



PRESS CONTACT: Claudie Jean Fisher

503.445.3765

claudief@pcs.org

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

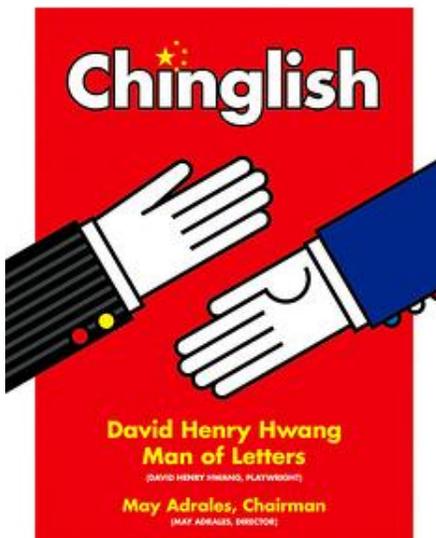
“A triumph in any language. *Chinglish* is sexy, fun, and hilarious.”

- *New York Magazine*

A Broadway Hit Comedy of Cultural Errors

Premieres in Portland January 17 – February 9

Preview Performances Begin January 11



December 10, 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. Preview tickets start at \$29. Regular tickets start at \$33. A series of “Perspective” discussions are scheduled during the run.

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 new 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 in the New Work category. 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."

David Henry Hwang won the Tony Award for Best Play for his *M. Butterfly*, another play that dealt misunderstandings arising out of intercultural exchanges. *Chinglish* was inspired by Hwang's own experiences doing business in China. "China has become very interested in Broadway-style shows. And I'm the only even nominally Chinese person who's ever written a Broadway show so I started to be called over for a lot of different meetings. And I think that *Chinglish* the play comes out of my trying to deal with what it means to do business in China, and the things I understood, and the things I didn't understand."

The Portland premiere of *Chinglish* will be directed by **May Adrales**, who was recently credited by *The New York Times* as being one of the "new power players of Off Broadway, staging some of the most critically acclaimed productions in recent years." Adrales earned rave reviews for her direction of Hwang's *Dance and the Railroad* at Signature Theatre: "May Adrales's elegant, spare, beautifully visualized production gives Hwang's cunningly economical play a poetic feel," said the *Village Voice*; the *New York Post* said, "Director May Adrales' staging fully mines the play's emotional richness." Portland Center Stage helped sponsor a trip to China for Adrales for this production.

The bilingual aspect of this play presents a challenge for the production. Almost all of the performers are required to speak Mandarin. Three translators will be used during the production; one to help an actress in New York before rehearsals, one to help the entire cast during rehearsals, and the third to help the technicians navigate the script and projections needed for the show. English subtitles will be used to translate the Mandarin spoken during the production, requiring the use of a light board operator who speaks English and Mandarin.

The entire cast of *Chinglish* will be making their debuts with Portland Center Stage. **Peter O'Connor** (Daniel Cavanaugh, the American businessman) has recently performed with San Francisco Playhouse and Studio Theatre, along with a number of TV and film roles. **Tina Chilip** (Xi Yan, the Vice Minister of Culture) has recently been seen at Guthrie Theatre, Signature Theatre, and the National Asian

American Theater Company in New York. **Jeff Locker** (Peter Timms, an Englishman acting as a consultant in China) was an actor and award-winning TV/radio personality in Taiwan and China for almost 15 years. He is best known for his portrayal of Bush in the Golden Bell-winning political satire show *Mimics*, Brindsley in the Mandarin staging of *Black Comedy* (National Theater), and as host of *Fear Challenge*, the Chinese *Fear Factor*. Rounding out the cast are **Jian Xin** playing Cai Guoliang, the Minister of Culture, **Rachel Lu** as Miss Qian and Zhao, **Yuekun Wu** as Bing and Judge Xu Geming and **Lily Tung Crystal** as Hotel Manager and Prosecutor Li.

Chinglish is a co-production with [Syracuse Stage](#). **Tim Mackabee** makes his PCS debut as the Scenic and Projection Designer, joined by Resident Costume Designer **Jeff Cone**, Lighting Designer **Seth Reiser** (debuting), and Sound Designer **Casi Pacilio**. The Stage Manager is **Victoria Epstein**, also making her PCS debut. **Jane Chen** will act as Cultural Consultant for this production. Chen regularly consults for local organizations doing business in Asia, but this will be her first time lending her insight for a theatrical production.

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.

➤ **Next page: RELATED EVENTS – Calendar Editors Kindly Note:**

RELATED EVENTS – Calendar Editors Kindly Note:

“Perspectives” on *Chinglish*

Join Portland Center Stage for a series of 30-minute post-show discussions following every Sunday matinee performance of *Chinglish*. Hear and share personal reactions and thoughts inspired by the play, filtered through the perspectives of our Chinese and Chinese-American neighbors, and 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.

Immediately following all 2 p.m. Sunday matinees (Jan. 19, 26 and Feb. 2, 9, 2014).

These discussions are FREE. A ticket to the show is not required.

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.

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

Ticket and Performance Information | *Chinglish*

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 Friday; 2 p.m. matinees and 7:30 p.m. evenings on select Sundays and Saturdays; 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.*

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

#pcs_chinglish

[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.

###