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

JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION AT PORTLAND CENTER STAGE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

November 5, 2012 – PORTLAND, ORE. Portland Center Stage invites Portlanders of all ages to take a break from the cold and join in the festivities at its 25th Anniversary Open House celebration. The event will take place on Sunday, November 18 from 3-8 p.m. at the Gerding Theatre at the Armory, located in the heart of the Pearl District. Visitors can expect a wide array of free activities, including live entertainment, warm beverages and desserts, a craft market, and a photo booth featuring real costumes used on stage at PCS.

To celebrate its 25th anniversary season and roots as a branch of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, PCS is opening its doors for a holiday-inspired open house, which will take place two days after the opening night of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The event will feature live entertainment throughout the day, including music from Pilot Light, an indie folk group composed of select members of favorite local band Blind Pilot. Entertainment will also be provided by sultry jazz chanteuse Pamela Jordan, contemporary American music troupe Third Angel Music Ensemble, classical guitarist Toshi Onizuke, and Ritchie Young of Loch Lomond alongside violinist Heather Mattie Kaiser. Full descriptions of each entertainer along with an event schedule can be found at www.pcs.org/blog/open-house.

To give visitors a head start on holiday shopping, PCS will be also hosting an artisan market at the event, featuring more than 12 local craft vendors. The Armory Café will be stocked throughout the day with complimentary coffee, hot cider and cookies, and will be selling its usual espresso drinks, delicious light munchies and adult beverages. Free backstage tours of the Gerding Theater at the Armory will be offered at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m., giving visitors an opportunity to peek behind-the-scenes at the theater.

The entire family is invited to this event, as a variety of kid-friendly activities have been planned. Youngsters (or those young at heart) can participate in a Shakespearean craft corner, where they will design costumes for their favorite characters. All designs will be entered into a contest, with winners chosen by PCS artists. Shakespearean cartoons will also be shown throughout the day, allowing children to take a break and be entertained by the magical world of Shakespeare.

A theatrical photo booth will also be featured at the event, filled with props and scenery from set of *The Santaland Diaries*. Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in the world of theater by dressing in real costumes used on stage during the last 25 years at PCS. For those who want to go on a theater adventure while at the open house, a scavenger hunt will take place with special PCS 25th anniversary mugs up for grabs. One lucky winner will also receive a PCS prize package, which includes free PCS tickets and local gift certificates. For more information about the 25th Anniversary Open House, please visit www.pcs.org/blog/open-house.

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 October 1, 2006. The capital campaign to fund the renovation of this hub for community artistic activity continues.

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