Sound Designer/Tour Production Manager
Andrew Wilder and Greg Sowizdrzal....Projection Designers
Ross Glanc.....Video Director
Cynthia Caywood, Ph. D.....Production Dramaturg
Kelsey Daye Lutz.....Stage Manager
Karen Racanelli.....Executive Producer
Samantha F. Voxakis.....Producer/Company Manager

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: April 2* – May 1, 2016

*Opening Night/Press Night is Friday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: April 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding April 17 and May 1); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding April 2, 3, 9 and 23); and Thursday matinees at noon (excluding April 7).

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

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

To Purchase: Regular tickets range from \$25 to \$75. 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

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 curtain on performance days
12 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](#) inspires our community by bringing stories to life in unexpected ways. Founded in 1988, PCS is the city's leading professional theater and one of the top 20 largest regional theater companies in the U.S. PCS attracts more than 150,000 theatergoers annually with its blend of classical, contemporary and premiere works, along with its summer playwrights festival, JAW. PCS also offers a variety of education and community programs tailored for patrons of all ages.

[The Gerding Theater at the Armory](#) houses the 590-seat U.S. Bank Main Stage and the 190-seat black box Ellyn Bye Studio. It was the first building on the National Register of Historic Places – and the first performing arts venue – to achieve a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification. The Gerding Theater at the Armory opened to the public on Oct. 1, 2006.

[Portland Center Stage's 2015-2016 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank; Supporting Season Sponsors the Regional Arts and Culture Council, The Wallace Foundation, Work for Art and KINK FM. Support for *The Pianist of Willesden Lane* is provided by Steve and Marypat Hedberg, Dr. Barbara Hort, Arlene Schnitzer, Helen and Jerry Stern, Carol Edelman, Elba, Ralph, Lorraine, Renee and Russell Shaw, Jim and Susan Winkler and Work for Art. The official hotel partner for PCS is the Mark Spencer Hotel. PCS is a participant in the Wallace Foundation's [Building Audiences for Sustainability Initiative](#), a four-year effort with a nationwide cohort of 26 performing arts organizations. PCS also receives support from the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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