



(L-R) LEIF NORBY AND JEN TAYLOR IN CYRANO AT PORTLAND CENTER STAGE PHOTO: PATRICK WEISHAMP/BLANKEYE

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15



2014/15 Season

During 2014/15, Portland Center Stage served more than 154,000 people, including nearly 123,000 playgoers.

Productions

Portland Center Stage launched its 27th season in September with the multi-Tony Award-winning ***Dreamgirls***, a musical loosely based on the story of the Motown “girl group,” The Supremes. Directed by PCS Artistic Director Chris Coleman, the production ran for 49 performances on the U.S. Bank Main Stage.



The cast of 'Dreamgirls' at Portland Center Stage. Photo by Patrick Weishampel.

The cast of Dreamgirls. Photo by Patrick Weishampel/blankeye.tv.

“A dazzling, rip-roaring production...[a] feast for the eyes and ears.”

- The Oregonian

Adam Bock’s ***The Typographer’s Dream***, directed by Rose Riordan, opened in the Ellyn Bye Studio in October.



Sharonlee McLean, Laura Faye Smith, and Kelsey Tyler in The Typographer’s Dream. Photo by Patrick Weishampel/blankeye.tv.

“A chilly perspective on the human condition, happily, ironically served up in the midst of a delightfully funny evening of smart, smart theater.”

- ut omnia bene

For the holidays, David Sedaris' ***The Santaland Diaries*** returned to the Ellyn Bye Studio, directed by Wendy Knox, and featuring local favorite Darius Pierce as Crumpet the Macy's Elf. Second City's ***Twist Your Dickens***, directed by Ron West, took the Main Stage.



Craig Cackowski as Scrooge and Dalek as Dalek in *Twist Your Dickens*. Photo by Patrick Weishampel/blankeye.tv.



Nick Ballard, Carol Halstead, Andrew Sellon, and Sharonlee McLean in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Photo by Patrick Weishampel/blankeye.tv.

Christopher Durang's Tony Award-winning comedy, ***Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike***, directed by Rose Riordan, opened on the U. S. Bank Main Stage in January.

Riordan has done a super job of dealing with comic timing and choosing a dynamite cast for this production.
- Theatre Reviews by Dennis Sparks

February saw PCS's world premiere of Yussef El Guindi's ***Threesome***, a work developed at 2013's JAW: A Playwrights Festival. Directed by Chris Coleman, El Guindi's play ran for 44 performances in the



Chris Coleman, Alia Attallah, Quinn Franzen, and Karan Oberoi in rehearsal in NYC. Staff photo.

Ellyn Bye Studio, followed by a critically acclaimed run at Seattle's A Contemporary Theatre (ACT). The work then became the first PCS production to play in New York City, enjoying a six-week, Off-Broadway run at Manhattan's 59E59 Theaters.



Alia Attallah, Quinn Franzen, and Dominic Rains in *Threesome*. Photo by Patrick Weishampel.

Threesome is a brand-new play, and it's so good I wish I had a Bat Signal just to let as many people as possible know how good it is. - The Stranger

Jon Robin Baitz's *Other Desert Cities*, directed by Timothy Bond, opened in late February on the U.S. Bank Main Stage.

You will walk into this play thinking it's fun and charming and superficial, but you will walk out moved and surprised at how resilient families (and theater folk) are.

- Broadway World



Joel Reuben Ganz, Ned Schmidtke, Barbara Broughton, Susan Cella, and D'Arcy Dersham in *Other Desert Cities*. Photo by Patrick Weishampel/blankeye.tv.

Lauren Weedman's *The People's Republic of Portland* was a sold-out hit when it premiered at PCS in 2013. In March, "PRP" returned for a limited engagement in the Ellyn Bye Studio, directed by Rose Riordan.



Romance blossomed in the spring with *Cyrano*, Aaron Posner and Michael Hollinger's adaptation of the Edmund Rostand classic, *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Directed by Jane Jones, the production ran throughout April on the U.S. Bank Main Stage.



Andrew McGinn as *Cyrano*. Photo by Patrick Weishampel/blankeye.tv.

*"A show that can make you feel again as deeply and unashamedly as you did when you were 17 serves a great purpose. And *Cyrano*, with all of its heartbreaking panache, achieves that in aces. Three cheers and a flourish of a feathered hat to that."*

- Oregon Arts Watch

“Storytelling at its Absolute Finest! Funny, heartbreaking, hopeful, and full of beautiful music. My heart was at one point ripped out, massaged, and put back in in a better way.”

- Facebook comment



Benjamin Scheuer in *The Lion*. Photo by Patrick Weishampel/blankeye.tv

Hailed by *The Stage* in London as “absolutely the best original musical of the year,” Benjamin Scheuer’s autobiographical work, ***The Lion***, came to Portland straight off a hugely successful New York run, opening in May in the Ellyn Bye Studio.

PCS’s production season closed with Richard Greenberg’s Pulitzer Prize-nominated play ***Three Days of Rain***. Directed by Chris Coleman, the production featured actors Silas Weir Mitchell and Sasha Roiz from the Portland-filmed NBC television series *Grimm*.



Sasha Roiz, Lisa Datz, and Silas Weir Mitchell in *Three Days of Rain*. Photo by Patrick Weishampel/blankeye.tv.

*“Hitting the jackpot for an audience means being part of an experience where the whole that emerges is larger than its parts. Something transcendent can take place, and that is what happened on opening night of Portland Center Stage’s *Three Days of Rain*.”*

- The Oregonian

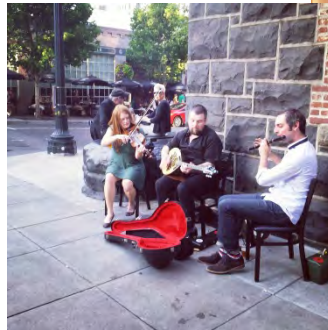
New Play Development

PCS's 17th **JAW: A Playwrights Festival** centered around four plays selected in a blind-reading process from nearly 200 submitted scripts: *Miller, Mississippi*, by Boo Killebrew; *Long Division*, by James Presson; *Wink*, by Jen Silverman; and *Colchester*, by Adam Szymkowicz. After two weeks of workshopping with directors, dramaturgs, and actors, the plays were performed in free public readings during JAW's Big Weekend.



JAW 2015: Wink Rehearsal. Photo by Kate Scrom.

The Festival's free events drew nearly 2,400 people and also included three Community Artist Labs, staged readings of one-act plays written by six local high school students,



The Seseisiunists and POPgoji. Staff Photos.



Éowyn Emerald & Dancers Perform in the Bruce Carey Canteen. Staff Photo.

and "Press Play" performances by Susannah Mars and Merideth Kaye Clark (cabaret music), Éowyn Emerald & Dancers and SubRosa Dance Collective (site-specific dance works), The Seseisiunists (Celtic folk music), Stumptown Clown Productions, and POPgoji (Afro-Brazilian music).

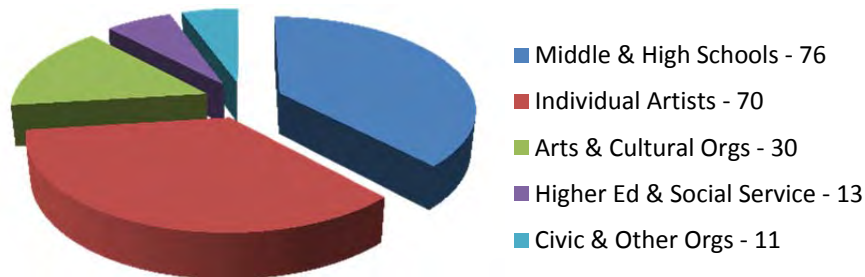
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PCS continued working to inspire community connections, collaborating with a diverse array of individuals and organizations to present public programs that ranged from conversations on issues of social justice to a holiday open house and crafts fair. Among PCS's many community partners this year were Youth Progress Association, Jefferson Dancers, Creative Mornings, Boom Arts, Oregon Humanities, PlayWrite, Inc., the Bravo Youth Orchestra, Oregon Public Broadcasting, the Fertile Ground Festival, Partners in Diversity, Stand Up for Mental Health, Triangle Productions, and Age and Gender Equity in the Arts, to name a few.



Say Hey Partners in Diversity event. Staff photo.

Partnered With . . .



Some of the program highlights included:

- **Asian Pacific American Play Readings Series.** PCS presented staged readings of Chay Yew's *Red* and Dmae Roberts' *Breaking Glass* as part of its continuing partnership with Theater Diaspora to celebrate the Asian American/Pacific Islander experience through stage work.
- **Perspectives on *Threesome*.** The issues of sexism, cultural stereotypes, and independence addressed in Yussel El Guindi's play made it a perfect springboard for a series of discussions offered by PCS in partnership with the YWCA. Panelists included an array of social justice activists, artists, and academics, including Egyptian American director and interdisciplinary artist Tracy Cameron Francis, Choya Adkison-Stevens, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator for the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and Taghrid Khuri, Adjunct Professor for International and Women's Studies at Portland State University.



- ***Home*.** Partnering again with Passin'Art Theater and Project1Voice, PCS presented a free staged reading of Samm-Art Williams' play, *Home*. A post-show discussion was moderated by members of the Urban League of Portland Young Professionals.

- **Twist Your Giving.** This holiday open house featured a marketplace of craft works created by PCS-related artisans, as well as refreshments, music performances, and a scavenger hunt. PCS also served as a drop-off location for the pear Giving Tree and KGW’s Great Toy Drive during the holidays.



- **La Fête de Rostand.** In conjunction with performances of *Cyrano*, PCS presented a free event that celebrated all things French, with musical performances by mezzo-soprano Hannah Penn and Eric John Kaiser, a.k.a. “The French Troubador.”



- **Sunday Art Brunch.** This new series highlights the works of visual artists that are on display throughout the year in the Armory’s Gallery spaces, such as the painting, left, by Eric Gibbons.

- **Blue.** PCS presented singer-songwriter and actor Merideth Kaye Clark for two standing-room-only shows in which Clark performed one of the most iconic albums of the 20th century in its entirety, Joni Mitchell's *Blue*.



Backstage tour. Photo by Patrick Weishampel/blanketyv.

- **Living in History.** This brunch, discussion, and tour of PCS’s historic Armory home addressed topics such as preservation versus performance, rehabilitation challenges and opportunities, and best practices in historic restoration. Panelists included Peggy Morretti, Executive Director of Restore Oregon; Hal Ayotte, Principal with Fletcher Farr Ayotte Architecture and Interiors; John Tess of the Heritage Consulting Group; and Alan Hart-McArthur, Director of Product Development for Versatile Wood Products.

Education Programs

Nearly 7,500 people, including 6,900 youth, participated in PCS's education programs this year:

- **Visions & Voices**, our teen playwriting program, was implemented in six high schools, with 158 students completing intensive, month-long residencies during which they learned the elements of playwriting and wrote a short play. Twenty-three teens also had their works performed by professional actors in free, public readings at the Gerding Theater in June.



V&V students at Wilson High School. Staff photo.

“This was a really great workshop that introduced me to an aspect of theater I never knew I enjoyed. Thank you so much!” – Sunset HS V&V student

Six young writers from that group were then selected to be “Promising Playwrights” at JAW 2015, including Alexandre Crepeaux (Lincoln HS), Anya DeCarlo (Cleveland HS), Francis Kohler (Sunset HS), Cassidy Loyd, (Liberty HS), Guthrie Stafford (Wilson HS), and Hailey Tollner (Lincoln HS). For two weeks, they worked alongside theater professionals from across the country, creating their own new plays. Their works were then performed by professional actors in an evening of readings that kicked off JAW’s Big Weekend.

Also, for a second year, the Ruthmary Westfall Memorial Scholarship Fund awarded \$10,000 in college scholarships to four *Visions & Voices* participants. This year’s recipients were Liam Sharp (Franklin), Hailey Tollner (Lincoln), Shae Galloway (Sunset), and Cassidy Loyd (Liberty).



2015’s Promising Playwrights with director/mentor Matthew B. Zrebski. Staff photo.

- The **Stage Door** program continued to provide opportunities for young people to experience professional theater. During 2014/15, 4,568 students from 57 schools and non-profit organizations attended performances at the Gerding Theater, with 2,800 receiving free tickets;

another 747 youth participated in workshops and Armory tours. The season's most popular productions for school groups were *Dreamgirls*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, and *Cyrano*.



Cyrano costumes under construction. Staff photo.

Stage Door's outreach touring program, *All's Fair in Love & Shakespeare* was also performed at several area schools and community centers for more than 1,000 students.

- **Summer Teen Intensives** drew nearly three dozen students for two-week workshops in Advanced Acting & Audition, Musical Theater, and Entrance to Professional Theater. Tuition scholarships totaling more than \$4,800 in value were awarded to eight teens.
- This year saw the highest participation to date in the **PCS Teen Council**, with 78 active members. Along with attending PCS productions, the teens held social events, took part in workshops on each play, and even learned a little swordplay from theatrical fight director John Armour. Twelve teens also participated in PCS's Internship and Job Shadow programs.



Swordplay class. Photo by Kate Szrom.

I truly appreciate this opportunity for our students. All of our students come from backgrounds of poverty, homelessness, foster care, and/or domestic violence. For many of them, this will be the first time they will ever set foot into a theater. I'm a huge proponent of providing equal access to the arts for at-risk youth, so I'm personally thankful for Portland Center Stage's contribution.

- Lissy Richards, BSW,
Project YESS

PCS Summer Intensives have easily become my most treasured of summer activities...[they] never cease to challenge me in new and thrilling ways, contributing to both my growth as a performer and my growth as an individual.

- Jordan Palmer



Writer/performer Cole Kazdin taught
Going for the Gut: A Storytelling Workshop

- **Adult Classes and Workshops.** Course offerings during the year included *Play Sculpture* with playwright Matthew B. Zrebski; *The Art of Presentation*, taught by actor Laura Faye Smith; and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike...and Chekhov!*, a seminar led by Kate Bredeson, associate professor of theatre at Reed College. A total of 110 people participated in PCS's Adult Education programs, while another 3,600 took part in pre-show Prologues, Shop Talk discussions, and post-performance Q&As.

BY THE NUMBERS

124,500

people attended a play
or reading

7,387

youth and adults
participated
in an education program

7,744

people took part in
112
community programs

13,427

attended a conference,
wedding, town hall,
or other event
at the Armory

I just wanted to...tell you both that the Young Professionals are so appreciative of this amazing partnership. You make us and our guests feel so welcomed in your space. Also, the opportunity to have these needed conversations in your space is so essential toward community building and understanding. Through this partnership we are seeing engagement, cross-generational discourse, awareness-building, and theatre appreciation happening in diverse communities. Thank you for this opportunity and we look forward to many more.

- Tony Funchess,
Urban League of Portland
Young Professionals

Awards and Recognition



Willamette Week Image: Milan Erceg

- In the *Willamette Week Best of Portland Reader's Poll 2015*, Portland Center Stage was voted "**Best Place to See Theater.**"

- Portland Center Stage's productions and artists were also recognized by their theater community peers at the Portland Civic Theater Guild's 2015 Drammy Awards and the Portland Area Musical Theater Awards:

Drammy, Best Original Script:
Yussef El Guindi, *Threesome*

Drammy, Best Lighting Design:
Daniel Meeker, *LIZZIE*



Dominic Rains as Rashid and Alia Attallah as Leila in Threesome. Photo: Patrick Weishampel/blankeye.tv.



Cast of Dreamgirls. Photo: Patrick Weishampel/blankeye.tv.

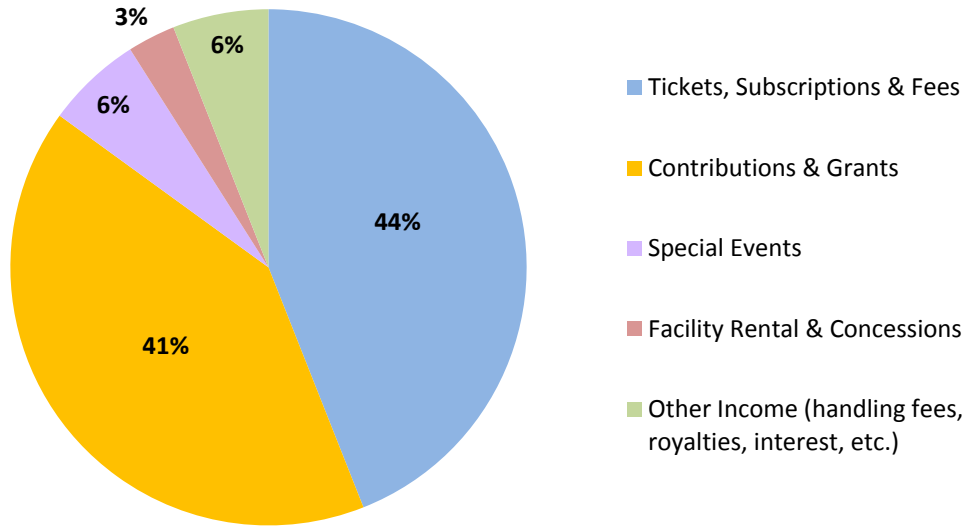
PAMTA, Outstanding
One-Man Show:
Benjamin Scheuer, *The Lion*

PAMTA, Outstanding
Light Designer:
Robert M. Wierzel, *Dreamgirls*

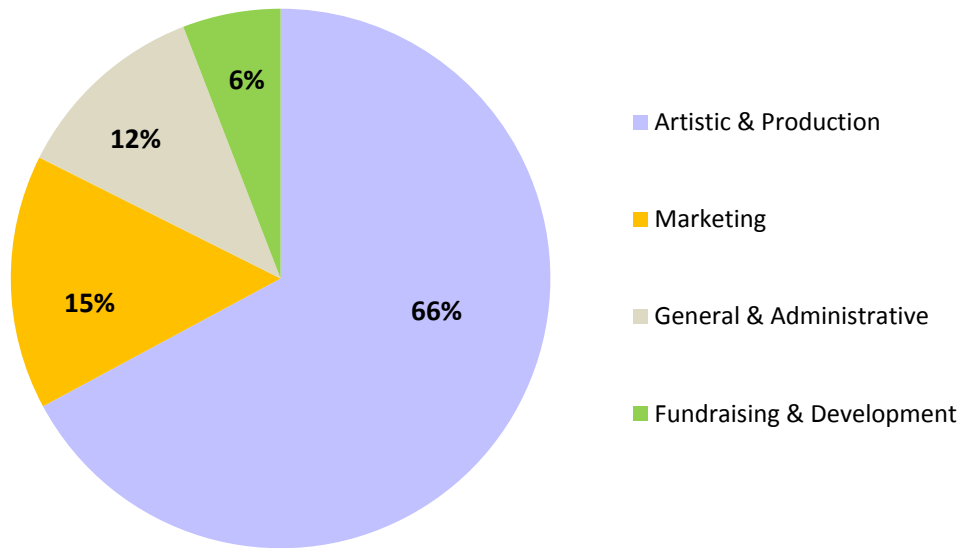
PAMTA, Outstanding
Sound Designer:
Casi Pacilio, *Dreamgirls*



FY 2015 OPERATING REVENUE: \$8,393,461



FY 2015 OPERATING EXPENSES: \$8,304,205



PORTLAND CENTER STAGE
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
June 30, 2015 and 2014

	2015	2014
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 440,872	\$ 2,683
Donated stock held at year end	29,355	3,727
Subscriptions receivable	84,684	82,889
Pledges receivable, net	2,140,939	1,622,857
Other receivables	18,312	13,497
Inventory	28,430	26,330
Prepaid expenses, deferred costs and deposits	513,126	456,182
Total current assets	3,255,718	2,208,165
Long-term pledges receivable	759,000	804,000
Cash restricted for endowment	81,161	16,129
Property and equipment, net	138,210	176,447
Actors' Equity security	70,847	54,962
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 4,304,936	\$ 3,259,703
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities:		
Notes payable	\$ 150,000	\$ 618,210
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	822,023	695,966
Deferred revenue	1,630,103	1,545,825
Current portion of capital lease obligations	18,307	5,926
Total current liabilities	2,620,433	2,865,927
Capital lease obligations, less current portion	40,379	6,396
Total liabilities	2,660,812	2,872,323
Net assets (deficit):		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated	(757,888)	(931,745)
Property and equipment, net	79,524	164,125
Total unrestricted	(678,364)	(767,620)
Temporarily restricted	1,916,488	1,139,000
Permanently restricted	406,000	16,000
Total net assets	1,644,124	387,380
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 4,304,936	\$ 3,259,703

**PORTLAND CENTER STAGE
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the year ended June 30, 2015**

	2015			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenue and support:				
Ticket and subscription revenue	\$ 3,674,044	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,674,044
Contributions and grants	2,916,189	1,108,000	390,000	4,414,189
In-kind contributions	93,424	-	-	93,424
Special events, net of expenses of \$111,164	512,242	-	-	512,242
Rental income	231,467	-	-	231,467
Other program income	572,145	-	-	572,145
Café income, net of expenses of \$308,828	63,121	-	-	63,121
Interest income	317	-	-	317
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of purpose and time restrictions	330,512	(330,512)	-	-
Total revenue and support	8,393,461	777,488	390,000	9,560,949
Expenses:				
Artistic and production	5,526,132	-	-	5,526,132
Marketing	1,288,280	-	-	1,288,280
General and administrative	1,016,398	-	-	1,016,398
Fundraising and development	473,395	-	-	473,395
Total expenses	8,304,205	-	-	8,304,205
Change in net assets	89,256	777,488	390,000	1,256,744
Net assets (deficit):				
Beginning of year	(767,620)	1,139,000	16,000	387,380
End of year	\$ (678,364)	\$ 1,916,488	\$ 406,000	\$ 1,644,124



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In Memoriam: Bob Gerding

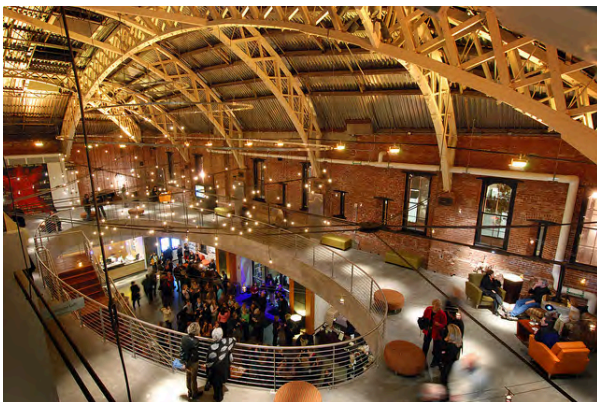


Photo by Uwe Schneider

A very special THANK YOU!! to the more than 660 wonderful volunteers who devote thousands of hours in support of Portland Center Stage.

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Director Chris Coleman and dramaturg Barbara Hort in rehearsal. Photo by Kate Szrom.

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**as of June 30, 2015*



Portland Center Stage

Chris Coleman | Artistic Director

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Portland, Oregon 97209-4160

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