



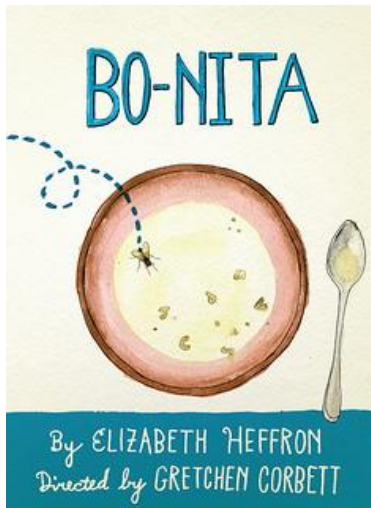
PRESS CONTACT: Claudie Jean Fisher

503.445.3765

claudief@pcs.org

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

Community Events Surrounding *Bo-Nita* Enhanced by Partnerships with the YWCA of Greater Portland and the Oregon Psychoanalytic Center



January 29, 2014 – PORTLAND, ORE., *Bo-Nita*, the hilarious and heartbreaking story that was developed at PCS’s 2012 JAW: A Playwrights Festival, begins preview performance on February 1, opens on February 7 and runs through March 16 in the Elyn Bye Studio. In partnership with the YWCA of Greater Portland and the Oregon Psychoanalytic Center, social justice activists, counselors, therapists and social workers will lend their expertise and personal responses to *Bo-Nita* as part of PCS’s *Perspectives* and *Formative Stages* series.

These ongoing series are always free and open to the public. In addition, a solo playwriting workshop will be offered for those inspired by this one-woman show.

UPCOMING EVENTS – Calendar Editors Kindly Note:

“Perspectives” on *Bo-Nita*

February 16, 23 and March 2, 9, 2014

3:30 p.m. | Following the 2 p.m. Sunday matinees in the Elyn Bye Studio

In a partnership with the YWCA of Greater Portland, a series of 30-minute post-show discussions will follow every Sunday matinee performance of *Bo-Nita*. Hear and share personal reactions and

thoughts inspired by the play, filtered through the perspectives of social justice activists, counselors and social workers. Speakers will have read the play, visited rehearsal, attended the production, and will be ready to share their thoughts on how the play connects directly to our community.

A ticket to the production is not required.

Free and open to the public.

Currently Scheduled Speakers:

February 16 – Claire Barrera from El Programa Hispano Proyecto, author Catherine Garvin, and Brighton Kimbell from Native American Youth and Family Center.

February 23 – Stacy Bancroft from New Avenues for Youth, Lisa Batista from Trillium Family Services, and Emily Drew, Professor of Sociology at Willamette University.

March 2 – Social Justice Advocate Christina Bondurant, Corinn deWaard from Rotary Club of Portland, and Irene Konev of Konev Consulting.

March 9 – Erin Fairchild from the Defending Childhood Initiative, Nick Guerrero from Raphael House of Portland, Kerry Naughton from Partnership for Safety and Justice, and Meg Wills from Impact NW

Formative Stages

February 20, 2014

9 p.m. | Following the 7:30 p.m. performance, in the Ellyn Bye Studio.

Presented by the **Oregon Psychoanalytic Center** in partnership with PCS, *Formative Stages* puts theater on the couch and the audience in the conversational driver's seat. Join us post show for a lively discussion focusing on issues, themes and lessons gleaned from the plays, revealing that theater is truly a microcosm of life.

Leading the discussion is **Susan Gendein-Marshall, Ph.D.**, a clinical psychologist with a therapy practice in NW Portland. She works with children, teens and adults, as well as couples therapy. She has many years of experience as a therapist, supervisor and teacher.

A ticket to the production is not required.

Free and open to the public.

Speaking Your Life: A Solo Playwriting Workshop

February 17 – March 10, 2014

Monday evenings from 7-9 p.m.

Fee: \$100, includes a ticket to *Bo-Nita*.

To register, email education@pcs.org or call Sarah at 503.445.3795.

Solo shows and monologues have become extremely popular in the theatrical forum. This course helps you find that inner story you are compelled to share. The class will help you define a central moment you wish to write about. You will participate in writing exercises that will inspire and challenge you to bring out an inner and authentic voice. At the end of the 4 weeks, you will be encouraged to celebrate and share your work with your fellow participants and receive valuable feedback from your peers, as well as the instructor. Come write with us. And tell your very unique and authentic stories!

Instructor Debbie Lamedman is a playwright, author and editor of eight books published by Smith & Kraus, Inc. Her produced plays include *phat girls*, *Triangle Logic*, *Eating in the Dark*, *Just Add Love* and *Out with the Old*. Debbie received her M.F.A. in theatre from Brandeis University and is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and Actor's Equity Association.

About Elizabeth Heffron's *Bo-Nita*

Life's not easy for Bo-Nita. It never is for a 13-year-old, but especially one who winds up with a dead, semi-ex-stepfather on her bedroom floor. With humor, pathos and a dash of Midwest magical realism, *Bo-Nita* follows a mother and daughter's journey through a working-class America of dwindling resources, and the lengths they must go to stay together and keep their beat alive. *Bo-Nita* is a storytelling piece in the vein of *The Moth*, *This American Life* and Portland's own *Back Fence PDX*. In this one-woman show, Kate Eastwood Norris takes on the role of Bo-Nita, along with six other characters, to bring this story to life. *Bo-Nita* marks Gretchen Corbett's PCS directorial debut.

➤ **Next page: Ticket and Performance Information**

Bo-Nita | Ticket and Performance Information

When: February 1 – March 16, 2014

Preview Performances: February 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, February 7, 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and select Sundays; 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays and Sundays; matinees at noon on select Thursdays.

Complete schedule: www.pcs.org/bonita

Where: In the Elyn Bye Studio at [The Gerding Theater at the Armory](#)

Regular tickets start at \$40. Preview tickets start at \$35.

Discounts for students, those under 25 and groups.

Online: www.pcs.org

By Phone: 503.445.3700, 12–6 p.m.

In Person: PCS's box office is at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue
12 p.m. – curtain on performance days
12–6 p.m. on non-performance days

Rush Tickets: \$20

Groups: Discounts for groups of 10 or more.
Group tickets can purchased at 503.445.3794.

Please Note: *Recommended for ages 16+; mature content and language.*

Find us on [Facebook](#) | Follow us on [Twitter](#)

#pcs_Bonita

[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.

Portland Center Stage's 2013-2014 season is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim & 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 & Culture Council and Work for Art; and Season Supporting Sponsors KINK FM and Oregonian Media Group. The Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner for Portland Center Stage.

[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.

###