



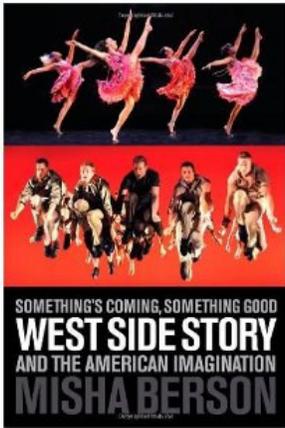
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M E D I A R E L E A S E

SOMETHING'S COMING! *WEST SIDE STORY* HISTORIAN TO VISIT PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

Seattle Times theater critic and acclaimed author Misha Berson in conversation with Chris Coleman

October 25, 2011 – PORTLAND, ORE. A critic is coming to Portland Center Stage! But we can breathe easy; this time we are interviewing the critic and the topic is her own work. Portland Center Stage and Chris Coleman will host theater critic Misha Berson on **November 5, 2011 from 5-6 p.m.** Berson will be discussing her new book, *Something's Coming, Something Good: West Side Story and the American Imagination*. Berson



brings a deep-rooted passion for theater and will discuss the rich history and development of this landmark Broadway musical and subsequent film, now in its 50th anniversary. *West Side Story* is also an important production in Portland Center Stage's history; in 2006 it was the inaugural production in the Gerding Theater at the Armory, directed by PCS artistic director Chris Coleman. The event featuring Coleman and Berson is free and open to the public.

In addition to working as an award-winning theater critic for the *Seattle Times*, Berson contributes regularly to *American Theater Magazine* and *Pacific Northwest Magazine*. Berson is also a commentator on KUOW-FM, a National Public Radio affiliate in Seattle. She spent 12 years covering the San Francisco Bay Area theater scene before joining the *Seattle Times* in 1991, and has taught courses in drama and interdisciplinary arts at both San Francisco State University and the University of Washington. Her previous books include *The San Francisco Stage* and *Between Worlds: Contemporary Asian-American Playwrights*.

[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 a 599-seat Main Stage and the 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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