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

On Stage and Off: Jan/Feb Events at Portland Center Stage

Creative Conversations, Community Labs, Social Hours, Live Music, Portland Poetry Slams, *The New Shit Show*, Stumptown Speaker Series and a party in honor of Charles Dickens' 204th birthday

January 15, 2016 – PORTLAND, OR. With more than 30 events planned at Portland Center Stage's Gerding Theater at the Armory through February, there is something for nearly all interests. PCS's **Creative Conversations** series provides in-depth discussions about the three productions running on stage this winter – *Great Expectations*, *Forever* and *Each and Every Thing*. Other events include new **Community Labs** that provide opportunities to develop skills in acting, writing, improv, or create a framed silhouette for Valentine's Day; **Social Hours** that bring the community together for adult beverages and mingling with scholars, writers, and PCS's prop, set and costume artisans; and ongoing events such as **Portland Poetry Slams**, *The New Shit Show*, and the latest **Stumptown Speaker Series** for local high school students. On February 7, the community is also invited to a party in honor of **Charles Dickens' 204th birthday**.

Most events are held in Portland Center Stage's historic and LEED Platinum home, the Gerding Theater at the Armory (128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland, OR, 97209). More information is available at <http://www.pcs.org/community/>, 503.445.3700 or in person (the box office is open seven days a week from noon-6 p.m. or curtain up; the concierge desk is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or curtain down). PCS is committed to making performances, events and facilities accessible to all patrons (<http://www.pcs.org/access/>). *Events, dates and times are subject to change.*

PRODUCTIONS ON STAGE IN JAN/FEB

***Great Expectations* | January 16* – February 14, 2016 | *Opening/Press Night: January 22**

Charles Dickens' classic coming of age novel, *Great Expectations*, follows the adventures of the Victorian orphan Pip. When he comes into an unexpected fortune and begins the life of a gentleman, his past is not so easily left behind.

On the U.S. Bank Mainstage | Tickets start at \$25 | <http://www.pcs.org/expectations>

***Forever* | January 30* – March 20, 2016 | *Opening/Press Night: February 5**

Written and Performed by Dael Orlandersmith; Directed by Neel Keller

While paying homage to the artists that felt like her “true family,” Orlandersmith explores the complex legacy that she received from her mother and their life together. Riveting and powerful, *Forever* is about family — those connected by blood and those that are not — and the legacies that shape us all.

In the Ellyn Bye Studio | Tickets start at \$25 | <http://www.pcs.org/forever/>

***Each and Every Thing* | February 6* – March 27, 2016 | *Opening/Press Night: February 12**

Written and Performed by Dan Hoyle; Directed by Charlie Varon

Award-winning actor/playwright Dan Hoyle takes us on an epic journey to explore how we experience the world in the digital age, as he searches for true community, spontaneity and wonder in our fractured, hyper-connected world.

In the Ellyn Bye Studio | Tickets start at \$25 | <http://www.pcs.org/eachandevery/>

CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS

Deepen your engagement with the work on stage at one of these in-depth discussions moderated by Portland Center Stage staff members.

Feb. 6, 6 p.m. – Pre-show “Forum” interview with *Great Expectations* adapter Lucinda Stroud

Free and open to the public | Mezzanine | Prior to the 7:30 p.m. performance

Feb. 7, 4:45 p.m.* – Carl Wilson (of Literary Arts Delve Seminars) discusses Charles Dickens with *Great Expectations* adapter Lucinda Stroud

Free and open to the public | U.S. Bank Main Stage | *Following the 2p matinee performance

Feb. 16 and Mar. 1, 9 p.m.* – “Perspectives” on *Forever* with the YWCA of Greater Portland

Free and open to the public | Ellyn Bye Studio | *Following the 7:30 p.m. performances

Feb. 23 and Mar. 8, 8:50 p.m.* – “Perspectives” on *Each and Every Thing*

A discussion of technology’s influence on relationships.

Free and open to the public | Ellyn Bye Studio | *Following the 7:30 p.m. performances

COMMUNITY LABS

Community Labs offer hands on opportunities to get messy with local artisans. Flex your creative muscles, get a peek behind the scenes, and much more.

Advance registration is required: <http://www.pcs.org/community/#labs>.

Jan. 16, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. — Active Improvisation Intensive with Nicholas Kessler

Create characters, scenes and storylines in the moment.

All levels welcome | \$25 registration fee | Vigeland Rehearsal Hall

Jan. 23, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. — “Shape-Shifting” Acting Lab with Damon Kupper

Curious about creating in-depth characters quickly? Develop skills for trans-formative characters.

All levels welcome | \$30 registration fee | Vigeland Rehearsal Hall

Feb. 8, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. — “Say What You Mean Before You Die” Writing Workshop

Or "How to get started (and not give up) on your novel, play, memoir, solo performance piece or other creative project" with *Each and Every Thing* director Charlie Varon.

All levels welcome | \$25 registration fee | Vigeland Rehearsal Hall

Feb. 13, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. — Valentine Silhouette Lab with Properties Master Michael Jones

Create your very own framed silhouette. It's the perfect gift for Valentine's Day, or better yet, enjoy the lab as a couple!

All levels welcome | \$40 includes all supplies | PCS Scene Shop (3079 NW Front Ave)

SOCIAL HOURS | First drink is on the house!

Social Hours connect the community with Portland artists for casual happy hours. Members of Portland's creative community will be on hand at each Social Hour to act as guest hosts, occasionally providing brief, custom-curated presentations to enhance the casual gatherings.

Jan. 24 at 1 p.m. — Hosted by Scholars/Artists Daniel Pollak-Pelzner and Adriana Baer

Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m. and Jan. 31 at 1 p.m. — Hosted by Margaret Malone and Courtenay Hameister

Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 7 at 1 p.m. — Hosted by PCS Prop and Set Artisans

Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 14 at 1 p.m. — Hosted by PCS Costume Artisans

Light hors d'oeuvres and the first drink are on the house!

Free and open to the public on the Mezzanine: <http://www.pcs.org/community/>

FREE LIVE MUSIC

Live music is presented at Portland Center Stage in the lobby before performances on selected dates. Grab a drink and enjoy some of Portland's local musical talent.

Free and open to the public. Food and drink available for purchase at the Armory Café.

<http://www.pcs.org/blog/item/pre-show-music-performances-in-january-february/>

Jan. 20 and Feb. 28 at 6:30 p.m. — Okaidja

Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. — Pamela Jordan and Company

Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m. and Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. — Freddy Vilches Duo

Feb. 20 and 27 at 6:30 p.m. — Santi Elijah Holley

Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m. — Avery Hill

Feb. 28 at 1 p.m. — Toshi Onizuka

MORE SPECIAL EVENTS

We keep the building hopping at all times! Portland Center Stage shares its space and resources throughout the year with community partners to bring original content, emerging talent and sheer entertainment to the Gerding Theater at the Armory. Regular events include the Portland Poetry Slam, comedy acts such as Improv All-Stars, the August Wilson Red Door Project's monologue competition, along with countless staged readings and custom performances and events.

SPECIAL EVENTS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY:

Jan. 17, 31 and Feb. 14, 21, 6:30 p.m. – Portland Poetry Slam

Poetry readings and slams held at PCS (usually every other Sunday).

To participate in the open mic or slam, sign up in the lobby between 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Writing workshop with Where Are You Press preceding each slam at 5 p.m.

Open to the public | \$5 suggested donation | Various locations | <http://www.pcs.org/community/>

Jan. 31, 7 p.m. – WORD.VOICE. – Playwrite, Inc.'s Graduate Showcase

Written and directed by the young writers of PlayWrite, Inc.

Free and open to the public | U.S. Bank Main Stage | <http://www.pcs.org/community/>

Feb. 7, 6 p.m. – Charles Dickens' 204th Birthday

Celebrate with the cast and crew of *Great Expectations* and *Twist Your Dickens*.

Free and open to the public | Complimentary beer and light snacks | Mezzanine

Feb. 8, 8 p.m. – *The New Shit Show*

Entertainment for People and XRAY.fm present a delightful variety of debut work on the second Monday of every month.

\$10 through PCS Box Office | Mezzanine | <http://newshitshow.com/>

Feb. 8, 7 p.m. – Stumptown Speaker Series with ReelDx's CMO David Spiro and CEO Bill Kelley

A free speaker series featuring prominent leaders from the Portland business community, made for high school students by high school students. Open to Portland Metro Area high school students. Free, advance registration required | Ellyn Bye Studio | <http://talk.strikingly.com/>

[Portland Center Stage](#) inspires our community by bringing stories to life in unexpected ways. Founded in 1988, PCS is the city's leading professional theater and one of the top 20 largest regional theater companies in the U.S. PCS attracts more than 150,000 theatergoers annually with its blend of classical, contemporary and premiere works, along with its summer playwrights festival, JAW. PCS also offers a variety of education and community programs tailored for patrons of all ages.

[The Gerding Theater at the Armory](#) houses the 590-seat U.S. Bank 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.

[Portland Center Stage's 2015-2016 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank; Supporting Season Sponsors the Regional Arts and Culture Council, The Wallace Foundation, Work for Art and KINK FM. The official hotel partner for PCS is the Mark Spencer Hotel.

PCS is a participant in the Wallace Foundation's [Building Audiences for Sustainability Initiative](#), a four-year effort with a nationwide cohort of 26 performing arts organizations. PCS also receives support from the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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