

PORTLAND STAGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 30, 2022

Portland Stage
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PORTLAND, MAINE - A *Tuna Christmas* at **Portland Stage**, by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard, runs **November 30 - December 24, 2022**. The show opens at Portland Stage on Friday, December 2 at 7:30 pm. This play returns us to Tuna, the third smallest town in Texas, as Thurston Wheelis and Arles Struvie keep you up to the minute with all the local news, including updates on a contentious annual lawn display competition and town efforts to try to unmask the Christmas Phantom.

Portland Stage veteran **Tom Ford** is joined by **Nathaniel P. Claridad** (making his Portland Stage debut) and **each actor plays 11 different roles** in this quirky, quick-change satire of small-town life. Ford was most recently seen onstage as Moriarty in Portland Stage's production of *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*.

The Tuna plays, a series of four comedies that began with *Greater Tuna*, have always been a love letter to Texas written with a poisoned pen. Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard wrote these plays in response to and reaction against the rise of the Moral Majority, a political organization associated with the Christian Right and the Republican Party founded in 1979 by Jerry Falwell, Sr. The Tuna plays are fierce and funny satires of life in Texas and all around this country, featuring flawed, sometimes truly horrible, funny human beings doing the best that they can—and not succeeding.

Ford and Claridad are directed by **Julia Gibson**, who directed our 2013 production of *Greater Tuna* and last season's *Searching for Mr. Moon*. The play features scenic designs by **Randall Parsons** (USA), costumes by **Cole McCarty** (USA), lights by **SeifAllah Salotto-Cristobal**, and sound by **Seth Asa Sengel**.

Portland Stage's production previews on November 30 and December 1 and will run from December 2 through November 24.

A Tuna Christmas is the third of six Mainstage productions in the 2022-23 Portland Stage season, which also includes the premiere of *Sweet Goats and Blueberry Señoritas* by Richard Blanco and Vanessa Garcia; August Wilson's *How I Learned What I Learned*; and *The Cake* by Bekah Brunstetter.

CAST & ARTISTS

Actor Tom Ford*

Actor Nathaniel P. Claridad*

Director Julia Gibson

Scenic Designer Randall Parsons**

Costume Designer Cole McCarty**

Lighting Designer SeifAllah Salotto-Cristobal

Sound Designer Seth Asa Sengel

Stage Manager Myles C. Hatch*

*member Actors' Equity Association

**member United Scenic Artists]

***Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

QUICK INFO

Live In-Theater Dates: Nov 30 - Dec 24, 2022

Conversation to enhance your experience:

Artistic Talkback Sun, Dec 4 • Following the show

Curtain Call Sun, Dec 11 • Following the show

Run Time: 2 Hours and 15 Minutes including a 15-minute intermission

Box Office Hours: Tuesday through Saturday • Noon to 5 pm and 2 hrs before performance time

Box Office Phone: 207.774.0465

Box Office Email: boxoffice@portlandstage.org

Tickets Online: <https://www.portlandstage.org/show/a-tuna-christmas/>

PRICES In-Person: \$20-\$70. Discounts for seniors 65+ and students.

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN TICKETS AVAILABLE: Find rules and restrictions on the website.

RUSH35 Tickets: \$15 at the door for registered participants ages 35 and under.

ABOUT PORTLAND STAGE COMPANY

49th season

Portland Stage offers Mainstage performances, New Works, and Education programs. The 2022-23 Mainstage season includes one co-production musical with Maine State Music Theatre in August 2022, and six Mainstage productions, staged readings of its commissions, and Studio Series productions. PS promotes and celebrates the creation of new plays with an environment that supports the region's playwrights, builds bridges between its theater and national writers, and develops awareness of theater with three exciting initiatives: the Clauder Competition, the Little Festival of the Unexpected, and From Away, a festival in collaboration with the International Writing Program (IWP) at the University of Iowa. This year, Portland Stage also celebrates its 12th season of the Susie Konkel Theater for Kids and the 100,000 student experiences it has provided in the last decade through its education programs. Subscriptions to Portland Stage are available. More than just a seat in the house, subscribers gain insider access, significant savings, and flexibility. Visit portlandstage.org to learn more.