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## M E D I A   R E L E A S E

### **Portland Center Stage Opens 2015-2016 Season with Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Our Town***

**Previews Begin September 12, Opening Night is September 18, Closes October 11**

**August 19, 2015 – PORTLAND, OR.** Portland Center Stage's 2015-2016 season opens on September 18 with the ground-breaking American classic, Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Our Town*. Preview performances begin September 12, with performances through October 11 on the U.S. Bank Main Stage. PCS Associate Artistic Director Rose Riordan will direct the iconic work: "*Our Town* is about paying attention. Paying attention to every detail of our ordinary lives." The cast includes exciting PCS debuts and beloved returning artists. Making their debuts are Paul Cosentino, Gina Daniels, Shawn Fagan, Holden Goyette, John D. Haggerty, Chris Karczmar, Nikki Massoud, Gary Norman, Sathya Sridharan and Aida Valentine. Artists returning to the PCS stage are Tina Chilip, Ricardy Charles Fabre, Henry Martin, Sharonlee McLean, Lauren Modica, Chris Murray, Leif Norby, Vin Shambry and Laura Faye Smith.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org), 503.445.3700 or in person at the Gerding Theater at the Armory box office, 128 NW Eleventh Avenue. Regular tickets start at \$37. Preview performance tickets start at \$29. Rush tickets are \$20. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays (excluding September 27, 29 and October 11); 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays and Sundays; and matinees at noon on select Thursdays. More information at <http://www.pcs.org/ourtown/>.

#### **ABOUT OUR TOWN**

*Our Town* transports us to Grover's Corners, a small New England town at the turn of the twentieth century whose secret desires, family conflicts, loves and losses are resoundingly familiar to us today. This beloved drama receives a fresh interpretation at PCS, inviting us to ponder what *Our Town* is today, and celebrating both the

marvel of everyday existence and the “something way down deep that’s eternal about every human being.” The production marks the PCS debut of a Thornton Wilder play.

## PLAYWRIGHT THORNTON WILDER

Thornton Wilder (1897-1975) was an accomplished novelist and playwright whose works explore the connection between the commonplace and the cosmic dimensions of human experience. *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, one of his seven novels, won the Pulitzer Prize (1928), and his next-to-last novel, *The Eighth Day* received the National Book Award (1968). Two of his four major plays garnered Pulitzer Prizes, *Our Town* (1938) and *The Skin of Our Teeth* (1943). His play *The Matchmaker* ran on Broadway for 486 performances (1955-1957), Wilder’s Broadway record, and was later adapted into the record-breaking musical *Hello, Dolly!*. Wilder also enjoyed enormous success with many other forms of the written and spoken word, among them translation, acting, opera librettos, lecturing, teaching and film (his screenplay for Alfred Hitchcock’s 1943 psycho-thriller, *Shadow of a Doubt*, remains a classic to this day). Wilder’s many honors include the Gold Medal for Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the National Book Committee’s Medal for Literature.

## THE CAST

Shawn Fagan\*.....Stage Manager  
Paul Cosentino\*.....Dr. Gibbs  
Henry Martin.....Joe Crowell Jr./Si Crowell  
Vin Shambry\*.....Howie Newsome  
Gina Daniels\*.....Mrs. Gibbs  
Tina Chilip.....Mrs. Webb  
Sathya Sridharan\*.....George Gibbs  
Aida Valentine\*\*.....Rebecca Gibbs  
Holden Goyette\*\*.....Wally Webb  
Nikki Massoud\*.....Emily Webb  
Leif Norby.....Professor Willard/Joe Stoddard and others  
John D. Haggerty\*.....Mr. Webb  
Lauren Modica†.....Woman in Balcony and others  
Gary Norman.....Simon Stimson and others  
Sharonlee McLean†.....Mrs. Soames and others  
Chris Karczmar\*.....Constable Warren  
Ricardy Charles Fabre.....Sam Craig  
Chris Murray†.....Mr. Carter and others  
Laura Faye Smith†.....Lady in Box and others

\*PCS Stage Debut

†Local Performer

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

PCS Associate Artistic Director **Rose Riordan** will direct (most recently *The People's Republic of Portland*, *The Typographer's Dream*, *LIZZIE* and *A Small Fire* at PCS), with Scenic Designer **Tony Cisek** (previously collaborated with Rose Riordan on *A Small Fire*, *The Whipping Man*, *The North Pool*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *A Christmas Story* and *Frost/Nixon*), Costume Designer **Alison Heryer** (recently *Three Days of Rain* and *Threesome*, and a faculty member at Portland State University), Lighting Designer **Diane Ferry Williams** (*Three Days of Rain* and *Threesome*), PCS Resident Sound Designer **Casi Pacilio** (recently *Three Days of Rain* and *Cyrano*), with music direction and vocal arrangements by **Rick Lewis** (recently *Dreamgirls* and *The Last Five Years*) and Assistant Director **K.L. Cullom**, Stage Manager **Janine Vanderhoff** and Assistant Stage Manager **Marialena DiFabbio**.

## TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

**When:** September 12\* – October 11, 2015

\*Opening Night is Friday, September 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: September 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m.

**Showtimes:** Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays (excluding Sep 27, 29 and October 11); 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays and Sundays; and matinees at noon on select Thursdays.

**Where:** On the U.S. Bank Main Stage at the [Gerding Theater at the Armory](#).  
128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland, Ore., 97209

**More Info:** <http://www.pcs.org/ourtown/>

**To Purchase:** Regular tickets range from \$37-\$70. Preview tickets start at \$29. Rush tickets are \$20. Discounts for students, those 30 or younger, and groups. Prices subject to change.

**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 available for groups of 10+ by calling 503.445.3794.

**Please Note:** Children under age 6 are not permitted at PCS productions.

**Accessibility:** PCS is committed to making our performances and facilities accessible to all of our patrons. Learn more at <http://www.pcs.org/access/>.

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[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. Support for *Our Town* is provided by Show Sponsors Don and Mary Blair and The Standard. 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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