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

Full Festival Schedule Announced for

JAW: A Playwrights Festival 2013



June 27, 2013 – PORTLAND, OR. Portland Center Stage has selected four exciting new plays drawn from a national search for the **2013 JAW: A Playwrights Festival**. “The selections this year are a unique reflection of the times we live in,” says Festival Director Rose Riordan, “It’s exciting to see so many smart Portlanders lining up to see a play reading in July. It might be the air conditioning, but I don’t think so.”

JAW will run July 25 - 27, 2012 at the Gerding Theater at the Armory, and, as always, is presented **free of charge and open to all**. All JAW events will take place in the Main Stage of the Gerding Theater at the Armory. The schedule is as follows.

Ready.Set.Write.

Thursday, July 25 7:00 p.m.

The 15th Annual JAW festival will kick off with a one-of-a-kind commissioning event featuring homegrown playwrights and performers. Pre-reception begins at 7:00pm. After offering up prompts for the playwrights, the audience can mingle, enjoy free drinks and snacks while listening to the music of DJ Rev Shines. Meanwhile; playwrights, directors and actors take over the corners of the Armory to create brand new plays. Around 8:30, everyone convenes in the Main Stage Theater to see the plays the artists created on the spot!

***complex* by Dominic Finocchiaro**

Friday, July 26 at 4:00 p.m.

Something strange is going on in the apartment complex. When residents start turning up dead in ever

more gruesome ways, it's left to busybody tenant Todd to sort out the mess and stop the bleeding. A dark comedy about modern living and other forms of mass murder.

***The Ocean All Around Us* by David Lavine**

Friday, July 26 at 8:00 p.m.

After a young artist's paintings are destroyed in a studio fire, he struggles to piece together a chain of life-changing events. His older brother, a psychiatrist, tends to him while facing his own transgressions from years past. This powerful, haunting play, is searing with regret and disconcertingly erotic.

***Threesome* by Yussef El Guindi**

Saturday, July 27 at 4:00 p.m.

Leila and Rashid attempt to solve their relationship issues by inviting a relative stranger into their bedroom to engage in a threesome. What begins as a hilariously awkward evening soon becomes an experience fraught with secrets and tension, raising issues of sexism, possession, and independence.

***Mai Dang Lao* by David Jacobi**

Saturday, July 27 at 8:00 p.m.

During a tense shift at McDonalds, a young employee gives her two-month notice to her oppressive managers. As she is subjected to humiliation and abuse after being accused of theft, the ubiquitous fast food restaurant becomes a warzone where self-improvement, denial and foreign labor practices are used as weapons.

Press Play

JAW has hand-selected dynamic performance pieces to animate our building and engage JAW audience members before every reading. Buskers, dancers, comedians and filmmakers will spill out of the Armory and into its environs.

Promising Playwrights

New scripts from four Portland-area high school playwrights serve as short curtain-raisers at the main readings on Friday and Saturday. These Promising Playwrights are selected from our **Visions & Voices Playwriting Program**, a residency program offered to Portland-area schools.

ABOUT JAW. For 15 years JAW has created a space for playwrights to grow as writers and as professionals. Of the 60 plays that have received workshops at the festival, **more than 50% have received world premiere productions** at a regional theaters ranging from the NY Theater Workshop to Steppenwolf to Berkeley Rep to Portland's own Third Rail Rep. Twelve JAW plays have later received fully staged productions at Portland Center Stage, giving Portland a strong national reputation for not only incubating new work, but helping to see that work to successful fruition.

JAW: A Playwrights Festival is made possible in part by funding from **The Kinsman Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts** and **The Oregon Cultural Trust.**

[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.

THE GERDING THEATER AT THE ARMORY houses a 590-seat Main Stage and a 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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