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

Casting Announced for *Dreamgirls*

Exciting PCS Debuts and Local Stars to Bring this Six-Time Tony Winner to Life

Dreamgirls Opens September 26, Previews Begin September 20



August 15, 2014 – PORTLAND, OR. Portland Center Stage is delighted to announce the casting for its season opener, *Dreamgirls*, directed by Chris Coleman. The three ladies who will star as the dynamite vocal group, The Dreamettes, all make their Portland Center Stage debuts: **Nattalyee Randall**, a classically trained singer who was named Broadway's Next Big Star (Ken Davenport on BroadwaySpace.com), will play Effie Melody White. Randall's recent roles include Effie in *Dreamgirls*, Church Lady Jarene in *The Color Purple* and Motormouth in *Hairspray*. **Mary Patton** (who played the role of Lorrell Robinson in the National Broadway Tour of *Dreamgirls* and also appeared in the First National Tour of *Sister Act*) will play Deena Jones and **Lexi Rhoades** (*Sistas* original cast, Off-Broadway, among others) will play Lorrell Robinson. **Antoinette Comer** (recently Lisa in the National Broadway Tour of *Mamma Mia!*) will play Michelle Morris, the singer who joins the vocal group after they've reached stardom as The Dreams.

Record producer Curtis Taylor, Jr. will be played by local Broadway star **Rodney Hicks**, who recently portrayed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in PCS's *The Mountaintop*. Making their PCS debuts are **David Jennings**, who will play the R&B superstar Jimmy (James Thunder) Early and **Calvin Scott Roberts** who will play songwriting genius C.C. (Claridge Conrad) White. Jennings starred as Curtis Taylor, Jr. in *Dreamgirls* with Frenchie Davis (West Coast tour) and opposite Jennifer Holliday at Atlanta's Fox Theater. His Broadway credits include *After Midnight*, *Hands on a Hardbody* and *Brooklyn the Musical*. Roberts' recent productions include *By the Way*, *Meet Vera*

Stark, Spunk and Honky. **Tyrone Roberson**, Jimmy Early's agent Marty, returns to PCS after performing the role of Cord Elam in PCS's *Oklahoma!*.

Rounding out the cast are local performers **Don Kenneth Mason** (True Tone 1/Tuxedo/Wayne/Ensemble), **Gerrin Delane Mitchell** (M.C./Ensemble) and **Shalanda Sims** (Charlene/Joann). They are joined by **Larry Owens** (Tiny Joe Dixon/Stage Manager/Ensemble), **Terry Lavell** (Little Albert/Jerry Norman/Tuxedo/Mr. Morgan/Ensemble), **Jonathan Burke** (True Tone 2/Frank/Tuxedo/Ensemble), **Tatianna Mott** (Stepp Sister 2/Ensemble) and **Allyson Tolbert** (Stepp Sister 3/Ensemble). Local performers also make up Dave and Sweethearts (**Jameson Tabor**, **Joy Martin** and **Kira Batcheller**).

Rick Lewis will take the helm as Musical Director and Conductor (most recently *The Last Five Years* and *Fiddler on the Roof* at PCS), joined by Choreographer **Kent Zimmerman** (PCS's *Fiddler on the Roof*), Scenic Designer **G.W. Mercier** (most recently *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Anna Karenina* at PCS), Costume Designer **Sydney Roberts** (Drammy for *The Devils* at PCS), Lighting Designer **Robert Wierzel** (currently on Broadway with *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*), Sound and Video Designer **Casi Pacilio** (most recently *The Last Five Years* and *Othello* at PCS) and **Emily N. Wells** (PCS's Production Stage Manager).

***Dreamgirls* begins previews September 20, opens September 26 and runs through November 2, 2014** on the Main Stage at PCS's Gerding Theater at the Armory. **Regular tickets start at \$41**. Preview tickets start at \$34. Rush tickets are \$20. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sundays (excluding October 5, 19, 21, 28 and November 2); 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays and Sundays; and matinees at noon on select Thursdays. Tickets can be purchased at pcs.org or 503.445.3700. A complete schedule can be found online: <http://www.pcs.org/dreamgirls/>.

Winner of six Tony Awards, this groundbreaking musical, loosely based on the career of The Supremes, takes you to a revolutionary time in American music history where three friends form The Dreamettes and learn hard lessons about love, trust and the changing tastes of the American public. *Dreamgirls* features music by Henry Krieger and book and lyrics by Tom Eyer. The original Broadway production was directed and choreographed by Michael Bennett, with orchestrations by Harold Wheeler. It opened on Broadway in 1981 at the Imperial Theatre, produced by Michael Bennett, Robert Avian, Geffen Records and The Shubert Organization.

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***Dreamgirls* | Ticket and Performance Information**

When: September 20* – November 2, 2014

***Opening Night is Friday, September 26, 7:30 p.m.**

Preview Performances: September 20, 21, 23, 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sundays*; 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays and Sundays; matinees at noon on select Thursdays. *Excluding October 5, 19, 21, 28 and November 2.

Where: On the Main Stage at the Gerding Theater at the Armory, 128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland.

More Info: <http://www.pcs.org/dreamgirls/>

To Purchase: Regular tickets range from \$41-74. Preview tickets start at \$34. Rush tickets are \$20. Tickets for students and those under 25 are \$30. Discounts for military and groups of 10+. Season ticket packages are available, starting at \$72.90 for three plays. All prices subject to change.

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

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

Please Note: *Dreamgirls* is recommended for ages 13+; contains some mature content and language. Children under 6 are not permitted at any PCS production.

Accessibility: PCS is committed to making our performances and facilities accessible to all of our patrons. More information is available at www.pcs.org/access/. For specific questions and ticket information, or if you need assistance, please contact the box office at 503-445- 3700 or.

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#pcs_Dreamgirls

[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 Elyn 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.

Additional support for *Dreamgirls* is provided by production sponsors Benson Industries, Inc., Curtis Thompson MD and Associates, and NW Natural. Portland Center Stage's 2014-2015 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 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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