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

Portland Center Stage Announces the 2014-2015 Season

Including the Hit Musical *Dreamgirls*, a World Premiere, the Winner of the 2013 Tony for Best Play and Much More

March 3, 2014 – PORTLAND, ORE. Portland Center Stage has an incredible line up planned for audiences in the 2014-2015 season. Kicking it all off is the groundbreaking musical that won six Tony Awards: *Dreamgirls*. An unprecedented eleven productions make up this season, including *The Typographer's Dream* by celebrated playwright Adam Bock; Luis Alfaro's stunning *Mojada*; the world premiere of *Threesome* by Yussef El Guindi; *Other Desert Cities* by award-winning playwright Jon Robin Baitz; the beloved romantic classic *Cyrano*; a new folk musical, *The Lion*, fresh from the Edinburgh Festival; *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, Christopher Durang's Chekhov mash up that won the Tony for the Best Play of 2013; the return of *The People's Republic of Portland* and two enormously popular holiday hits: *The Second City's A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens* and *The Santaland Diaries*.

"I'm delighted to announce our plans for the 2014-2015 season at Portland Center Stage," said Artistic Director Chris Coleman, "from the dazzling opening musical, to plays from exciting writers representing cultures not often seen on Portland stages, there's a common theme to the stories offered in our upcoming season. Whether set in the 1960s or the 1660s, in Palm Springs or in Motown, in a Latino family struggling to assimilate or with a young man's journey to survive; each of these stories is, at their core, the story of someone's dream."

Season packages are on sale now. To purchase season tickets call 503-445-3700 or visit www.pcs.org. New for this year is the **Create Your Own Package, starting at \$87 for 3 plays**. Full season packages start at **\$281.70 for the Everything Series** and **\$196 for the Main Stage Series**. Students and patrons

under the age of 35 enjoy deeper discounts for both series. An **8-play Flexpass** is available for \$450. Groups of 10 or more can sign up for the priority seating waiting list by calling 503-445-3794.

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE'S 2014-2015 SEASON

ON THE MAIN STAGE

Dreamgirls

Music by Henry Krieger

Book and Lyrics by Tom Eyrn

September 20 – November 2, 2014

Winner of 6 Tony Awards, including Best Book of a Musical

This groundbreaking musical, loosely based on the career of The Supremes, takes you to a revolutionary time in American music history when rhythm and blues blended with other styles of popular music and created a new American sound—Motown. In the '60s, three friends form The Dreamettes and get their big break at an amateur competition, and begin singing backup vocals for a major star. As their own fame grows, however, things begin to spin out of control when their agent's business maneuvers trump their friendship, and fortune and success take them down a path of heartbreak and turmoil. Over two decades The Dreams, as they become known, learn hard lessons about love, trust and the changing tastes of the American public.

The Second City's A Christmas Carol:

Twist Your Dickens

By Peter Gwinn and Bobby Mort

November 22 – December 24, 2014

Back for a second year of unpredictable mayhem! This complete send-up of the holiday classic, fully festooned with the improvisational genius behind the legendary comedy troupe The Second City, is never the same show twice! Scrooge, Tiny Tim and those know-it-all ghosts find themselves hopelessly mixed up in zany holiday sketches with anachronistic characters, uproarious improv and an ever-changing stable of drop-in local celebrity guests. Updates for 2014, and the audience's input, means this show changes with every performance and will be a fresh experience for the new season.

Mojada

By Luis Alfaro

January 10 – February 8, 2015

"Stunning! Spellbinding! A Triumph!" -Chicago Sun-Times

Following the dream for a better life, a family risks the dangers of illegal immigration to leave Mexico for Chicago. But adapting to a new life in America and escaping a past filled with betrayal is hard for Medea, even while husband Jason is succeeding—dangerously so. As Medea struggles to adapt to a new culture and fights to keep her family from splitting apart, the intense love she feels for her husband and child fuels desires that are destined for tragedy. Playwright Alfaro's stunning modern take on the Euripides classic tackles immigration, family, tradition, mysticism and the explosive moment when they all collide.

Other Desert Cities

By Jon Robin Baitz

February 21 – March 22, 2015

"All family reunions should be this satisfying ... The Best New Play on Broadway!"

- Ben Brantley, The New York Times

Polly and Lyman Wyeth are a quintessential California success story. Well-connected politically, comfortable financially, and enjoying their retirement years in Palm Springs, where they can still move in the Republican, old Hollywood social circle of their working years. So what if Polly's sister and former screenwriting partner is a just-out-of-rehab liberal, and their grown children are also ideological opposites from their parents? Well, families accept these differences, don't they? But then the Wyeth's children join them for the holidays, and daughter Brooke announces to her family that she is about to publish a memoir dredging up a pivotal event in the family's history that they would prefer stayed buried. This time, a line is drawn in the desert sands that neither side may be ready to cross. *From the award-winning playwright (Substance of Fire) and creator of the hit television series "Brothers and Sisters."*

Cyrano

By Edmond Rostand

Translated by Michael Hollinger

Adapted by Michael Hollinger and Aaron Posner

April 4 – May 3, 2015

The romantic comedy classic *Cyrano de Bergerac*, in a fresh translation and adaptation by Michael Hollinger (*Opus*) and Aaron Posner (*Sometimes a Great Notion, The Chosen*). Set in 17th century France, *Cyrano* tells the story of a great swordsman with a beautiful soul, who is handicapped by a huge nose that makes him believe he is incapable of being loved by the beautiful Roxane. When he learns that Roxane and a handsome young soldier named Christian are infatuated with each other, he writes beautiful love letters for her suitor that lead to a tragic love triangle. Filled with swordplay and wordplay, *Cyrano* is beloved for its affirmation of love, friendship, and the power of a well-developed sense of humor.

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

By Christopher Durang

May 23 – June 21, 2015

Winner of the 2013 Tony Award for Best Play

Vanya and his stepsister Sonia (where have we heard those names before?) have only known their family's farmhouse as home; they've lived here their entire lives. Sister Masha, however, lives the glamorous life of a famous movie star, traipsing around the globe and living her life in gossip magazines. When Masha descends upon the family home, her boy toy Spike in tow, the dire predictions of cleaning woman Cassandra (ring a bell?) may be about to come true. In this hysterical mash up of Chekhov's four major plays with *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, Ingmar Bergman, The Beatles, *The Oresteia* and even a little Maggie Smith thrown in, "you're likely to find plenty to make you laugh even if you've never read a word of Chekhov" (*The New York Times*).

IN THE ELLYN BYE STUDIO

The Typographer's Dream

By Adam Bock

October 4 – November 16, 2014

A Stenographer, a Geographer, and a Typographer want to share what they do for a living. In their presentations, variably energetic and dispassionate, focused and distracted, it becomes clear that these three may not be strangers ... but what is their relationship? What seems to be a simple panel discussion becomes something “funny, provocative, psychologically revealing, intellectually stimulating and thoroughly enjoyable” (*San Francisco Chronicle*). From the author of *The Receptionist* and *A Small Fire*, *The Typographer’s Dream* is a “smart, hilarious and thoroughly unexpected treat.”

Threesome

By Yussef El Guindi

January 24 – March 8, 2015

A World Premiere

Leila and Rashid attempt to solve their relationship issues by inviting a relative stranger into their bedroom to engage in a threesome. What begins as a hilariously awkward evening soon becomes an experience fraught with secrets and tension, raising issues of sexism, possession and independence. El Guindi’s play *Pilgrims Musa and Sheri in the New World* was the winner of the prestigious Steinberg/American Theater Critics Association’s New Play Award in 2012, and he is also the recipient of the 2010 Middle East America Distinguished Playwright Award. *Threesome* was a JAW selection in the summer of 2013.

The Lion

Written and performed by Benjamin Scheuer

May 2 – June 14, 2015

One man, six guitars, and a true story of love, loss, family loyalty, and the redemptive power of music. Direct from an award-winning run at the 2013 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, writer/performer Benjamin Scheuer (winner of the ASCAP Cole Porter Award for songwriting) shares his gripping coming-of-age tale. Directed by Sean Daniels, whose work has been seen at The Kennedy Center and Actor's Theatre of Louisville, *The Lion* is a candid, poignant, charming offering from a next-generation troubadour.

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SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS IN THE ELLYN BYE STUDIO

Not part of a season ticket package.

Season ticket holders get special pricing.

The Santaland Diaries

By David Sedaris

Adapted for the stage by Joe Mantello

November 23 – December 28, 2014

Based on the outlandish and true chronicles of David Sedaris' experience as Crumpet the Elf in Macy's Santaland display, this hilarious cult classic features comic encounters during the height of the holiday crunch. Portland favorite Darius Pierce returns as Crumpet! Reserve your tickets early—this show consistently sells out.

The People's Republic of Portland

By Lauren Weedman

March 21 – April 19, 2015

Return engagement after a 9-week sold out run in the spring of 2013!

Portland is garnering lots of attention lately—for our leadership in sustainability; for our food scene; for being, well, weird. And now we've caught the attention of writer/actor Lauren Weedman. In the few months she spent here in the spring of 2011 performing her play *BUST*, Lauren's imagination was captured by all things Portland. And so we asked her to write a play. About Portland. How will this former *Daily Show* faux-spondent treat us? What does Portland look like through Weedman's unique lens? Are we brave enough to find out? Lauren is currently a co-star on the new HBO hit series *Looking*, but returns to Portland for this limited run.

SEASON TICKET INFORMATION

The 2014-2015 season is on sale now!

To purchase season packages or learn more call 503-445-3700 or visit www.pcs.org.

Season ticket packages start at \$281.70 for the Everything Series and \$196 for the Main Stage Series. Students and those 35 and under enjoy special pricing for both series. An 8-play Flexpass is available for \$450. New for this year is the Create Your Own Package, starting at \$87 for 3 plays.

Current season ticket holders will receive their season announcement material starting March 3. An additional 10% discount is offered for season ticket buyers who renew by March 31. Season ticket holders get the best seats, great savings, complimentary beverages for the Ellyn Bye Studio shows, ticket exchange flexibility, a designated patron services representative and much more.

GROUP SALES INFORMATION

Groups of 10 or more can sign up for the priority seating waiting list today and purchase tickets to the new season starting on July 1. Groups receive up to 30% off regular ticket prices, and every eleventh ticket is complimentary. For more information call 503-445-3794 or visit www.pcs.org/groups.

ACCESSIBILITY

PCS is committed to making our performances and facilities accessible to all of our patrons. For every production here at PCS, we are happy to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers, as well as provide large print programs, professional audio description and sign interpretation. For specific program questions and ticket information, or if you need assistance, please contact the box office at 503-445-3700 or email access@pcs.org.

AGE RECOMMENDATION

Most productions at PCS are recommended for high school age and up.
Children under 6 are not permitted.

➤ **Next Page: SEASON SCHEDULE**

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE'S 2014-2015 SEASON

Please Note: All date ranges include preview performances.
Official opening night dates are listed separately.

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Dreamgirls

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Book and Lyrics by Tom Eyer
September 20 – November 2, 2014
Opening Night: September 26

The Second City's A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens

By Peter Gwinn and Bobby Mort
November 22 – December 24, 2014
Opening Night: November 28

Mojada

By Luis Alfaro
January 10 – February 8, 2015
Opening Night: January 16

Other Desert Cities

By Jon Robin Baitz
February 21 – March 22, 2015
Opening Night: February 27

Cyrano

By Edmond Rostand
Translated by Michael Hollinger
Adapted by Michael Hollinger
and Aaron Posner
April 4 – May 3, 2015
Opening Night: April 10

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

By Christopher Durang
May 23 – June 21, 2015
Opening Night: May 29

IN THE ELLYN BYE STUDIO

The Typographer's Dream

By Adam Bock
October 4 – November 16, 2014
Opening Night: October 10

The Santaland Diaries

By David Sedaris
Adapted by Joe Mantello
November 23 – December 28, 2014
Opening Night: November 26
Special Engagement

Threesome

By Yussef El Guindi
January 24 – March 8, 2015
Opening Night: January 30
A World Premiere

The People's Republic of Portland

By Lauren Weedman
March 21 – April 19, 2015
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Special Engagement

The Lion

Written and performed by
Benjamin Scheuer
May 2 – June 14, 2015
Opening Night: May 8

For Tickets: 503.445.3700 or pcs.org

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[Portland Center Stage](#) inspires our community by bringing stories to life in unexpected ways. Established in 1988 as a branch of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, PCS became an independent theater in 1994 and has been under the leadership of Artistic Director Chris Coleman since May 2000. The company presents a blend of classic, contemporary and original productions in a conscious effort to appeal to the eclectic palate of theatergoers in Portland. PCS also offers a variety of education and outreach programs for curious minds from six to 106, including discussions, classes, workshops and partnerships with organizations throughout the Portland metro area.

[THE GERDING THEATER AT THE ARMORY](#) houses the 590-seat 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. The capital campaign to fund the renovation of this hub for community artistic activity continues.

Portland Center Stage's 2014-2015 season is funded in part by Season Sponsors the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Regional Arts and Culture Council and Work for Art, and Season Supporting Sponsor KINK FM. The Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner for Portland Center Stage. Portland Center Stage is a participant in the Audience (R)Evolution Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the professional not-for-profit American theater.

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