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

JAW Festival Schedule Announced

Exciting New Plays, In-Depth Artist Labs & Dynamic Performance Pieces

The Big Weekend is Back July 25-26, With a Kickoff Event July 24



JULY 10, 2014 – PORTLAND, ORE. The 2014 **JAW: A Playwrights Festival** kicks off July 24, with public presentations throughout the **Big Weekend** on July 25-26. This is Portland's chance to see staged readings of new plays in development from some of the country's most exciting playwrights. Adding to the excitement of the festival is the in-depth **Community Artist Labs** led by artists from around the country, and **Press Play** performance pieces which will

animate the Gerding Theater at the Armory with works by a marionette troupe, a new physical theater company, professional pole dancers and more. The Big Weekend is always **free and open to the public**.

KICK OFF EVENT: PROMISING PLAYWRIGHTS

Thursday, July 24 at 8p | Ellyn Bye Studio

Stage readings of new scripts from six Portland-area high school playwrights will serve as the kickoff event for JAW 2014.

2014 JAW: STAGED READING SCHEDULE

This year, three playwrights make their JAW debuts with exciting new scripts – **Penny Penniston's** surprising *Keys of the Kingdom*, **Tommy Smith's** electric *db* and **Mat Smart's** mysterious *The Royal Society of Antarctica* – and Portland favorite **Adam Bock** returns with his new play, *A Life*, commissioned by Portland Center Stage. JAW Staged Readings are free and open to the public on the Main Stage of the

Gerding Theater at the Armory. No reservations are required. Talk backs with the playwrights are held after most readings. Learn more about each playwright [here](#). **Please Note:** *Staged readings are an important part of the play development process. The staged readings presented at JAW are works in progress.*

***Keys of the Kingdom* by Penny Penniston**

Friday, July 25 at 4p

As assistant to the celebrity pastor of an evangelical mega church, Arthur obeys orders, attacks paperwork, and guards against sin. Arthur is surprised when the church pastor commissions a mural from Irene Hoff, an atheist New York artist married to another woman. Arthur is even more surprised when the pastor explains that he believes Irene has been chosen by God. But the biggest surprise of all is what happens when Irene shows up and starts to paint.

***db* by Tommy Smith, Story by Teddy Bergman and Tommy Smith**

Friday, July 25 at 8p

Thanksgiving weekend 1971. A man calling himself D.B. Cooper boards a plane in Portland, hijacks it for \$200,000 at the SeaTac Airport, then parachutes into a snowstorm over Mount Rainier, never to be seen again. *db* brings to life this electric story, showing how the enduring myth of Cooper has created a canvas for regular Americans to act out fantasies of heroism, celebrity, revenge, retribution and rage.

***The Royal Society of Antarctica* by Mat Smart**

Saturday, July 26 at 4p

Dee is the only person ever born at McMurdo Station in Antarctica. Shortly after giving birth, Dee's mother mysteriously disappeared. Now, 24 years later, Dee returns to the otherworldly brightness at the bottom of the earth to work as a janitor – scrubbing toilets 60 hours a week and discovering something about what it means to disappear.

***A Life* by Adam Bock**

Saturday, July 26 at 8p

Nate Martin is a simple man, living his simple life in a simple world. Sort of. Well, I guess, not really, actually.

2014 JAW: PRESS PLAY PERFORMANCES

Press Play performances are hand-selected to engage JAW audiences before and after the staged readings. All performances are free and open to the public in various locations around the Gerding Theater at the Armory. Learn more about the Press Play artists [here](#).

Ecdysiast: A Pole Dance Company

July 25, 3:30p | July 26, 7:30p

Ecdysiast is a professional pole dance company committed to the growth and development of students, professional dancers, the aerial community and its audiences. The studio offers classes, workshops, private lessons and training. Ecdysiast is an active part of the international pole community and participates in the making of artists and enthusiasts.

***Hook, Line & Sinker* from Push Leg**

July 25, 3:15p and 3:45p | July 26, 7:15p and 7:45p

Three is a magic number ... Join Push Leg for PART 1 of our investigation into the principle of three. Three is everywhere: in comedy, rhetoric, science, and mythology. Hook, Line & Sinker is our take on three, an inventive concoction of new work presented in three parts. Each part unique in style and content, but connected by the theme of three. Get it? Let's recap - THREE short pieces, PART 1 now, 2 and 3 coming soon. Ready, set, go!

Wisdom Arts Academy

July 25, 7:15-7:55p

Music from Wisdom Arts Academy, featuring students playing traditional Chinese Instruments curated by Chinese scholar – Dr. Jiyu Yang.

***CONFLUENCE* by Tracy Cameron Francis**

July 25, between 3-4p | July 26, between 7-8p

A coming together - a gathering point - a merging.

A new site-specific performance piece. How has our environment shaped our history? And how has our history shaped our environment? A celebration of Oregon's natural beauty exploring the dichotomy between our dependence on and our destruction of nature. How can we come together

so that the next generation can live in harmony with the environment we leave behind? Created by Tracy Cameron Francis with original music by Ryan Anthony Francis.

They Come In Threes, CastIron Carousel Marionette Troupe

July 25, 7p and 7:30p | July 26, 3p and 3:30p

A story about the confluence of superstition and science in the unforgiving vacuum of space from a local marionette troupe with a dark flavor and a twisted sense of style. The CastIron Carousel tells stories about things that clang, steam, whistle and go bump in the night—tales to horrify and fascinate with beauty, tragedy and a wry sense of humor.

2014 JAW: COMMUNITY ARTIST LABS

Admission is free for the Community Artist Labs, but attendance for each lab is limited and determined by random lottery. To enter the lottery, send an email to education@pcs.org.

Deadline for entry is July 18. Participants will be notified by July 21.

Reading Plays to Become a Better Playwright | July 25, 12-3p

With Raphael Martin – JAW Dramaturg & Director of New Work at Soho Rep

Reading a play is a skill. The more you do it the more your play reading muscle will develop. In this workshop we will begin by studying new plays and contemporary classics from the repertoire that put words on the page in surprising, unique and theatrical ways. We will read extracts and talk about how a reader envisions the world the writer has created for the first time. What part do stage directions play in the creation of this world? We will think like stage designers and audience members. The workshop will conclude with some writing exercises aimed at opening up our writer brains to maximum theatricality.

Reality to Fiction: Transforming real events into engaging theater | July 26, 12-3p

With Tommy Smith – JAW Playwright

You're in love with a moment of history, but how do you turn this into a compelling play? This workshop will teach the fundamentals of converting "true stories" into impactful works for the stage, covering everything from gaining rights, scouring the public domain, and selecting the best dramatic approach for any story. Participants should come prepared with a subject, and will leave

with the outline for a play. (Mr. Smith's previous historical works include Sextet, Pigeon, Demon Dreams, The Tale and JAW's workshop of db.)

All You Need Is Yourself: Neutral mask and stage presence for actors | July 26, 12-3p

With Teddy Bergman – JAW Director & professional NYC-based Actor

Physical patterns, tics, and tensions make us unique but can also limit us onstage. Using Neutral Mask and physical awareness exercises, this workshop will help to identify what idiosyncrasies we each bring to table and see the ways they help and hinder us. We'll also go further and work on ways to use your full imagination to create entire worlds on onstage with nothing but yourself. You'll leave with a greater self-awareness and hopefully energized by the power of what you're capable of bring to life alone onstage.

2014 JAW: FEATURED GALLERY ARTIST

Aaron Underhill | On Exhibit in the Armory Galleries

Artist Statement: As a child digging through generations of junk, left behind in one of my family's old farm houses, vacant for decades, I came across a 1953 Montgomery Ward mail order catalog. Thick as a bible, tattered and torn, somehow worth saving, I take my trash home. I packed it around through awkward adolescence into adulthood, through hoarding and purging it continued to stand the test of time. Eventually however, the time came to let go. This is when I started cutting, an effort to simultaneously salvage and dispose. After five years, I'm still working on getting rid of this thing. But in the process it's inspired me, excited me, and taken me back to a place long gone.

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2014 JAW: THE BIG WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 24, 2014

8p Kick Off Event: Promising Playwrights Ellyn Bye Studio

Friday, July 25, 2014

12-3p Artist Lab: Reading Plays to Become a Better Playwright *Admission by Lottery*

Between 3-4p Press Play: *CONFLUENCE* by Tracy Cameron Francis Vera Katz Sliver Park

3:15p and 3:45p Press Play: *Hook Line & Sinker* by Push Leg Various Locations

3:30p Press Play: *Ecdysiast*, A Pole Dance Company Main Lobby

4 p.m. JAW STAGED READING: *Keys of the Kingdom* by Penny Penniston Main Stage

7p and 7:30p Press Play: *They Come in Threes* by CastIron Carousel Ellyn Bye Studio Lobby

7:15-7:55p Press Play: Wisdom Arts Academy Armory Café

8p JAW STAGED READING: *db* by Tommy Smith Main Stage
Story by Teddy Bergman and Tommy Smith

Saturday July 26, 2014

12-3p Artist Lab: Reality to Fiction *Admission by Lottery*

12-3p Artist Lab: All You Need Is Yourself *Admission by Lottery*

3p and 3:30p Press Play: *They Come in Threes* by CastIron Carousel Ellyn Bye Studio Lobby

4p JAW STAGED READING: *The Royal Society of Antarctica* by Mat Smart Main Stage

Between 7-8p Press Play: *CONFLUENCE* by Tracy Cameron Francis Vera Katz Sliver Park

7:15p and 7:45p Press Play: *Hook Line & Sinker* by Push Leg Various Locations

7:30p Press Play: *Ecdysiast*, A Pole Dance Company Main Lobby

8 p.m. JAW STAGED READING: *A Life* by Adam Bock Main Stage

ABOUT JAW: For 16 years JAW (short for Just Add Water) has created a space for playwrights to grow as writers and professionals. Of the 60+ plays that have received workshops at the festival, more than 50% have received world premiere productions at a regional theater, ranging from the NY Theater Workshop to Steppenwolf to Berkeley Repertory Theatre to Portland’s own Third Rail Repertory Theater. Thirteen 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 SELECTION PROCESS: Scripts for consideration at JAW are submitted from literary managers, dramaturgs, playwrights’ centers, and directly from playwrights. The selection process is “blind,” meaning that the reading committee – made up of PCS staff members and Portland-based theater artists – reads each script without the knowledge of title or playwright. Only when the final plays are selected by the committee do they learn who the author is and the actual title of the play.

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#pcs_JAW, #WePlayRough

ACCESSIBILITY: PCS is committed to making our performances and facilities accessible to all of our patrons. For every production here at PCS, we are happy to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers, as well as provide professional audio description and sign interpretation. For questions, information, or if you need assistance, please contact the box office at 503-445-3700 or email access@pcs.org.

AGE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended for high school age and up. Children under 6 are not permitted.

[JAW: A Playwrights Festival](#) is made possible in part by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, Kinsman Foundation and the Oregon Cultural Trust. Promising Playwrights is funded in part by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, Wells Fargo and Work for Art. Portland Center Stage's 2013-2014 season is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and 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 and Culture Council and Work for Art; and Season Supporting Sponsor KINK fm. Portland Center Stage’s official hotel partner is the Mark Spencer Hotel. Portland Center Stage is a participant in the Audience (R)Evolution Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable

Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the professional not-for-profit American theater.

[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.

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