



PRESS CONTACT: Claudie Fisher
503.445.3765
claudief@pcs.org

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

Writer, performer and Pulitzer Prize nominee Dael Orlandersmith makes her Portland Center Stage debut with new solo show *Forever*

Previews Begin January 30 | Opening Night February 5 | Runs Through March 20

TICKETS STARTING AT \$25 — ON SALE NOW

“Orlandersmith has a gift for raw immediacy ... BRAVE AND HEARTFELT”
– *The New York Times*



December 30, 2015 – PORTLAND, OR. Writer and performer Dael Orlandersmith makes her Portland Center Stage debut with her powerful new memoir play, *Forever*, opening in the Elyn Bye Studio on February 5, with preview performances beginning January 30. The production runs through March 20 in a limited engagement, with multiple performances already sold out.

Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased at www.pcs.org, 503.445.3700, or in person at the Gerding Theater at the Armory box office (128 NW Eleventh Avenue, Portland). Regular tickets start at \$25 (Tuesday night performances only). Rush tickets are \$20. Tickets for students and patrons who are 30 or younger are \$25 (all performances). Seating is general admission. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on select Tuesdays through Sundays; 2 p.m. on select Saturdays and Sundays; and noon matinees on select Thursdays. A full schedule and more information can be found at <http://www.pcs.org/forever/>.

ABOUT FOREVER

Forever begins in Paris at the famed Père Lachaise Cemetery, where strangers from around the world make pilgrimages to the graves of legendary artists such as Frederick Chopin, Marcel Proust, Richard Wright, Edith Piaf and Jim Morrison. As she visits the resting places of her idols, Orlandersmith is moved to investigate the complex legacy she received from her mother and their often harrowing life together. Riveting and powerful, *Forever* is about family – the ones we are born into; the strange way powerful bonds are formed with people who, though unrelated by blood, come to feel like family; and the legacies that shape us all.



PRODUCTION HISTORY

Forever earned Orlandersmith an Off-Broadway Alliance Award nomination for Best Solo Performance in 2015. Inspiration from the play came from Heddy Honigmann’s documentary, *Forever*, partly filmed in Père Lachaise. *Forever* was originally developed at New York Theatre Workshop and commissioned by Center Theatre Group. The world premiere opened in 2014 at the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Los Angeles, with *L.A. Weekly* calling it a “harrowing, very personal and unflinchingly courageous journey.” In May of 2015, *Forever* made its Off-Broadway debut at New York Theatre Workshop. *The New York Times* called “raw and haunting,” recounting, “in language that

is always spare and simple, with rhythms now jagged and discordant, now incantatory and soothing, Ms. Orlandersmith holds us in a taut, quiet spell.”

DAEL ORLANDERSMITH

Dael Orlandersmith is a playwright, poet, actor, teacher and Pulitzer Prize nominee for *Yellowman*, which also earned her a Susan Smith Blackburn Award and Drama Desk Award nominations for Outstanding Play and Outstanding Actress in a Play. Her works include *Black n Blue Boys/Broken Men*, *Horsedreams*, *Bones*, *Suicide Girlz*, *Stoop Stories*, *The Blue Album* (in collaboration with David Cale), *The Gimmick* and *Beauty’s Daughter* (Obie Award and Susan Smith Blackburn Award finalist). She is the recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts Grant, a Helen Merrill Award for Emerging Playwrights, a Guggenheim, a PEN/Laura Pels Foundation Award, a Lucille Lortel Foundation Playwrights Fellowship and a Whiting Award. She has toured extensively with the Nuyorican Poets Café (Real Live Poetry) throughout the United States, Europe and Australia. She has taught at Princeton University, Yale University, Sarah Lawrence College, and others. Current projects include a one-woman play about a Danish girl’s life-changing encounter with Billie Holiday; a young adult script about surviving

adolescence; and, for the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, a play about the recent events in Ferguson, Missouri. *Forever* marks Orlandersmith's debut performance at PCS, but the company previously brought her to Portland to perform her solo piece *The Gimmick* for a special engagement at Self Enhancement Inc.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Neel Keller directed the world premiere production of *Forever*, and also worked closely with Orlandersmith and dramaturg **Joy Meads** to develop the play. Previously at Portland Center Stage, Keller directed *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and *The Santaland Diaries/A Christmas Memory*. The original creative team joins Keller in Portland for this production: Scenic Designer **Takeshi Kata** (Obie Award, Drama Desk, Ovation and Barrymore Award nominations); Costume Designer **Kaye Voyce** (*The Real Thing* and *The Realistic Joneses* on Broadway); Lighting Designer **Mary Louise Geiger** (*The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Red* and others at PCS); and Sound Designer **Adam Phalen** (resident sound designer for the Ojai Playwrights Conference). PCS regular Kelsey Daye Lutz completes the team as stage manager.

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: January 30* – March 20, 2016

*Opening Night/Press Night is Friday, February 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: January 30 and 31, and February 2, 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. on select Tuesdays through Sundays; 2 p.m. on select Saturdays and Sundays; and noon matinees on select Thursdays.

Full schedule and more information at <http://www.pcs.org/forever/>.

Where: In the Ellyn Bye Studio at the [Gerding Theater at the Armory](#).

128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland, Ore., 97209

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

To Purchase: Regular tickets range from \$25 to \$55. Seating is general admission. \$25 tickets are available on Tuesday night performances only, in select quantities, first-come, first-served. Rush tickets are \$20. Tickets for students and patrons who are 30 or younger are \$25 for all performances.

Discounts for groups of 10+. *Prices vary by date and time of performance. Dates, times and prices are 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+ by calling 503.445.3794.

Please Note: *Forever* is recommended for ages 16+; contains mature language and graphic descriptions.

Accessibility: PCS is committed to making our performances and facilities accessible to all of our patrons.
Learn more at <http://www.pcs.org/access/>.

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

[Portland Center Stage](#) inspires our community by bringing stories to life in unexpected ways. Founded in 1988, PCS is the city's leading professional theater and one of the top 20 largest regional theater companies in the U.S. PCS attracts more than 150,000 theatergoers annually with its blend of classical, contemporary and premiere works, along with its summer playwrights festival, JAW. PCS also offers a variety of education and community programs tailored for patrons of all ages.

[The Gerding Theater at the Armory](#) houses the 590-seat U.S. Bank 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.

[Portland Center Stage's 2015-2016 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank; Supporting Season Sponsors the Regional Arts and Culture Council, The Wallace Foundation, Work for Art and KINK FM. Support for *Forever* is provided in part by The Boeing Company, Ellyn Bye, Diana Gerding and Ronni Lacroute/WillaKenzie Estate. The official hotel partner for PCS is the Mark Spencer Hotel. PCS is a participant in the Wallace Foundation's [Building Audiences for Sustainability Initiative](#), a

four-year effort with a nationwide cohort of 26 performing arts organizations. PCS also receives support from the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts.

###