



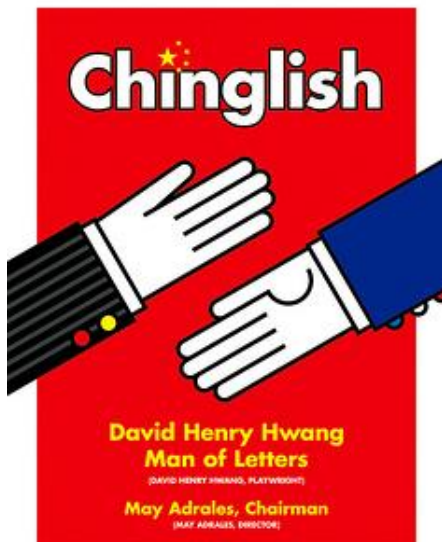
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M E D I A R E L E A S E

Exciting Community Events Surrounding Portland Premiere of David Henry Hwang's *Chinglish*



December 26, 2013 – PORTLAND, ORE., The Broadway hit comedy *Chinglish*, by Tony-award winner David Henry Hwang, opens at Portland Center Stage on January 17, with preview performances beginning January 11. Several events are planned to highlight this Portland premiere, including a public interview with the playwright via Skype, a reading of Hwang's *The Dance and the Railroad*, performances by the U.S. Wushu Center and Qian Kun Institute in honor of the Chinese New Year, musical performances from the Wisdom Arts Academy, and the return of the popular community "Perspectives" series. All events are free and open to the public.

***Chinglish* Events (Calendar Editors Kindly Note):**

Sounds.Like.Portland

January 18, 25 and February 1, 2014

6:45 p.m. | Main Lobby

Local musicians from the [Wisdom Arts Academy](#) will perform pre-show music in the lobby for select performances of *Chinglish*. The Wisdom Arts Academy is dedicated to healing the body and mind through arts and education, and offers classes in Western and Chinese instruments, fine arts and martial arts.

Shop Talk: *Chinglish*

January 21, 2014

6:30 p.m. | Mezzanine Lobby

Award-winning playwright of *Chinglish*, **David Henry Hwang**, will be available via Skype for a special public interview. Local actor, writer and media artist, **Dmae Roberts**, will serve as interviewer and host for the event.

“Perspectives” on *Chinglish*

January 19, 26 and February 2, 9, 2014

Following the 2 p.m. Sunday matinees | Main Stage

A series of 30-minute post-show discussions will follow Sunday matinee performances of *Chinglish*.

Hear and share personal reactions and thoughts inspired by the play, filtered through the perspectives of our Chinese and Chinese-American neighbors, as well as local professionals doing business in China. Each presenter 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 list of presenters will be posted at www.pcs.org closer to the performance.

A ticket to the production is not required.

Chinese New Year Performances by the U.S. Wushu Center and Qian Kun Institute

January 31, February 1 and 2, 2014

6:45 p.m. | Main Lobby

Join students from the [U.S. Wushu Center](#) and [Qian Kun Institute](#) for a demonstration of Chinese lion dancing, Tai Chi and martial arts. The U.S. Wushu Center is the largest martial arts center in the Northwest, founded by world champions Master Shàowén Yù and Master Gāo Jiāmǐn. The Qián Kūn Institute was developed by the founders of the U.S. Wushu Center to provide an introduction to the depth and wealth of Chinese culture.

Reading of David Henry Hwang's one-act *The Dance and the Railroad*

January 27, 2014

7 p.m. | Rehearsal Hall

Directed by **Dmae Roberts**, movement by **Minh Tran**, featuring **Heath Hyun** and **Samson Syharath**.

Based on an actual strike by Chinese railroad workers in the snowy Sierras during the summer of 1867, David Henry Hwang creates a poetic and haunting tale of an opera artist and a hopeful apprentice fighting against abusive treatment while studying a beautiful art form. *The reading will be followed by a discussion on opportunities for Asian Pacific American artists in Portland.*

***Chinglish* Prologues and Q&As:**

Prologues are free, pre-performance introductions to most Main Stage plays for all patrons attending that night's performance. Led by PCS staff members in the back of the Main Stage auditorium, prologues are offered on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings during the regular run of each Main Stage production from 6:55-7:10 p.m.

Q&As are informal conversations with the cast and PCS staff about the production, following every Thursday noon matinee performance during the regular run of each production.

About David Henry Hwang's *Chinglish*

In *Chinglish*, an American businessman heads to Asia to score a lucrative contract for his family's firm—but the deal isn't the only thing getting lost in translation when he collides with a Communist minister, a bumbling consultant and a suspiciously sexy bureaucrat. Hilarity ensues in this comedy by Hwang, award-winning playwright of *M. Butterfly* and *Golden Child*.

Chinglish premiered on Broadway's Longacre Theater in 2011 after a successful run at the Goodman Theatre where it earned Hwang the coveted Jeff Award. The *Associated Press* called the Broadway premiere, "Fresh, energetic, and unlike anything else on Broadway. *Chinglish* is a thoughtful, funny, and poignant piece in which, miraculously, nothing gets lost in translation."

Chinglish Ticket and Performance Information:

When: January 11 – February 9, 2014

Preview Performances: January 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, January 17, 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: <http://www.pcs.org/chinglish/>

Where: On the Main Stage at [The Gerding Theater at the Armory](#)

Preview tickets start at \$29. Regular tickets start at \$33.

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, language and sexuality.*

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Additional support for *Chinglish* is provided by production sponsors Berry Wealth Strategies, NW Natural, Marcy & Richard Schwartz and Jan & John Swanson. 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 Sponsor KINK fm. 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 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.

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