

# Feuding Brothers



Leland (Karl Miller) hatches a complicated plot to unseat his brother Hank (P. J. Sosko) in a Portland Center Stage world premiere next weekend of Ken Kesey's wild and wooly portrait of an Oregon coastal logging community.

PHOTO BY OWEN CAREY

## Play adapted from classic story

The novel that Ken Kesey described as the "best thing I'll ever write" gets a world premiere at Portland Center Stage, introducing Kesey's wild and wooly portrait of an Oregon coastal logging community to a new generation.

Set in a small coastal town in Oregon in 1961, "Sometimes a Great Notion" follows the loves, deaths and rivalries of the Stammers, a logging family attempting to carve a foothold in Oregon's fertile, but flooded native soil. Brawling, boozing, cussed and cussing, the Stammers have survived and thrived for three generations under the unforgiving motto "Never. Give. An. Inch."

When a union strike threatens to shut down production, they cut their own deal with the lumber company, sending the town of striking loggers howling into an uproar.

Against this backdrop, Kesey weaves the story of two brothers: Hank, the brawny and fearless heir to the Stamper throne, and his younger brother Leland, the clan's only intellectual, sent east for schooling and called back to help the Stammers make their delivery deadline. Emotionally stunted from too much time spent in his brother's long shadow, Leland hatches a complicated plot to cut through his brother's armor, hoping that by toppling the big man he can carve out some room to grow himself.

The resulting struggles set off a chain of events that will leave the town and the Stammers changed forever.

"Sometimes a Great Notion" will preview April 1 through April 3, with the opening night on Friday April 4. The production will run Tuesday through Sunday through April 27, with 7:30 p.m. evening performances and matinee performances at 2 p.m. on Sundays and noon on Thursday April 10, 17 and 24.

Tickets can be purchased through the box office by calling 503-445-3700 or online at pcs.org.

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