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

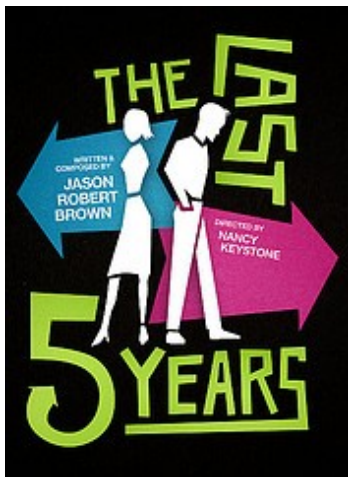
### "Jaw-dropping! A Gem of a Show"

-New York Magazine

**Local Stars Merideth Kaye Clark and Drew Harper  
take the stage for *The Last Five Years* at PCS  
May 2 – June 22, with Previews Beginning April 26**

### "A Heartfelt, Compelling Story"

-Associated Press



**April 3, 2014 – PORTLAND, ORE.** Local performers Merideth Kaye Clark and Drew Harper return to PCS for Jason Robert Brown's celebrated cult musical *The Last Five Years*. They will be accompanied by local pianist Eric Little in the Ellyn Bye Studio, with Nancy Keystone directing the action. *The Last Five Years* begins **previews April 26, opens on May 2, and runs through June 22.**

Regular tickets start at \$45. Preview tickets start at \$40. Rush tickets are \$20.

[Showtimes](#) are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and select Sundays

(excluding May 17, June 3, 10 and 17); 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays

and Sundays; matinees at noon on select Thursdays. Tickets can be purchased at [pcs.org](http://pcs.org) or 503.445.3700.

An emotionally powerful and intimate musical about two New Yorkers in their twenties who fall in love. The title is not only a reference to their relationship, but also a call to the structure of the play itself, with the element of time folding in on itself and echoing the sometimes disorienting quality of love. Cathy tells her story of the courtship backwards, while Jamie tells his story chronologically. Will these two manage to hold on to their prize?

Jason Robert Brown loosely based the story on his brief marriage to actress Theresa O'Neil, who later sued him because it too closely resembled their relationship. Brown eventually reworked the character of Cathy to distinguish her from his former wife. Of the reverse chronology used in the show, Brown has said, "it seemed like the perfect way to tell the story, both because it solved the problem of the audience getting ahead, and because on a metaphorical level, it said exactly what I wanted the show to say: these are two people who were never really in the same place at the same time." Other Brown works include the Tony Award-winning hit *Parade* (Best Book of a Musical and Best Original Musical Score), *Songs For A New World*, *13* and *Bridges of Madison County*.

Winner of two Drama Desk Awards (Outstanding Music and Outstanding Lyrics), *The Last Five Years* debuted in 2001 at the Northlight Theatre, receiving rave reviews and becoming one of the company's best-selling shows. It was named one of the 10 Best Shows of 2001 by *Time* magazine and was picked up for an off-Broadway production at Minetta Lane Theatre the following year. In 2013, an Off-Broadway revival at Second Stage, directed by Jason Robert Brown himself, further elevated the popularity of the show. It has been produced in hundreds of American cities, in addition to Australia, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, France and the Philippines. A film adaptation starring Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan is slated to be released soon. It is currently being screened for distributors.

Staring as Catherine Hiatt (Cathy) is Portland transplant **Merideth Kaye Clark**, who played Elphaba in the First National Tour of the Broadway musical *Wicked*, performing over 150 times in 35 US cities. Merideth made her debut at PCS this season as Tzeitel in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Joining her as Jamie Wellerstein is another local artist, **Drew Harper**, who made his PCS Main Stage debut in *Fiddler* as Motel and also created the role of Doug in *Threesome* at JAW. Merideth and Drew recently performed together in *The Light in the Piazza* at Portland Playhouse (as Clara and Guiseppa). Accompanying this two-person cast is Portland native **pianist Eric Little**, who made his PCS debut in *Sweeney Todd* in the role of Tobias Raff.

*The Last Five Years* is the first musical in the Ellyn Bye Studio since 2009's *Crazy Enough*. Directing the action is **Nancy Keystone**, who has a long history with PCS, most recently directing the popular *Venus in Fur* in 2013 and Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps* in 2010. Nancy was an artistic associate at PCS from 2003-2005 and also acted as design consultant (with Peter Marududin) for the Gerding Theater at the Armory's four lobby spaces. In Los Angeles, she is the founder and artistic director of Critical Mass Performance Group, which produced the multi-disciplinary trilogy *Apollo* that premiered at PCS in 2009.

**Rick Lewis** returns to PCS as Musical Director. Most recently Rick acted as Musical Director for *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Somewhere in Time*, *Sweeney Todd* (Drammy Award, Musical Director), *Black Pearl Sings!* and *Oklahoma!*. The design team is well-known to PCS fans: Scenic and Lighting Designer **Daniel Meeker** (most recently *Bo-Nita*), Resident Costume Designer **Jeff Cone** (most recently *A Small Fire*) and Resident Sound Designer **Casi Pacilio** (most recently *Othello*). **Kelsey Daye Lutz** returns to act as Stage Manager.

Additional support for *The Last Five Years* is provided by production sponsors Zimmer Gunsul Frasca, Downtown Development Group and Viridian Reclaimed Wood. 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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## ***The Last Five Years* | Ticket and Performance Information**

**When:** April 26\* – June 22, 2014

Preview Performances: April 26, 27, 29, 30 and May 1 at 7:30 p.m.

**\*Opening Night: Friday, May 2, 7:30 p.m.**

**Showtimes:** 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday\* and select Sundays; 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays and Sundays; matinees at noon on select Thursdays.

\*Excluding May 17, June 3, 10 and 17.

**Complete schedule:** <http://www.pcs.org/five-years/>

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

**Regular tickets start at \$45. Preview tickets start at \$40. Rush tickets are \$20**

Discounts for students, those under 25 and groups.

**Online:** [www.pcs.org](http://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 for groups of 10 or more.

Group tickets can purchased at 503.445.3794.

**Please Note:** *Most productions at PCS are recommended for high school age and up; children under 6 are not permitted.*

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**#pcs\_lastfive**

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