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

Lauren Weedman – Award-winning Playwright, Author and Star of HBO Series *Looking* – Returns to Portland Center Stage to Reprise Her Hit Show *The People’s Republic of Portland*

Playing March 27 – April 19, with Preview Performances Beginning March 21



February 26, 2015 – PORTLAND, OR. Lauren Weedman, the award-winning playwright, author and star of HBO series *Looking*, returns to Portland Center Stage for the second engagement of her hit show *The People’s Republic of Portland*. Associate Artistic Director Rose Riordan will once again direct the one-woman show that premiered at PCS in the Spring of 2013. *The People’s Republic of Portland* was the first play produced at PCS with a commission program

developed in 2012, marking an important milestone in the company’s long standing commitment to developing and producing new works for the stage.

Preview performances for *The People’s Republic of Portland* begin March 21; it opens March 27 and runs through April 19, 2015 in the Ellyn Bye Studio at PCS’s Gerding Theater at the Armory. Regular tickets start at \$40. Preview performance tickets are \$35. Rush tickets are \$20. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets can be purchased at [pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org) or 503.445.3700. A complete schedule can be found at <http://www.pcs.org/republic-2015/>.

ABOUT THE SHOW

In 2011, while Weedman was performing *Bust* at PCS, her imagination was captured by all things Portland – and her commentary about her visit had PCS staff members laughing nonstop. With the help of a grant from Perkins

Coie's Innovative Minds program, PCS commissioned Weedman to explore the city and use her adventures as fodder to develop a partly scripted, partly improvised one-woman show offering her outsider's take on all things Portland. In 2012, a staged reading was produced at PCS's JAW: A Playwrights Festival. The subsequent world premiere played to sold out crowds in an extended run the following year. The show worked so well that other companies immediately clamored to get Weedman's take on their own cities. Since the Portland premiere, Weedman has performed similarly structured works across the country, including *Boise*, *You Don't Look a Day Over 149* and *Blame it on Boise* at Boise Contemporary Theatre; *Good for You*, *Albuquerque* at the Revolutions Theater Festival, and *Well, I Think You're beautiful Philadelphia* at the Adrienne Theatre.

WRITER AND PERFORMER: LAUREN WEEDMAN

Lauren Weedman is an award winning comedic actress, playwright and author. She has earned much acclaim for her one-woman shows, including *The Seattle Times'* "Best of Arts" award, The Alpert Award for the Arts in Playwriting, publication in *Women's Playwrights: Best of 2002*, and the cover of *LA Weekly's* comedy issue. In 2007, Sasquatch Books released her first book, a collection of comedic essays, *A Woman Trapped in a Woman's Body (Tales From a Life of*



Change). Her solo plays include *Amsterdam the Musical*, *If Ornaments Had No Lips*, *Huu*, *Rash*, *Wreckage*, *Bust* and *No ... You Shut Up*. When she appeared in her solo show *Homecoming* Off-Broadway at the Westside Theatre, *The New York Times* said, "like Bob Newhart in his early stand-up routines, she's particularly good at making her points – and making us feel clever. Most important, she's just plain funny, physically and verbally."

Weedman made her television debut in 2001 as a featured Correspondent on Comedy Central's Emmy-Award winning *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. During that time, she was also a regular on NPR's political satire show *Rewind*. Since that time, she has appeared in a wide variety of TV shows, including *Masters of Sex*, *Dads*, *New Girl*, *Arrested Development*, *True Blood*, *Reno 9-11*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, and as the recurring show stealer "Horny Patty" in HBO's *Hung*. For two years, she was a cast member for the long-running comedy *Almost Alive* for Comedy Central. In film, she earned acclaim for her role in the Judd Apatow-produced *The Five-Year Engagement*, opposite Eddie Murphy in *Imagine That*, and opposite Tina Fey and Steve Carell in *Date Night*. She currently plays Doris, the lovable best friend on HBO's series *Looking*, a role she calls "essentially a version of myself." The role earned her a Critic's Choice nomination and a returning spot as a series regular in the second season, which launched in January 2015.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

The creative team from the 2013 world premiere of *The People's Republic of Portland* returns: Directing the play is PCS Associate Artistic Director Rose Riordan (most recently *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* at PCS); Costume Designer Jeff Cone (former PCS resident costume designer and costume shop manager); Scenic Designer Daniel Meeker (most recently *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* at PCS); Lighting Designer **Don Crossley** (most recently *The Santaland Diaries*); PCS Resident Sound Designer **Casi Pacilio** (most recently *Threesome*), Multimedia Designer Patrick Weishampel (creative director of blankeye.tv); with Stage Manager Kelsey Daye Lutz.

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF PORTLAND | TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: March 21* – April 19, 2015

*Opening Night is Friday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: March 21, 22, 24, 25 and 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays; 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays.

Where: In the Ellyn Bye Studio at the [Gerding Theater at the Armory](#), 128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland.

More Info: <http://www.pcs.org/republic-2015/>

To Purchase: Regular tickets range from \$40-55. Preview tickets are \$35. Rush tickets are \$20.

Discounts for students, those under 25 and groups. Prices subject to change.

Online: <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: Recommended for ages 14+; contains mature language.

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.

The People's Republic of Portland was commissioned by the Innovative Minds program at Perkins Coie, a philanthropic endeavor designed to recognize and reward intellectual curiosity. Additional support for *The People's Republic of Portland* is provided by Show Sponsors Keith and Sharon Barnes and Curtis Thompson and Associates. [Portland Center Stage's 2014-2015 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank; Season Sponsors the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Regional Arts and Culture Council, Work for Art, Oregonian Media Group and Season Supporting Sponsor KINK FM. The Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner for Portland Center Stage. Portland Center Stage is a participant in the Audience (R)Evolution Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the professional not-for-profit American theater.

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