

Portland Center Stage at

THE **ARMORY**

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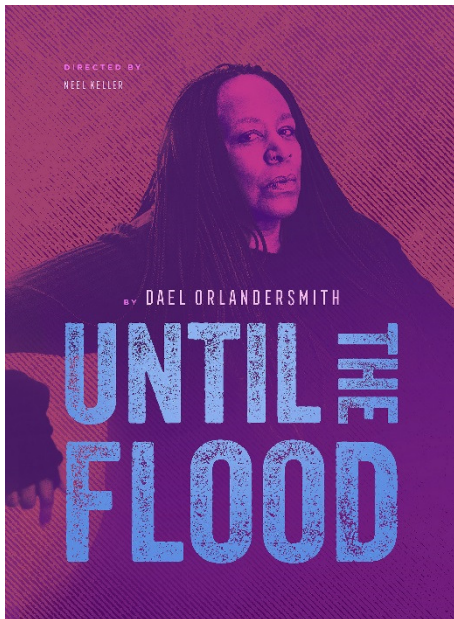
PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST DAEL ORLANDERSMITH'S *UNTIL THE FLOOD*

EXPLORES SOCIAL UNREST IN FERGUSON, MISSOURI

"She brings the questions, the pain and even the unspeakable thoughts of hundreds, if not millions, to life ... an urgent moral inquest." - *The New York Times*

Previews Begin March 16 | Opening Night is March 22 | Closes April 21

Tickets start at \$25



Feb. 6, 2019 — PORTLAND, OR. Pulitzer Prize finalist and celebrated performer Dael Orlandersmith returns to Portland Center Stage at The Armory to perform her compassionate, timely play *Until The Flood*. Originally commissioned by Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, *Until The Flood* explores the social unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, following the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed Black teenager, by a police officer. Orlandersmith (*Forever, The Gimmick* at The Armory) drew from her extensive interviews with residents across the greater St. Louis area to create composite characters that reflect a wide range of perspectives and

experiences of race in Missouri. Neel Keller, who directed the world premiere in St. Louis, returns to The Armory to direct.

"I hope it invokes and provokes thought and conversation," Orlandersmith told *The Interval* in 2018. "I wanted to get a sense of what it felt like, where does race stand here beyond the Michael Brown shooting," Orlandersmith said. "What does it mean in terms of your day to day life? This

shooting. How does it become a catalyst for you, racially, in terms of the way these individuals feel about race?”

The Armory will host several free community events surrounding *Until The Flood*, including a screening of *Whose Streets?*, a documentary about the Ferguson uprising, and a series of moderated post-show discussions with community leaders that will explore the themes of the play through local perspectives.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Pulitzer Prize finalist and celebrated performer Dael Orlandersmith (*Forever*) explores the social unrest in Ferguson, Missouri following the shooting of Michael Brown. Pulling from her extensive interviews with residents from neighborhoods across the greater St. Louis area, Orlandersmith crafts a stunning theatrical experience that must be seen. *Variety* called *Until The Flood* “both eye-opening and quietly moving,” while the *Chicago Tribune* called it “palpably compassionate,” writing that it “achieves a great beauty by bringing us together rather than driving us apart. Since its 2016 premiere in St. Louis, Orlandersmith has performed *Until The Flood* across the country at Rattlestick Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Goodman Theatre, and ACT Seattle.

DAEL ORLANDERSMITH

Dael Orlandersmith (playwright and performer) debuted *Stoop Stories* in 2008 at The Public Theater’s Under the Radar Festival and Apollo Theater’s Salon Series; Washington, DC’s Studio Theatre produced its world premiere in 2009. *Black n Blue Boys/Broken Men* was developed as a co-commission between Goodman Theatre and Berkeley Repertory Theatre, where it was staged in 2012. Her play *Horsedreams* was developed at New Dramatists and workshopped at New York Stage and Film Company in 2008 and performed at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater in 2011. *Bones* was commissioned by the Mark Taper Forum and premiered in 2010. Orlandersmith premiered *The Blue Album*, in collaboration with David Cale, at Long Wharf Theatre in 2007. *Yellowman* was commissioned by and premiered at McCarter Theatre in a co-production with The Wilma Theater and Long Wharf Theatre. Orlandersmith was a Pulitzer Prize finalist and Drama Desk Award nominee for Outstanding Play and Outstanding Actress in a Play for *Yellowman* in 2002. *The Gimmick*, commissioned by McCarter Theatre, premiered in their Second Stage OnStage series in

1998 and went on to great acclaim at Long Wharf Theatre and New York Theatre Workshop; Orlandersmith won the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize for *The Gimmick* in 1999. Her play *Monster* premiered at New York Theatre Workshop in 1996. Orlandersmith has toured extensively with the Nuyorican Poets Café (Real Live Poetry) throughout the United States, Europe, and Australia. Orlandersmith attended Sundance Institute Theatre Lab for four summers and is the recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts Grant, The Helen Merrill Award for Emerging Playwrights, a Guggenheim, and a PEN/Laura Pels Foundation Award for a playwright in mid-career. She is the recipient of a Lucille Lortel Foundation Playwrights Fellowship and an Obie Award for *Beauty's Daughter*. In 2014-2015, Orlandersmith wrote and performed the solo memoir play *Forever* at Kirk Douglas Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, Portland Center Stage at The Armory, and Abbey Theatre (Dublin).

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Neel Keller (*Forever*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Santaland Diaries*, and *A Christmas Memory* for Portland Center Stage at The Armory) directs a team that includes Scenic Designer Takeshi Kata (*Forever* at The Armory, *Until The Flood* at ACT), Costume Designer Kaye Voyce (*Forever* at The Armory, Broadway: *Significant Other*, *The Real Thing*), Lighting Designer Mary Louise Geiger (*Forever* at The Armory, Off-Broadway: *Until The Flood*, *Draw the Circle*), Sound Designer Justin Ellington (*Until The Flood* at ACT), Video Designer Nicholas Hussong (*Until The Flood* at ACT), Stage Manager Kristen Mun, and Production Assistant Molly Shevaun Reed.

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: **March 16 – April 21, 2019***

*Opening Night/Press Night: Friday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: March 16, 17, 19, 20, and 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: In the Ellyn Bye Studio at [The Armory](#)

128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland, Ore., 97209

To Purchase: Regular tickets range from \$25 to \$57 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; patrons who are 30 or younger; and active duty or veteran military personnel and their families get 50% off tickets in seating areas 1-3. \$5 tickets are available for Oregon Trail Card holders through the Arts for All program. *All prices vary by date and time, and are subject to change.*

Online: 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: www.pcs.org/flood

Showtimes: Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding March 26, 31 and April 7, 14, 16, 21); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding March 16, 17, 23 and April 6); and Thursday matinees at noon (excluding March 21 and April 11).

Please Note: Recommended for ages 16 and up. Contains strong language and adult situations. Children under 6 are not permitted at any production at The Armory.

Accessibility: Learn about our accessibility options at www.pcs.org/access.

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 is under the leadership of Artistic Director Marissa Wolf and Managing Director Cynthia Fuhrman. Around 150,000 visitors attend The Armory annually to enjoy a mix of classic, contemporary, and world premiere productions, along with a variety of high quality education and community programs. Eleven 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 26 world premieres and presents an annual new works festival, JAW: A Playwrights Festival. Home to two theaters, The Armory (originally built in 1891) opened its doors 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.

THE 2018-2019 SEASON

The [2018-2019 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank. Further support comes from Season Sponsors the Regional Arts and Culture Council, and Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the state of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Wallace Foundation. Support for *Until The Flood* comes from Diana Gerding, Sharon Mueller and Reynolds Potter, Davis Wright Tremaine, and Chrys Martin and Jack Pessia. Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner for the company. 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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