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

Portland Center Stage Announces 2015-2016 Season

Major Classic Titles and Literary Adaptations; Beloved Returning Playwrights and Exciting Debuts; a Grammy-Nominated Performer and the Premiere of a *GRIMM* Star; Exquisite Classical Music and a Tony Award-Winning Musical

OUR TOWN	SEX WITH STRANGERS
AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'	GREAT EXPECTATIONS
FOREVER	EACH AND EVERY THING
STUPID F**KING BIRD	THE PIANIST OF WILLEDEN LANE
A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE	TWIST YOUR DICKENS/ THE SANTALAND DIARIES

March 10, 2015 – PORTLAND, ORE. Portland Center Stage announces a rich variety of stories and artists for its 2015-2016 season, offering the community inspiration, music, heart and a chance to explore the profound questions of humanity. Kicking it all off is the American classic, Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Our Town*, followed by Laura Eason's steamy *Sex with Strangers*; the sassy musical about Jazz legend Fats Waller, *Ain't Misbehavin'*; Lucinda Stroud's adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic, *Great Expectations*; the riveting tale *Forever*, written and performed by Dael Orlandersmith; Dan Hoyle's newest solo show, *Each and Every Thing*; Aaron Posner's irreverent Chekhovian remix, *Stupid Fucking Bird*; the award-winning new work written and performed by Grammy-nominated artist Mona Golabek, *The Pianist of Willesden Lane*; and Tennessee Williams' iconic Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, starring **Russell Hornsby from *Grimm***. Rounding out the season are the two holiday hits that keep audiences laughing, *The Second City's A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens* and *The Santaland Diaries*.

"I'm delighted to announce our plans for the 2015-2016 season at Portland Center Stage," said Artistic Director Chris Coleman. "We begin and end the season with two beloved classics, we're bringing a literary giant to the stage, our modern offerings including works by audience favorites Dan Hoyle and Aaron Posner, we have dynamic solo shows – including a riveting tale of family life that flows from Paris to Harlem, and a poignant story of survival infused with exquisite piano music – along with a celebrated, Tony-Award winning musical," he

continued. "Theater brings us together as a community to share in the exploration of being human through comedy, through music, and through drama. Each of these works is, in its own way, an opportunity to discover something about ourselves."

Season packages are on sale now. To purchase season tickets, call 503-445-3700 or visit www.pcs.org. Back by popular demand is the **Create Your Own Package, starting at \$87** for three plays. The **U.S. Bank Main Stage Series package starts at \$145.80**. The **Everything Series package starts at \$231.30**. Students and those 35 and under enjoy special pricing for both series. The **eight-admission Flexpass is available for \$450**.

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, 2015. Groups receive up to 20% off regular ticket prices. Groups that book by August 31 receive an additional 10% off regular ticket prices. Every eleventh ticket is complimentary. For more information call 503-445-3794 or visit www.pcs.org/groups.

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE'S 2014-2015 SEASON

Please Note: *Date ranges include preview performances.
Official opening night dates are listed separately.*

Our Town

By Thornton Wilder

September 12 – October 11, 2015

Opening Night: September 18 at 7:30 p.m.

On the U.S. Bank Main Stage

In this Pulitzer Prize-winning American classic, Wilder takes us to the idyllic turn of the twentieth century in the town of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire. As we witness some of the most familiar moments of life – young love, family conflicts, secret wishes and community connections – the playwright positions the lives of Grover's Corners' inhabitants against the vast context of endless time and a boundless universe. His beloved drama celebrates both the marvel of everyday existence and the "something way down deep that's eternal about every human being."

Sex with Strangers

By Laura Eason

October 10 – November 22, 2015

Opening Night: October 16 at 7:30 p.m.

In the Ellyn Bye Studio

A raging snowstorm traps strangers Olivia, an unsuccessful yet gifted thirty-nine-year-old writer, and Ethan, a tech-addicted and wildly successful young blogger, in a secluded cabin. Opposites instantly attract, and undeniable chemistry ignites. As the dawn rises, however, what could have just been a one-night-stand transforms into something more complicated when online exploits interfere with their real-life connection.

Ain't Misbehavin'

By Murray Horwitz and Richard Maltby

October 24 – November 29, 2015

Opening Night: October 30 at 7:30 p.m.

On the U.S. Bank Main Stage

Winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical, this sassy, sultry musical celebrates the remarkable life and talents of a legendary jazz great, Fats Waller. You will be jumpin' and jivin' with delightful humor and infectious energy of this exuberant jazz review that takes us from the Harlem Renaissance through World War II. Waller's work shows a determination to grasp life's joys, laughter and passion, even in a community shadowed by the pain of an often difficult American society. "Waller's *raison d'être* was showing the world that, bad as things were, it was all right to have a good time."

The Santaland Diaries

By David Sedaris

Adapted for the stage by Joe Mantello

December 1 – December 27, 2015

Opening Night: December 4 at 7:30 p.m.

In the Ellyn Bye Studio

Based on the true chronicles of David Sedaris' experience as Crumpet the Elf in Macy's Santaland display, this cult classic riffs on a few of Sedaris' truly odd encounters with his fellow man during the height of the holiday crunch. *Not part of a season ticket package. Season ticket holders get special pricing.*

The Second City's A Christmas Carol:

Twist Your Dickens

By Peter Gwinn and Bobby Mort

December 9 – December 31, 2015

Opening Night: December 11 at 7:30 p.m.

On the U.S. Bank Main Stage

A complete send-up of the holiday classic, this adult comedy is adorned with the improvisational genius of the legendary comedy troupe The Second City, and includes zany holiday sketches, an ever-changing list of drop-in local celebrities and uproarious improv based on audience participation – it's never the same show twice! *Not part of a season ticket package. Season ticket holders get special pricing.*

Great Expectations

Adapted from Charles Dickens by Lucinda Stroud

January 16 – February 14, 2016

Opening Night: January 22 at 7:30 p.m.

On the U.S. Bank Main Stage

Based on Charles Dickens' classic coming of age novel, *Great Expectations* tells the adventures of the Victorian orphan Pip. As a boy, Pip has three encounters with people that will change his life: the escaped convict Magwitch, the bewitching and cold Estella, and the unhinged Miss Havisham. When Pip comes into an unexpected fortune and begins the life of a gentleman, his past is not so easily left behind.

Forever

By Dael Orlandersmith

January 30 – March 20, 2016

Opening Night: February 5 at 7:30 p.m.

In the Ellyn Bye Studio

Forever is inspired by Orlandersmith's experiences in Paris at the famed Père Lachaise Cemetery, where strangers from around the world make pilgrimages to the graves of legendary artists such as Marcel Proust, Richard Wright and Jim Morrison. Orlandersmith is inspired to investigate the complex legacy she received from her mother and their life in Harlem. Riveting and powerful, *Forever* is about family – the ones we are born into, the strange way powerful bonds are formed with people who, though unrelated by blood, come to feel like family, and the legacies that shape us all.

Each and Every Thing

By Dan Hoyle

February 6 – March 27, 2016

Opening Night: February 12 at 7:30 p.m.

In the Ellyn Bye Studio

The newest solo show from award-winning actor/playwright Dan Hoyle (*The Real Americans*) is about how we experience the world in the digital age. From a showdown with a violent felon in small-town Nebraska, to a childhood listening to anti-conformist rants in San Francisco; from the hard-scrabble corner boys of Chicago to the intellectual temple of Calcutta's famed coffeehouse; from a Digital Detox retreat in remote Northern California to an intimate confession in Manhattan, we join Dan in his search for true community, spontaneity and wonder in our fractured, hyper-connected world.

Stupid Fucking Bird

By Aaron Posner

February 27 – March 27, 2016

Opening Night: March 4 at 7:30 p.m.

On the U.S. Bank Main Stage

In this irreverent, contemporary and very funny remix of Chekhov's *The Seagull*, award-winning playwright Aaron Posner wages a timeless battle between young and old, past and present, in search of the true meaning of it all: an aspiring young director rampages against the art created by his mother's generation; a nubile young actress wrestles with an aging Hollywood star for the affections of a renowned novelist; and everyone discovers just how disappointing growing up can be. Winner of the Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Resident Play and Outstanding New Play or Musical.

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

April 2 – May 1, 2016

Opening Night: April 8 at 7:30 p.m.

On the U.S. Bank Main Stage

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. *Pianist* is infused with hope and invokes the life-affirming power of music.

A Streetcar Named Desire

By Tennessee Williams

May 14 – June 12, 2016

Opening Night: May 20 at 7:30 p.m.

On the U.S. Bank Main Stage

Tennessee Williams' iconic Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece is an exquisite study of the unraveling of Blanche DuBois, a fading southern belle. When she arrives unexpectedly on the doorstep of her sister, Stella, and her brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski, Blanche is clinging desperately to a persona designed to help her survive. Over the course of one hot, sultry New Orleans summer, Blanche's fragile facade slowly crumbles as she meets her match in the rough-hewn and hyper masculine Stanley, who is determined to expose her. Portland Center Stage's production will star veteran stage/TV/film actor Russell Hornsby (Hank Griffin on *Grimm*).

SEASON TICKET INFORMATION

The 2015-2016 season is on sale now!

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Current season ticket holders will receive their season announcement material starting March 9, 2015. Season ticket holders get the best seats, great savings, ticket exchange flexibility, a designated patron services representative, discounts on additional tickets and more. Two complimentary drink vouchers are available for season ticket buyers who renew by March 31, 2015.

GROUP SALES INFORMATION

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ACCESSIBILITY

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

AGE RECOMMENDATION

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

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PCS Newsroom:
www.pcs.org/inside-pcs/newsroom

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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; Season Sponsors the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Regional Arts and Culture Council, 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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