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Dael Orlandersmith brings her powerful new memoir play 'Forever' to Portland Center Stage.

Harrowing tale on Portland stage

"Forever" won't last forever in Portland – so you might want to get your tickets soon. The show stars Pulitzer Prize nominee and performer Dael Orlandersmith in her powerful new memoir play that runs through March 20 at Portland Center Stage.

"Forever" is a harrowing tale about Orlandersmith's troubled youth in Harlem and the rocky path she forged out of it. She illuminates in acid-etched

Forever

detail her fraught relationship with her mother, who was abusive and alcoholic but also set an example in her hunger for books and music and her dream of a career as a dancer, described a review from the New York Times.

The play begins in Paris at the

famed Père Lachaise Cemetery, where strangers from around the world make pilgrimages to the graves of legendary artists such as Frederick Chopin, Marcel Proust, Richard Wright, Edith Piaf and Jim Morrison. As she visits the resting places

of her idols, Orlandersmith is moved to investigate the complex legacy she received from her mother and their often haunting life together.

Riveting and powerful, "Forever" is about family – the ones we are born into; the strange way powerful bonds are formed with people who, though unrelated by blood, come to feel like family; and the legacies that shape us all.

Tickets may be purchased at pcs.org, by calling 503-445-3700, or in person at the Gerding Theater at the Armory box office, 128 N.W. 11th Ave.