



PRESS CONTACT: Claudie Jean Fisher

503.445.3765

claudief@pcs.org

## M E D I A   R E L E A S E

### **Visions & Voices Annual Playwriting Showcase on April 28**

#### *Teen Opportunities Continue Throughout the Summer*

**April 15, 2014 – PORTLAND, ORE.** The freshest young voices in playwriting will be featured on Portland Center Stage's Main Stage, **Monday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m.**, during the annual **Visions & Voices showcase**, an evening of staged readings that is **free and open to the public** (no ticket required). The Visions & Voices program brings professional playwrights into high school classrooms for free, intensive residencies. This year, over 180 teenagers at six Portland area high schools participated in the program. The top students have been selected to have their work performed at the Visions & Voices showcase by a quartet of professional actors: **Chantal DeGroat, Ben Newman, Jennifer Rowe, and James Sharinghousen.**

Designed to meet Oregon's Benchmarks for Arts and English/Language Arts, the Visions & Voices curriculum addresses theatrical conventions and dramatic structure, as well as acting, writing and constructive critical response. The larger goal of the program is to provide an outlet to local youth to express their ideas, passions and desires; to allow the difficult questions, exercise empathy, and embrace the chaos that is "growing up." Every year, the Visions & Voices showcase floors audiences with readings that are honest, funny, moving and exhilarating. More information at [www.pcs.org/schools/#Voices](http://www.pcs.org/schools/#Voices).

Portland Center Stage also offers **Summer Intensives for Teens**, including **Advanced Acting & Audition Intensive**, June 16 - June 27 (session is already full); **Musical Theater Intensive** August 4 – August 15; and **Entrance to Professional Theater**, August 4 – August 15. Scholarships are available by application. More information at [www.pcs.org/teens/](http://www.pcs.org/teens/).

## VISIONS & VOICES

**When:** Monday, April 28, 2014 | 7:00 p.m.

**Tickets:** Free and open to the public. No ticket required.

**Where:** On the Main Stage at the [Gerding Theater at the Armory](#).

Portland Center Stage's education programs are funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, Wells Fargo and Presenting Sponsor Work for Art. Portland Center Stage's 2013-2014 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 and Work for Art; and Season Supporting Sponsor KINK fm. Portland Center Stage's official hotel partner is the Mark Spencer Hotel. 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.

[PORTLAND CENTER STAGE](#) inspires 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 the 590-seat Main Stage and the 190-seat black box Elyn 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.

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