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

### *Portland, are you ready for Lauren Weedman? Bust opens April 29, 2011 at Portland Center Stage*

**April 13, 2011– PORTLAND, OR.** Actress Lauren Weedman is clinging to the bottom rung of the Hollywood ladder. So, in a quest to escape the vapid demands of “the business,” she volunteers in a women’s prison. And quickly realizes she’s in way over her head. Get ready for *Bust*, written and performed by former *Daily Show* “correspondent” Lauren Weedman. *Bust* previews on Saturday, April 23, 2011, with **opening night set for April 29**, and performances run through June 19, 2011 in the Ellyn Bye Studio. Performance times are Tuesday through Sunday, 7:30 pm, with matinees at 2:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday, and some Thursday matinees at noon. Tickets start at \$25 for full adult prices, with student and under age 30 discounts available. For a full calendar of performances and ticket availability, visit the show page at [www.pcs.org/bust](http://www.pcs.org/bust)

*Bust* is Lauren Weedman’s semi-autobiographical work built around her experiences working as a volunteer advocate in a Southern California prison for women. With one foot in Hollywood and the other in jail, the comedic actress careens wildly between the two worlds, taking us on a hilarious, poignant, and completely unforgettable ride. “I wanted to do something in my life that was not about career or weight loss,” says Lauren in the show. “That would be profound. But I do have to say, if I lose weight while doing this that would be fabulous.”

Lauren Weedman is a comedic actress, playwright and author. Her other works include *Rash*, which premiered at The Empty Space Theater in Seattle and was awarded Best New Play and Best Solo Performance by *The Seattle Times*’ Footlight Awards; *Wreckage*, which was selected for The NOW Theatre Festival at the REDCAT Theatre at The Disney Music Hall; and *Homecoming*, which began as a 15-minute performance art piece and grew into a full-length show that ultimately toured with the Seattle Repertory Theatre and was featured at HBO’s U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen, Colorado and later New York City. Her television credits include *The Daily Show*, *Almost Live*, *Reno 911*, *Night Writer*, NPR’s *Rewind*, HBO’s *Hung*, Bravo’s *The Great Things About Being...*, VH1’s *Best Week Ever*, *I Love the 90s*, *A2Z*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, and *Talk Show with Spike Ferestain*. She has also performed with Eddie Griffin in *Pryor Offenses*, a half-hour pilot for Showtime based on Richard Pryor’s life, and a pilot for Oxygen based on her web episodes *Our Bodies, Myself*. Film credits include *Imagine That* and *Date Night*. Weedman’s first book, *A Woman Trapped in a Woman’s Body: (Tales from a Life of Cringe)*, is a collection of comedic essays and is currently being developed by Weedman into a pilot for The Fox Network. *Bust* was voted Best of the Arts by *The Seattle Times*, *Seattle Magazine* and *Boise Weekly*. She received the Alpert Award in the Arts for Playwriting for *Bust*. Weedman currently lives and performs in Los Angeles.

*Bust* is directed by **Allison Narver**. Scenic and Lighting Design is by **Allen Hahn**. Sound Design is by **Mark Nichols**.

**Production Sponsors** for *Bust* are **Bank of America**, **10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Athletic Club** and **RDH Building Sciences, Inc.**

Portland Center Stage's 2010/11 season is funded in part by **Umpqua Private Bank**, the **Regional Arts & Culture Council** and **Work for Art**; the **Oregon Arts Commission**; the **Paul G. Allen Family Foundation**; and **Tim & Mary Boyle**.

**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 Oct. 1, 2006. The capital campaign to fund the renovation of this hub for community artistic activity continues.

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