

# PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

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

TONY AWARD-NOMINATEE FOR BEST PLAY, *VENUS IN FUR*

ADDED TO PORTLAND CENTER STAGE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON

**8 June 2012, Portland, Ore.** – The odds that the winner for this year’s Tony Award as Best Play will be part of the 2012-2013 season at Portland Center Stage just got much better. *Venus in Fur*, by David Ives, is now scheduled for the Ellyn Bye Studio for January 29 through March 10, 2013, joining the also nominated (and previously announced) *Clybourne Park* as part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season. The two plays are among the four nominated as Best Play for 2012, with the Tony to be awarded on June 10.

“Selecting a season is always a race against the clock,” said Artistic Director Chris Coleman. “We give serious consideration, on average, to more than 40 titles each year when planning for the next season, and we often find that a title we’re interested in hasn’t been released for a production outside of New York in time for us to announce it at our season launch event. This is especially true when the play is still running on Broadway.” *Venus in Fur* will replace the previously announced *Lungs* in the season.

“We felt lucky to have excellent options for that place in our season, but when the representative for *Venus* let us know that we could, in fact, have the rights at this time, I felt that it was important to bring this amazing new comedy to our audiences fresh off its New York success, and decided to include it in our 2012-2013 season,” said Coleman.

The New York Times called *Venus in Fur* “As funny as any play currently on Broadway...and also something darker, stranger and altogether more delicious.” When a young actress shows up hours late for her appointment, she knows she may have blown her chances at the role. But when her emotionally charged audition for the demanding playwright/director becomes an electrifying game of cat and mouse

that blurs the lines between fantasy and reality, seduction and power, love and sex – well, the rules may have all just changed. David Ives' newest play has garnered critical raves in its Broadway run; among his best-known other titles are *All in the Timing*, which was an audience favorite at Portland Repertory Theater in the late 90s, and the plays *English Made Simple* and *Variations on the Death of Trotsky*.

Subscriptions to the 2012-2013 season are currently on sale, with season ticket packages starting as low at \$160 for the Main Stage only, or \$307 for all nine plays in both theaters. Additional discounts are available for those under 30 and students. Tickets for next season have not yet been mailed, so patrons already signed up for next season do not need to take any action to get new tickets based on this change of title.

Sponsors for *Venus in Fur* include \_\_\_\_\_.

**ABOUT PORTLAND CENTER STAGE** endeavors to “inspire 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 Oct. 1, 2006. The capital campaign to fund the renovation of this hub for community artistic activity continues. Information about the campaign is available at [http://www.pcs.org/armory\\_campaign/](http://www.pcs.org/armory_campaign/).

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