



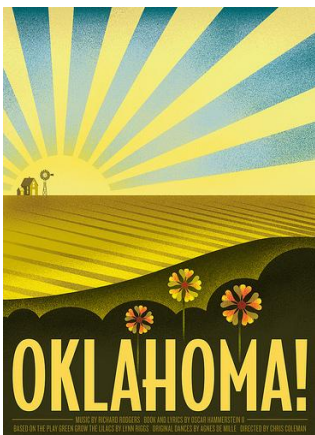
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## M E D I A R E L E A S E

*Portland Center Stage celebrates its current production of Oklahoma! with an evening of gospel music, a showtune chanteuse and the artwork of an Oregon cowgirl.*



**September 14, 2011 – PORTLAND, ORE.** There's a bright golden haze filling the theater! [Oklahoma!](#) opens September 23 at Portland Center Stage. Artistic Director Chris Coleman has set this beloved all-American musical in an all-black town in the Oklahoma territories right as the region gained statehood in 1907. ***Oklahoma!*** previews on Tuesday September 20th, opens on **Friday, September 23rd, and runs Tuesday through Sunday through October 30.** Tickets start at \$39, with student and under 30 discounts available. Rush tickets are \$20. Show times are 7:30 pm Tuesday through Saturday, with a 2:00 pm Sunday matinee and alternating Saturday 2:00 pm

and Sunday 7:30 pm performances.

In support of *Oklahoma!*, PCS is presenting the following community programs

### A Night of Gospel Music at PCS

Monday, September 26, 7:00pm

On the Main Stage

Admission is FREE and open to the public

Portland Center Stage is proud to present an evening of gospel music to celebrate our own African-American community and music with deep African-American roots by hosting two of Portland's outstanding Gospel Choirs: [Mt. Olivet Baptist Church](#) and [Highland Christian Center](#). Please come and enjoy a free night of inspirational music.

### Sounds Like Portland

Saturdays, September 24 – October 29, 2011 6:45 -7:15pm

The Armory Café

Admission is free and open to the public

This season, Portland Center Stage is proud to carry on our popular Saturday evening live music series Sounds.Like.Portland! Every Saturday evening throughout our Main Stage runs, the Armory Cafe will host live, local music. So grab a cocktail and pull up a chair for the best in local Portland music. September 24 – October 15, we'll be featuring local musical theater star, [Emily Beleele](#). October 22 – 29, we'll be featuring gospel music soloist and choral director, Lessie Williams.

Artwork by Brenna Tyler

September 1 – November 30, 2011

Throughout the Armory Lobbies

Admission is Free and open to the public

Throughout the galleries of The Armory, Portland Center Stage is currently featuring the fine art of Brenna Tyler, an Eastern Oregon cowgirl. Brenna and her adopted family live on a working cattle ranch in Eastern Oregon. It is in the comfort of this ranch where much of her inspiration is ignited for her bronze sculptures and paintings. It is also where she collects many of the materials used in her one-of-a-kind sculptures.

For more information about PCS community programs please visit

<http://www.pcs.org/education/#Community>

Scenic design for *Oklahoma!* will be created by **William Bloodgood**, with lighting design by **Ann Wrightson** and costume design by **Jeff Cone**. Sound design is by **Casi Pacilio**. **Rick Lewis** will be the musical director and **Joel Ferrell** is choreographer. Mark Tynan is stage manager and Emily N. Wells is assistant stage manager.

Additional support for this production has been provided by **Ellyn Bye; Madeline Nelson and Jim Lafky; Helen and Jerry Stern; Troutman Sanders; US Bank and The Oregonian**.

Portland Center Stage's 2011/12 season is funded in part by **Umpqua Private Bank**, our lead corporate champion; the **Regional Arts & Culture Council** and **Work for Art**; the **Oregon Arts Commission**; the **Paul G. Allen Family Foundation; Helen and Jerry Stern**; and **Tim & Mary Boyle**. The Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner for Portland Center Stage.

[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.

## **Oklahoma!**

### **Fact Sheet**

WHAT: Oklahoma!

Music by Richard Rodgers Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Based on the play "Green Grow the Lilacs" by Lynn Riggs

Original Dances by Agnes de Mille

Directed by Chris Coleman

WHEN: September 20 – October 30, 2011.

Tuesday through Saturday 7:30pm and Sunday matinees at 2:00pm. Saturday matinees (10/1, 10/15, 10/29) at 2:00pm. Thursday matinees (9/29 - 10/27) at Noon.

WHERE: Main Stage, Gerding Theater at the Armory 128 NW 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland OR 97209

TICKETS: 503-445-3700 or [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org). Prices start at \$39

PHOTOS: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/portlandcenterstage/sets/72157627378503159/>

(Photos of dress rehearsal will be available at the above link by September 22)