

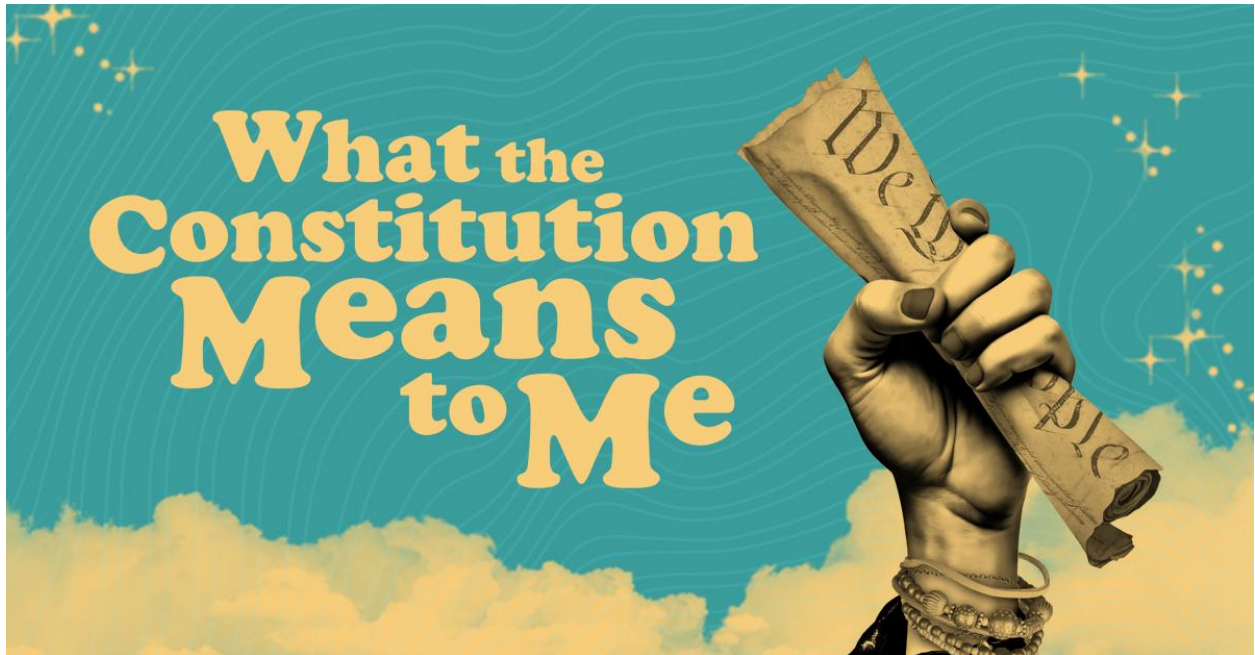
**PORTLAND
CENTER STAGE
AT THE ARMORY**

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MEDIA RELEASE

PCS's Next Show Asks Audiences: Uphold or Abolish?

"What the Constitution Means to Me" starts January 20, 2024



Previews begin Jan 20 | Opening Night Jan 26 | Closes Feb 18
[REQUEST PRESS TICKETS](#) | [PRESS IMAGES](#)

October 20, 2023 — PORTLAND, OR. Just in time for legislative short sessions and the beginning of a presidential election year, head over to Portland Center Stage to engage in a thought-provoking, witty, and deeply moving exploration of the way the U.S. Constitution affects our lives in *What the Constitution Means to Me* from January 20 to February 18, sponsored by the Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation and Chrys Martin and Jack Pessia. Tickets are on sale now, including sliding scale tickets for BIPOC Affinity Night, a.k.a. The People's Party, on Wednesday, January 31, at 7:30 p.m.

A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama, *What the Constitution Means to Me* offers a vibrant, one-of-a-kind theatrical experience. The play centers on writer Heidi Schreck's teenage experiences of delivering speeches about the Constitution for prize money, and the implications of this journey on her family history, gender equality, and the future of American democracy. The show ends with the character Heidi and a real-life teenage debate student flipping a coin to argue each side of the question: *What should we do with the Constitution?*

This exhilarating and deeply personal play will be directed by PCS Artistic Director Marissa Wolf; town-hall-meets-debate-classroom vibes by Scenic Designer Jamie Tait; nonpartisan wardrobe created by Costume Designer Dayna Lanier; shining a light on our cast will be Lighting Designer Jennifer Lin; and *Dirty Dancing*-esque vibes brought to life by Sound Designer Chris O'Toole. The *Constitution* cast is brought together by Casting Director and PCS Associate Artistic Director Chip Miller, including two Portland-local folks: Rebecca Lingafelter playing Heidi, and Andrés Alcalá, last seen as Egeus and one of the rude mechanicals in last season's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

"It's a gift to share *What the Constitution Means To Me* with audiences from across the Portland metro," says Artistic Director Marissa Wolf. "Heidi Schreck weaves a breathtaking, deeply vulnerable, and action-packed ride of the constitution's direct impact on her life. By the time the next generation hits the stage with a brilliant teenage debater, we've cracked open a vibrant space for imagining new possibilities for the world around us."

For more information on *What the Constitution Means to Me* and ticket purchases, please visit PCS's official website: www.pcs.org.

THE CRITICS SAY

"Superb ... a highly entertaining, deeply informative, and ultimately hopeful examination of the document that impacts every single one of us, every single day of our lives."

—*Chicago Sun Times*

“WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME is one of the things we always say we want theater to be: an act of civic engagement. It restarts an argument many of us forgot we even needed to have.” —*New York Times*

ABOUT THE SHOW

Filled with humor and history, this Pulitzer Prize finalist asks what the U.S. Constitution truly means. As a 15-year-old, Heidi Schreck won debate competitions defending the Constitution across the country. As an adult, she resurrects her teenage self to investigate its profound effect on four generations of women in her family. This exhilarating show culminates in a live debate with an actual teen, allowing audiences to weigh in on the Constitution's impact on our daily lives.

2019 Tony Award nominee and winner of the Obie Award, Off-Broadway Alliance Award, and New York Drama Critics' Circle Award.

SPECIAL EVENTS

[Siren Theater Improv Giants](#)

Sat, Jan 13, 7:30 p.m. • \$5 - \$25

Join the Siren Theater Improv Giants as they bring their signature brand of improv comedy, made up on the spot, right to your face at Portland Center Stage.

[February First Thursday featuring DoubleDash](#)

Thu, Feb 1, 5 p.m. • FREE

Join us for February First Thursday, featuring a live musical performance by energetic jazz/hip hop/R&B duo DoubleDash, art exhibits by Latoya Lovely (PGE Gallery) and Ronin Roc (Ellyn Bye Studio Lobby), community partner tables with Art Larger Than Me, Culzzles, Honeybee Lemonade Syrups, and complimentary select beer provided by Deschutes Brewery.

[Espacio Flamenco presents Fall in Love with Flamenco](#)

Wed, Feb 14 • 7:30 p.m. • \$30 Advance, \$35 Door

Espacio Flamenco proudly presents Fall in Love with Flamenco this Valentine's Day at Portland Center Stage. Join us for an evening of live music and original dance performances that will have you falling in love with flamenco all over again!

THE CAST

The cast of *What the Constitution Means to Me* features two local professional actors, with Heidi being played by the inimitable Rebecca Lingafelter (founding member of Portland Experimental Theatre Ensemble), along with Andrés Alcalá (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) as Mike.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Director Marissa Wolf; Scenic Designer Jamie Tait; Costume Designer Dayna Lanier; Lighting Designer Jennifer Lin; Sound Designer Chris O'Toole; Stage Manager Amanda Vander Hyde; Assistant Stage Manager Dana Peterson; Assistant Director Charles Grant; Dramaturg Kamilah Bush; and Casting Director Chip Miller.

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: January 20 through February 18, 2024*

***Opening Night/Press Night:** Friday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: January 20, 21, 24 & 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Pay What You Will Performances: Sun, January 21, and Wed, February 7 at 7:30 p.m.

BIPOC Affinity Night (The People's Party): Wednesday, January 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: On the U.S. Bank Main Stage at The Armory, 128 NW Eleventh Ave, Portland, Oregon.

To Purchase Regular Tickets: Prices range from \$25 to \$93, and tickets may be purchased at 503-445-3700 or in-person from the box office. *Prices vary by date and time and are subject to change.*

Ticket Specials: Visit pcs.org/deals to view ticket specials, including Rush Tickets, Pay What You Will, Arts for All, Active Duty, Military Veteran, Student, Under 30, The Armory Card, Groups of 10+, and more.

Please Note: This production is recommended for ages 12 and up. It contains mature themes and language, discussions of domestic violence, sexual assault, and abortion.

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

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

[Portland Center Stage's](https://pcs.org) mission is to create transcendent theatrical experiences and community programs that break down the barriers separating people. We support our community in celebrating the full scope of humanity, appreciating difference, and fostering belonging. PCS was established in 1988 as a branch of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and became independent in 1994. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Marissa Wolf and Managing Director Liam Kaas-Lentz, 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 29 world premieres, many of which were developed at its JAW New Play Festival. PCS's home is 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, the first performing arts venue in the country, and the first building in Portland 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.

[The Portland Center Stage 2023-24 Season](#) is funded in part by season supporters Argyle Winery, Brown-Forman Distributing, Ellyn Bye, Ray and Bobbi Davis, Deschutes Brewery, Ronni LaCroute, Mark Spencer Hotel, James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation,

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HAIR is supported by the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer CARE, *Liberace and Liza* is supported by The Watermark at the Pearl, *What the Constitution Means to Me* is supported by the Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation and Chrys Martin and Jack Pessia, and *Quixote Neuvo* is supported by Kelly Bulkeley and Hilary Krane; additional support for *Quixote Nuevo* and for *Clyde's* is provided by the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional program sponsors are the Brown-Forman Company, Multnomah Whiskey Library, and NW Natural.

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