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

IS NEW YORK READY FOR A *THREESOME*?

Portland Center Stage's world premiere production of *Threesome* opens Off-Broadway at 59E59 Theaters on July 22, 2015



July 8, 2015 – PORTLAND, OR. Portland Center Stage's world premiere production of Yusef El Guindi's *Threesome* will open in New York in its Off-Broadway premiere at 59E59 Theaters on July 22 with performances through August 23. Directed by PCS Artistic Director Chris Coleman, *Threesome* was selected to kick off 59E59 Theater's 5A

Season, as the first of five new plays presented from celebrated theater makers across the United States. *Threesome* is a co-production with ACT-Seattle that opened in PCS's Ellyn Bye Studio in January 2015 and ran in Seattle in June 2015. Celebrated playwright Yusef El Guindi originally developed the script at PCS's JAW: A Playwrights Festival in 2013.

"After seeing audiences in both Portland and Seattle respond so vividly to *Threesome*, I'm eager to experience this play again with New York theatergoers," said PCS Artistic Director Chris Coleman. "Our journey with *Threesome* now spans two years, from the workshop at our new works festival, JAW, to full production runs in what will now be three cities. It's what you dream of when you produce a world premiere from an exciting writer like Yusef."

The recent Seattle run of *Threesome* garnered much critical acclaim. *The Seattle Times* called it a "clever comedy of sexual manners – encasing a provocative and explosive drama." *Seattle Weekly* said, "whether you see Yussef El Guindi's *Threesome* as a sex play, a feminist play, an Arab-themed play, a geopolitical play, or just a play with genital-gazing opportunity, see it ... not because it's funny (though it certainly is), but because it's interesting." *City Arts Magazine* proclaimed, "El Guindi infuses compelling narrative and honest-to-God laugh-out-loud comedy with issues of gender, sexuality, international politics, interpersonal relationships and more. ... You'll leave the theatre with a lot to talk about."

ABOUT THREESOME

In *Threesome*, Leila and Rashid, Egyptian Americans with ties to Cairo, attempt to solve their relationship issues by inviting a relative stranger into their bedroom to engage in a threesome. What begins as a hilariously awkward evening soon becomes an experience fraught with secrets, raising issues of sexism, possession and independence.

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

The two cast members who originated the roles in Portland – Alia Attallah (Leila) and Quinn Franzen (Doug) – will star in the New York production alongside Karan Oberoi (Rashid), who played the role of Rashid during the engagement at ACT-Seattle. The creative team for *Threesome* includes Costume Designer Alison Heryer, Lighting Designer Peter Maradudin, Sound Designer Casi Pacilio, and a collaborative scenic design from members of PCS's production team: David McCrum, Seth Chandler and Erinn McGrew.

NEW YORK PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Threesome begins previews at 59E59 Theaters on July 14, opens July 22 and runs through August 23. The performance schedule is Tuesday through Thursday at 7 p.m.; Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sunday at 3 p.m. There are added 7 p.m. performances on Sunday August 2, 9 and 16. Single tickets are \$70 (\$49 for 59E59 Theaters members). To purchase tickets, call Ticket Central at (212) 279-4200 or visit <http://www.59e59.org/>.

ABOUT 59E59 THEATERS

Founded in 2002, 59E59 Theaters presents Off-Broadway productions by not-for-profit companies from across the United States and around the world. 59E59 Theaters brings new, innovative and invigorating work to audiences in New York, providing a space for emerging and established not-for-profit theater companies to reach new audiences and expand the range of theater available in an Off-Broadway setting. Learn more at <http://www.59e59.org/>.

ABOUT PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

[Portland Center Stage](#) inspires its 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 world 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](#) is the home of PCS, housing 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 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 PCS's official hotel partner. PCS 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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