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

Portland Center Stage presents a new Book-It adaptation of the
Charles Dickens' classic coming of age tale *Great Expectations*

Previews Begin January 16 | Opening Night is January 22 | Must Close February 14

TICKETS STARTING AT \$25 — ON SALE NOW



December 18, 2015 – PORTLAND, OR. A new adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic coming of age tale *Great Expectations* opens at Portland Center Stage on January 22, with previews beginning January 16 and performances through February 14 on the U.S. Bank Main Stage. The adaptation was created by Lucinda Stroud for Seattle-based Book-It Repertory Theatre. Book-It founder and Co-Artistic Director Jane Jones, who worked closely with Stroud on the adaptation, will direct the production.

In his PCS debut, Stephen Stocking will play the ambitious young hero Pip. Gavin Hoffman will play Pip's brother-in-law, the blacksmith Joe Gargery. The other actors play multiple roles, including Dana Green as the iconic spinster Miss Havisham and Pip's caretaker Mrs. Joe; Maya Sugarman as the warmhearted Biddy and cruel Estella; and John Hutton as the escaped prisoner Magwitch and lawyer Jaggers.

Regular tickets start at \$25. Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased at www.pcs.org, 503.445.3700, or the Gerding Theater at the Armory box office (128 NW Eleventh Avenue, Portland,

OR). Rush tickets are \$20. Special \$25 tickets in premium seating areas for students and patrons who are 30 or younger. Showtimes are Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding January 31, February 11 and 14); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding January 16, 17, 23 and February 6); and Thursday matinees at noon (excluding January 21). Recommended for ages 12+. Theatrical haze will be used in this production. Full schedule and more information at <http://www.pcs.org/expectations/>.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Great Expectations tells the adventures of the Victorian orphan Pip. As a boy, Pip has three encounters with people that will change his life: the escaped convict Magwitch, the bewitching Estella, and the unhinged Miss Havisham. When Pip comes into an unforeseen fortune and begins the life of a gentleman, his past is not so easily left behind, and the adventures of his new life are decidedly unexpected.

CHARLES DICKENS' *GREAT EXPECTATIONS*

Great Expectations was Dickens' thirteenth novel. Like most of his works — including *Oliver Twist*, *David Copperfield*, *Hard Times*, *Little Dorrit* and *A Tale of Two Cities* — it was published serially, a practice that explained his tendency towards cliff-hanger chapter endings, sudden plot twists and suspenseful foreshadowing. The first episodes were released in December of 1860 in *All the Year Round*, a magazine co-owned by Dickens. The story was an instant hit, with weekly sales estimates of 100,000 copies. In the United States, it was published serially in *Harper's Weekly*. It was first published as a book in 1861 by Chapman and Hall.

LUCINDA STROUD'S ADAPTATION

Lucinda Stroud is a Seattle-based artist who most recently co-adapted *A Gogolplex*, based on the short stories of Nikolai Gogol, for Ghost Light Theatricals. Her adaptation of *Great Expectations* was commissioned and developed by Book-It Repertory Theatre. It premiered in 2011, directed by Kevin McKeon, with Jane Jones playing the roles of Miss Havisham and Mrs. Joe. The nine-actor adaptation scales the epic novel down to focus on Pip's journey and the key characters that impact his growth.

When it debuted in Seattle, the *Seattle Met* praised it as a “superb script” that helped to “strip the story down to its thematic core ... the novel’s essence, its central themes of class struggle, unrequited love, and identity.” *The Seattle Times* called it an “absorbing display of Book-It’s superior storytelling technique.”

THE BOOK-IT STYLE

Book-It Repertory Theatre has created more than 90 world-premiere adaptations of classic and contemporary literature for the stage. Its trademarked Book-It Style celebrates the author’s voice by preserving the original work as it is written, with actors speaking both dialogue and narrative text, and sometimes referring to their own characters in the third person. Previous Book-It Style adaptations presented at PCS include *Pride and Prejudice* in 2005 (also directed by Jane Jones); *Snow Falling on Cedars* in 2010; and *Anna Karenina* in 2012 (an adaptation that was influenced by the Book-It Style and developed at Portland Center Stage’s JAW: A Playwrights Festival).

ABOUT THE CAST

Stephen Stocking (Pip) was recently featured in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Shakespeare Theatre Company, Heidi Armbruster’s *Every Good Girl Deserves Fun — and Other Misremembered Things* at New York Theatre Workshop’s studio, and the Amazon TV pilot *Z*. **Gavin Hoffman** (Joe Gargery) was previously at PCS in *Cyrano*, *Othello* and *Clybourne Park*.

The other actors play multiple roles. PCS regulars include **Dana Green** as Miss Havisham/Mrs. Joe (previously at PCS in *Othello* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; recent Drammy Award for *Dead Man's Cell Phone* at Profile Theatre); **Isaac Lamb** as Compeyson/Orlick and others (*A Small Fire* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at PCS; the National Broadway Tour of *Defending the Caveman*); **Damon Kupper** as Pumblechook/Wemmick and others (*Cyrano*, *Othello*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Pillowman* at PCS; recently *Or* for Third Rail Repertory Theatre); and **Chris Murray** as Herbert Pocket and others (*Our Town*, *Futura* and *Sometimes a Great Notion* at PCS; recently *The Liar* at Artists Repertory Theatre).

Making their PCS debuts are **Maya Sugarman** as Bidly/Estella (recently *Mary's Wedding* at New Century Theatre Company and *Tartuffe* with Seattle Shakespeare Company); **John Hutton** as Magwitch/Jaggers (25 years as a resident actor at Denver Center Theatre Company; recently Lear in Southwest Shakespeare Company's *King Lear*); and **Sean McGrath** plays Drummle and others (ten years with Live Wire Radio; *Maple and Vine* for CoHo Productions; and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* for Portland Playhouse).

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Jane Jones most recently directed *Cyrano* at PCS. As the founder and co-artistic director of Book-It Repertory Theatre, she has adapted and directed works by Eudora Welty, Edith Wharton, Jim Lynch, Amy Bloom, John Irving, John Steinbeck and Jane Austen. Seattle-based artists joining her on this production include **Scenic Designer Christopher Mumaw** (*The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* and *Dog of the South* for Book-It Rep); **Costume Designer Ron Erickson** (*Great Expectations*, *A Tale of Two Cities* and others for Book-It Rep); and **Composer Joshua Kohl** (music director, composer and co-artistic director of Seattle's Degenerate Art Ensemble). PCS regulars complete the team: **Lighting Designer Peter Maradudin** (recently *Threesome* and *Othello*), **Sound Designer Casi Pacilio** (recently *Twist Your Dickens* and *Ain't Misbehavin'*); **Fight Choreographer John Armstrong** (recently *Cyrano*); and **Stage Manager Janine Vanderhoff**.

CAST LIST (in order of appearance)

Stephen Stocking.....Pip
John Hutton.....Magwitch/Jaggers
Gavin Hoffman.....Joe Gargery
Dana Green.....Mrs. Joe/Miss Havisham
Isaac Lamb.....Compeyson/Orlick and others
Maya Sugarman.....Bidly/Estella
Damon Kupper.....Pumblechook/Wemmick and others
Chris Murray.....Herbert Pocket and others
Sean McGrath.....Drummle and others

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: January 16* – February 14, 2016

*Opening Night/Press Night is Friday, January 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: January 16, 17, 19, 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding January 31, February 11 and February 14); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding January 16, 17, 23 and February 6); and Thursday matinees at noon (excluding January 21).

Where: On the U.S. Bank Main Stage at the [Gerding Theater at the Armory](#).

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

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

To Purchase: Regular tickets range from \$25 to \$70. Rush tickets are \$20. Students and patrons who are 30 or younger may purchase premium seating areas for \$25. Discounts for groups of 10+. *Prices vary by date, time and seating area, and 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: Recommended for ages 12+; children under the age of 6 are not permitted at any PCS production. Theatrical haze will be used in this production.

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

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[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 *Great Expectations* is provided by Stoel Rives LLP, Delta Air Lines, Ellyn Bye, Pat and Trudy Ritz and 97.1 Charlie FM. 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.

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