



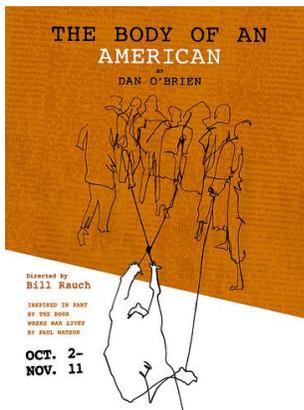
PRESS CONTACT: Natalie Genter-Gilmore

503.445.3765

natalieg@pcs.org

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

Portland Center Stage presents
the world premiere of The Body of an American



September 13, 2012 – PORTLAND, ORE. What is the responsibility of bearing witness to an atrocious act? A war photographer becomes haunted by the spirit of the soldier whose body he photographed. Portland Center Stage's world premiere production of *The Body of an American* by Dan O'Brien, inspired in part by the book *Where War Lives* by Paul Watson, begins preview performances on Tuesday, October 2, opens on **Friday, October 5** and runs Tuesday through Sunday through **November 11, 2012.**

Tickets **start at \$39**, with discounts available for students and those under

25. Rush tickets are \$20. In his first production at PCS, Oregon Shakespeare Festival Artistic Director Bill Rauch is directing this riveting world premiere.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays and matinees at noon on select Thursdays. See the show calendar at www.pcs.org/body for the complete performance schedule. Tickets can be purchased online at www.pcs.org, by phone at 503.445.3700 or by visiting the box office located at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue.

War reporter Paul Watson has witnessed some of the most devastating scenes in modern history, and created perhaps the most disturbing image of modern warfare: the photograph of a dead American soldier being dragged through the streets of Mogadishu. As the ghosts of the tragedies he's recorded bear down on him, his story catches the attention of playwright Dan O'Brien, who's battling ghosts of his

own. In locations as varied as Kabul, Los Angeles and the Canadian High Arctic, the two men form a tentative friendship in a quest for absolution. *The Body of an American* is the story of their relationship, and the roles each take in helping the other process the responsibilities, and the damages, of bearing witness.



photo: patrick weishampel

Danny Wolohan and William Salyers. Photo by Patrick Weishampel

Playwright **Dan O'Brien's** current projects include *The Body of an American*, winner of the 2011 L. Arnold Weissberger Award, and *Theotokia / The War Reporter*, an opera with composer Jonathan Berger and director Rinde Eckert, premiering at Bing Concert Hall at Stanford University in 2013.

Previous productions include *The Cherry Sisters Revisited* at Actors Theatre of Louisville's Humana Festival, *The House in Hydesville* at Geva Theatre Center, and others. He has served as a Hodder Fellow at Princeton University, the inaugural Djerassi Fellow in Playwriting at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and twice the Tennessee Williams Fellow at The University of the South. Residencies include the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center, O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, Yaddo, and the Thomas J. Watson Foundation. O'Brien's poetry has appeared recently in *Missouri Review*, *Malahat Review*, *Poetry Review*, *North American Review*, and elsewhere.

The cast of *The Body of an American* consists of **Danny Wolohan** as Dan O'Brien and **William Salyers** as Paul Watson. Wolohan was last seen at PCS in *Shakespeare's Amazing Cymbeline*, *The Imaginary Invalid* and the past four JAW Festivals. William Salyers is making his PCS debut, and was recently seen onstage in the originating title role of *Louis Slotin Sonata* in Seattle and off-Broadway, and *Battle Hymn* and *Naked Before God* at Circle X Theater in Los Angeles.

In addition to Bill Rauch, the artistic team includes scenic and costume designer **Chris Acebo**. Lighting design is by **James F. Ingalls**. Sound and projection designer **Eamonn Farrell** and stage manager **Jeremy Eisen**, round out the creative team.

Additional support for this production is provided by **The Boeing Company** and **Diana Gerding**. Portland Center Stage's 2012/2013 season is funded in part by **Umpqua Bank**, our lead corporate champion; the **Regional Arts & Culture Council** and **Work for Art**; the **Oregon Arts Commission** and **National Endowment for the Arts**; the **Paul G. Allen Family Foundation**; **The Oregonian**, and **Tim & Mary Boyle**. The Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner for Portland Center Stage.

[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 a 599-seat Main Stage and the 200-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 October 1, 2006. The capital campaign to fund the renovation of this hub for community artistic activity continues.

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