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

Adam Bock's *The Typographer's Dream* opens in the Ellyn Bye Studio on October 10, with Previews Beginning October 4

"Funny, provocative, psychologically revealing, intellectually stimulating and thoroughly enjoyable."

- San Francisco Chronicle

"A striking one-act that uses the ruse of a panel discussion to explore the variable dynamics between profession, self and interpersonal relationships."

- Variety



September 15, 2014 – PORTLAND, OR. "What if the psychology of your work is your own psychology?" That is the question playwright Adam Bock tackles in the funny and surprising one-act, *The Typographer's Dream*, which features three characters, 76 rapid-fire scenes, and a transient fourth wall. Long-time Bock collaborator Rose Riordan will direct and design costumes. The roles of the Typographer, Geographer and Stenographer will be played by local actors who are well-versed in

Bock's unique style – Sharonlee McLean, Laura Faye Smith and Kelsey Tyler.

The Typographer's Dream opens in the Ellyn Bye Studio on October 10, with previews beginning October 4 and performances running through November 16. Regular tickets start at \$40, preview tickets are \$35, and rush tickets are \$20. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday (excluding October 26 and November 4, 9, 11 and 16); 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays and Sundays; and matinees at noon on select Thursdays. Tickets

can be purchased at pcs.org or 503-445-3700. A complete schedule can be found online:

<http://www.pcs.org/typographer/>.

ABOUT THE SHOW

The Typographer's Dream introduces audiences to a stenographer, a geographer and a typographer. During a presentation, it becomes hilariously clear that their personal issues just so happen to correspond with their jobs. *The Typographer's Dream* had its world premiere at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2003, where *Culture Wars* said, "Adam Bock has taken a surprising and intriguing look at the much neglected world of work." Later, the West Coast premiere at Encore Theatre was so successful it led to a second run at Shotgun Players. Numerous regional productions have followed with much critical acclaim.

Variety praised *The Typographer's Dream* as a "striking one-act that uses the ruse of a panel discussion to explore the variable dynamics between profession, self and interpersonal relationships." *Talkin Broadway* called it a "smart, intriguing comedy ... hilarious, bracing and very enlightening. The dialogue is clever and the confrontation between the characters is stimulating, especially toward the end of the comedy." *The Baltimore Sun* noted that "Bock also understands human nature, the walls and bridges we build, the blinders we put on, the defense mechanisms we adopt. One more thing – the playwright can be very funny, too."

PLAYWRIGHT ADAM BOCK

Canadian playwright Adam Bock penned the 76 scenes in *The Typographer's Dream* in just two weeks. He found inspiration for the play when he was hired as a temp at MetaDesign, a San Francisco-based design firm that created the Meta font. Bock spent five years working as a receptionist at Meta and the experience proved to be fertile ground for his scripts. His time there was also the source material for his popular office plays *The Thugs* and *The Receptionist*.

Bock has a rich history with PCS, going back to 2005 when *The Thugs* was developed at JAW and later earned him an Obie Award. *The Receptionist* was presented at CoHo Productions in 2008 and then remounted in PCS's Ellyn Bye Studio in 2010. Bock was again featured at JAW in 2012. The same year, he was selected as one of two playwrights (along with Lauren Weedman) to receive a two-year commission. Last season, *A Small Fire* was presented on the Main Stage and his commissioned script, *A Life*, received its first reading at JAW 2014.

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CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

The cast for *The Typographer's Dream* were all featured in the recent staged reading of *A Life* at JAW. They also performed together in *The Thugs*; a production that earned Drammy Awards for Ensemble Acting, Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Sharonlee McLean) and Best Direction (Rose Riordan). Sharonlee McLean and Laura Faye Smith were also featured in Bock's *The Receptionist* in a production *The Oregonian* called "must-see theater." For *The Typographer's Dream*, **Sharonlee McLean** will play Margaret the Typographer, **Laura Faye Smith** will play Annalise the Geographer and **Kelsey Tyler** will play Dave the Stenographer.

The Typographer's Dream marks **Rose Riordan's** seventh collaboration with Adam Bock at PCS. Riordan also directed a celebrated production of Bock's *Phaedra* for Berkeley's Shotgun Players in 2011. This will be the second time she has directed and designed costumes for a Bock play (she took on both roles for *The Receptionist*). Joining Riordan on the creative team are Scenic and Lighting Designer **Daniel Meeker**, Sound Designer **Scott Thorson** and Stage Manager **Kelsey Daye Lutz**. The entire cast and creative team are made up of Portland-based artists.

RELATED EVENTS – Calendar Editors Kindly Note:

The History of the Alphabet: A Free Lecture and Demonstration

Thursday, October 19 | 4:30 p.m.

Gerding Theater at the Armory

Free and open to the public. No ticket required.

Elizabeth Anderson (of [Anderson Krygier Inc.](#)) will roll out butcher paper and take us through a "real time" illustrative demonstration and lecture on the history of the western alphabet, from the first time man produced a representative character to the letters that typographers dream about today.

Anderson Krygier's relationship with typography at Portland Center Stage goes back to 2006, when they designed signage and graphics for the new Gerding Theater at the Armory using the typeface Futura, also the name of world premiere play they sponsored in 2011. Elizabeth Anderson is principal at Anderson Krygier, experts at integrating graphics into the built environment, including the Armory.

➤ Next Page: **Ticket and Performance Information**

***The Typographer's Dream* | Ticket and Performance Information**

When: October 4* – November 16, 2014

***Opening Night is Friday, October 10, 7:30 p.m.**

Preview Performances: October 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sundays*; 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays and Sundays; matinees at noon on select Thursdays. *Excluding October 26 and November 4, 9, 11 and 16.

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

More Info: <http://www.pcs.org/typographer/>

To Purchase: Regular tickets range from \$40-55. Preview tickets are \$35. Rush tickets are \$20. Tickets for students and those under 25 are \$25. Discounts for military and groups of 10+. Season ticket packages are available, starting at \$72.90 for three plays. *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 or more.
Group tickets can purchased at 503-445-3794.

Please Note: *The Typographer's Dream* is recommended for ages 13+; contains mature language. Children under 6 are not permitted at any PCS production. There is no late seating or re-entry in the Ellyn Bye Studio.

Accessibility: PCS is committed to making our performances and facilities accessible to all of our patrons. More information is available at www.pcs.org/access/.

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#pcs_typographer

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 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.

Additional support for *The Typographer's Dream* is provided by production sponsors Mary and Don Blair, Anderson Krygier, Inc., AHA!, and Doug and Theresa Smith. 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, 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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