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

Portland Center Stage's production of *Threesome* to make its Off-Broadway New York premiere at 59E59 Theaters

***Threesome* kicks off 59E59 Theaters' 2015-2016 5A Season, playing July 14-August 23**



April 27, 2015 – PORTLAND, OR. Portland Center Stage's world premiere production of Yussef El Guindi's *Threesome* will head to New York for an Off-Broadway premiere at 59E59 Theaters, as part of its just announced 5A Season. The cast members who originated the roles in Portland will star in the New York production: Alia Attallah (Leila), Dominic Rains (Rashid) and Quinn Franzen (Doug). PCS Artistic Director Chris Coleman will join them in New

York to remount the production. *Threesome* is a co-production with ACT-Seattle and enjoyed its world premiere in PCS's Ellyn Bye Studio in January of 2015. *Threesome* will play ACT-Seattle from June 5 through June 28 before transferring to 59E59 Theaters in New York. *Threesome* will kick off 59E59 Theater's 5A Season on July 14 and run through August 23, presented as one of five new plays from celebrated theater makers across the U.S.

"When I first worked on *Threesome* during our JAW festival, I was struck with how truly original this story is, and how creative Yussef is in telling it," said director Chris Coleman. "I knew we had to produce it at PCS. So it's especially exciting that the team at 59E59 Theaters also found it compelling, and invited us to bring the production to their theater in New York. We look forward to giving Off-Broadway audiences a little taste of what we do here in Portland, Oregon."

59E59 Theater's 5A Season is a five-play season of the best American and international writing that has been carefully curated to fulfill its decade-long mission of bringing new plays to a new audience. In addition to *Threesome*, its 2015-2016 5A Season includes The Acting Company's *Desire*, written by John Guare, Beth Henley, Marcus Gardley, Rebecca Gilman, David Grimm and Elizabeth Egloff, and directed by Michael Wilson; Merrimack Repertory Theatre's *I and You*, written by Lauren Gunderson and directed by Sean Daniels (who is also directing *The Lion* at PCS, playing May 2 – June 14); San Francisco Playhouse's *Ideation*, written by Aaron Loeb and directed by Josh Costello; with one more production to be announced later.

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. Written by celebrated Seattle-based playwright Yussef El Guindi, *Threesome* was originally developed at PCS's JAW: A Playwrights Festival in 2013. The creative team for the world premiere production of *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. Photos for *Threesome* are available at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/portlandcenterstage/sets/72157646924754462/>.

About 59E59 Theaters

Founded in 2002, 59E59 Theaters (Elysabeth Kleinhans, Artistic Director; Peter Tear, Executive Producer; Brian Beirne, Managing Director) presents Off-Broadway productions by not-for-profit companies from across the United States and around the world. Owned and operated by the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation, a not-for-profit foundation, 59E59 Theaters brings new, innovative and invigorating work to East Side audiences. 59E59 Theaters aims to provide 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. 59E59 Theaters is committed to fostering diversity in its theater programming. 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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