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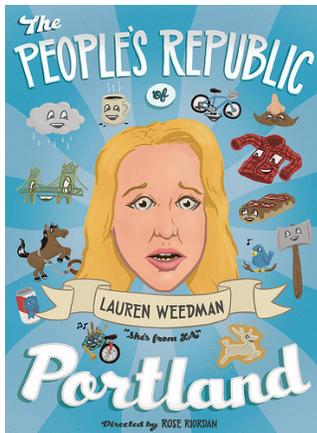
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M E D I A R E L E A S E

Comic Phenom Lauren Weedman takes on Stumptown!

World Premiere of The People's Republic of Portland

begins April 23 at Portland Center Stage



April 5, 2013 – PORTLAND, ORE. Portland Center Stage's much-anticipated world premiere production of writer/performer Lauren Weedman's one-woman tour-de-force, *The People's Republic of Portland*, begins preview performances on Tuesday, April 23; opens on **Friday, May 3**; and runs Tuesday through Sunday through **June 16**. Tickets **start at \$34**, with discounts available for students and those under 25. Rush tickets are \$20.

Portland is garnering lots of attention lately—for our leadership in sustainability; for our food scene; and for being, well, weird. And now we've caught the attention of Lauren Weedman, actor/writer of *BUST*. In the few months she spent here in the spring of 2011, Lauren's imagination was captured by all things Portland.

And so we've asked her to write a play. About Portland. How will this former *Daily Show* faux-spondent treat us? What does Portland look like through Weedman's unique lens? Are we brave enough to find out?

Show times are 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through Sundays, with 2 p.m. matinees on Sundays and select Saturdays, and matinees at noon on Thursdays. See the show calendar at www.pcs.org/republic for the

complete performance schedule. Tickets can be purchased online at www.pcs.org, by phone at 503.445.3700 or by visiting the box office located at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue.



Lauren Weedman is an award winning comedic actress, playwright and author. She has written and performed eight solo plays (*Homecoming*, *Amsterdam*, *If Ornaments Had Lips*, *Huu*, *Rash*, *Wreckage*, *BUST*, *No...You Shut Up*). Her first show, *Homecoming*, began as a 15-minute performance art piece at Seattle's On the Boards and had an off-Broadway run in NYC. *BUST*, about her work in the L.A. county jail, was awarded a MacDowell Fellowship for Playwriting by the Alpert Awards as well as several "best of the arts" honors across the nation. Her television credits include *The Daily Show*, *True Blood*, *United States of Tara*, *Reno 911*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and *Horny Patty* on HBO's *HUNG*. Film credits include *Imagine That*, *Date Night* and Judd Apatow's *A Five Year Engagement* starring Jason Segel. Weedman's first book, *A Woman Trapped in a Woman's Body: (Tales from a Life of Cringe)*, is a collection of comedic essays and was named by Kirkus Reviews as a Top Ten Indie Book for 2007. Weedman currently lives in Santa Monica by the Baja Fresh.

The People's Republic of Portland is directed by PCS Associate Artistic Director **Rose Riordan**. Scenic Designer **Dan Meeker**, Lighting Designer **Don Crossley**, Costume Designer **Jeff Cone**, Sound Designer **Casi Pacilio** and Stage Manager **Bryan Burch** round out the creative team.

This world premiere play was commissioned by the Innovative Minds program at **Perkins Coie**. Perkins Coie's Innovative Minds program is a philanthropic endeavor designed to recognize and reward intellectual curiosity. The PCS commission for new plays encompasses just one of four projects funded nationally. "We salute PCS for its continuing dedication to bringing world-class theater to Portland. It has been an honor to support Lauren Weedman, and we're excited that Portland audiences will soon be able to enjoy her work in *The People's Republic of Portland*," said Rob Aldisert, Perkins Coie Portland Managing Partner.

Additional support for this production is provided by **Ellyn Bye** and **Doug & Teresa Smith**. Portland Center Stage's 2012-2013 season is funded in part by **Umpqua Bank**, our lead corporate champion; the **Regional Arts & Culture Council** and **Work for Art**; the **Oregon Arts Commission**; the **Paul G. Allen**

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

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