

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

BUSINESS Guide



Rodney Hicks as Curly in *Oklahoma!* The musical officially opens Friday at Portland Center Stage with shows running through Oct. 30.

Oklahoma! Opens at Portland Center Stage

Musical stars all African-American cast

Portland Center Stage celebrates the upcoming production of *Oklahoma!* with a gospel concert, a show tune chanteuse and the artwork of a real Oregon cowgirl.

Oklahoma! an all-American musical in an all-black town of the Oklahoma territories, tells the story of cowboy Curly McLain, and his romance with farm girl Laurey Williams. The show opens Friday, Sept. 23 and runs through Oct. 30 at Portland Center Stage.

Part charming love story, part stirring retelling of American history, and many parts beloved songs and stunning dance, Portland Center Stage is giving *Oklahoma!* a new spin: In the 19th century Oklahoma Territory, there were over 50 all African-American towns; in that same period, one in three American cowboys was black. Chris Coleman's

production will feature an all African-American cast, generating fresh insights into a classic American tale.

Directed by Chris Coleman and based on the 1931 play "Green Grow the Lilacs" by Lynn Riggs, *Oklahoma!* will feature music by Richard Rodgers, book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II and original dances by Agnes de Mille.

In support of *Oklahoma!*, PCS presents, *A Night of Gospel Music* at PCS free on the Main Stage on Monday, Sept. 26, a 7pm. Hosting two of Portland's outstanding Gospel Choirs, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church and Highland Christian Center, the event celebrates our own African-American community, music with deep African-American roots, and an evening of gospel music.

Sounds Like Portland, a popular Saturday evening live music series, will return to the Armory Café free, every Saturday evening throughout Portland Center Stage's Main Stage runs. The live, local music series runs Saturdays, Sept. 24 through Oct. 29 from 6:45 p.m. to

7:15 p.m. featuring local musical theater star, Emily Beleele, through Oct. 15 and gospel music soloist and choral director Lessie Williams from Oct. 22 through Oct. 29.

Throughout the Armory lobbies, Portland Center Stage is currently featuring the fine art of Brenna Tyler, an Eastern Oregon cowgirl. Tyler and her adopted family live on a working cattle ranch in Eastern Oregon, where much of her inspiration is ignited for her bronze sculptures and paintings, and where many of the materials used in her one-of-a-kind sculptures are collected.

Tickets start at \$39 with student and under 30 discounts available. To purchase call 503-445-3700 or visit, www.pcs.org. Rush tickets are \$20. Show times are 7:30 pm Tuesday through Saturday, with a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee and alternating Saturday 2 p.m. and Sunday 7:30 p.m. performances. *Oklahoma!* performances are located on the Main Stage, Gerding Theater at the Armory 128 N.W. 11th Ave.



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