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

WORLD PREMIERE OF SHAKESPEARE'S AMAZING CYMBELINE

OPENING AT PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

Cymbeline previews January 31, 2012 in the Ellyn Bye Studio

January 20, 2012 – PORTLAND, ORE. Opening is right around the corner for Portland Center Stage's world premiere production of [Shakespeare's Amazing Cymbeline](#), adapted and directed by PCS Artistic Director Chris Coleman. In a new adaptation calling for only five actors and a pianist, *Cymbeline* will be the first Shakespearean production in the Ellyn Bye Studio. *Cymbeline* begins preview performances on Tuesday, January 31, opens on **Friday, February 4** and runs Tuesday through Sunday through **April 8, 2012**. Tickets **start at \$41**, with student and under-30 discounts also available. Rush tickets are \$20.

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/cymbeline 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.

Based on legends about early Celtic kings, *Cymbeline* is one of Shakespeare's most fantastical creations—familiar Shakespearean themes of jealousy and innocence wronged are joined by a piano-playing wit who becomes our guide through an ancient landscape. In this world premiere adaptation, PCS Artistic Director Chris Coleman focuses the unwieldy kaleidoscope of the story down to its core elements. "Shakespeare's story, one of the last he chose to write, wanders all over the place; from the court of ancient Britain, to the elegant homes of Rome, to the wilds of Wales. It traffics in banishments, intrigue, battles, seductions, betrayals, and blunt grabs for power. Telescoping the action to a story that five actors could manage to deliver clearly presented substantial challenges, but also resulted in some of the most unique aspects of the piece," says Coleman [in the PCS blog](#).

This fresh adaptation by Coleman calls for a cast of only five facile actors and the piano player. **Kelley Curran** will be making her PCS debut in the role of the heroine, Imogen. **Michael G. Keck** will be playing the role of

The Pianist. **Scott Coopwood and Danny Wolohan, Ryan McCarthy and John San Nicolas** will each be taking on a variety of characters that inhabit this rarely staged Shakespearean gem.

Scenic Designer **Alan Schwanke** will recreate the space within the Ellyn Bye Studio to evoke imagery of an ancient ruin; the stage itself will be built into a never-before-used diamond shape. Costume Designer **Jeff Cone** will design circa-A.D. 1 tunics, headpieces and handcrafted boots; **Randal Tico** returns to PCS to compose *Cymbeline's* original music, after last working with Chris Coleman on 2011's *The Imaginary Invalid*. Sound Designer **Casi Pacilio**, Lighting Designer **Eric Southern**, Fight Director **John Armour**, Dialect Coach **Mary MacDonald-Lewis** and Stage Manager **Emily N. Wells** round out the creative team.

Additional support for this production has been provided by **Curtis T. Thompson, M.D. and Associates, LLC; Douglas & Teresa Smith** and **City Center Parking**. This Portland Center Stage production is part of **Shakespeare for a New Generation**, a national program of the **National Endowment for the Arts** in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Portland Center Stage's 2011/12 season is funded in part by **Umpqua Private Bank**, our lead corporate champion; the **Regional Arts & Culture Council** and **Work for Art**; the **Oregon Arts Commission**; the **Paul G. Allen Family Foundation**; and **Tim & Mary Boyle**. The Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner of 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 Oct. 1, 2006. The capital campaign to fund the renovation of this hub for community artistic activity continues.

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