

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 2, 2021

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Press Room Photos: [Coming Wednesday, Nov 3](#)

PORTLAND STAGE WORLD PREMIERE “SEARCHING FOR MR. MOON” STARS CO-WRITER BROADWAY, FILM AND TV ACTOR RICH TOPOL

Reviewers are invited to attend the opening performance of “Searching for Mr. Moon,” written by Willy Holtzman and Rich Topol, on Friday, November 5, at 7:30 pm.

The funny and poignant autobiographical journey to fatherhood “Searching for Mr. Moon” is co-written and performed in a one-person show by Broadway, film, and TV actor Rich Topol. At the moment of his daughter’s birth, Rich searches for a father to replace the one he lost at age 12. He finds two – his famous father-in-law, composer Lukas Foss, and, eventually, himself. It is scored by the emotional music of Foss, Leonard Bernstein, and Glenn Gould. Topol has performed on Broadway numerous times, including as Lemml in the Tony Award-winning production of “Indecent,” for which he was nominated for an Outer Critics Circle Award.

Maine-based co-writer Willy Holtzman’s works “The Morini Strad,” “Inside Out,” and “The Real McGonagall” have been fully produced at Portland Stage. His musical “Sabina,” about Carl Jung’s protégé, initially developed as a play at Portland Stage’s Little Festival of the Unexpected and since produced multiple times in New York, will premiere as a new musical on the Portland Stage Mainstage in the spring of 2022. Holtzman has also received the Peabody Award, the WGA Award, and The Humanitas Prize for his film “Edge of America.”

Anita Stewart designed the set with an array of projections by designer Michael Commendatore, which weave Topol’s family archive videos and images into the scenes to reflect the people in his past and convey mood and seasons. “I’m sure you saw ‘The Queen’s Gambit,’” explained playwright Holtzman. “Using visuals to tell key moments to develop character is part of this story, too. And we knew that we wanted the sound design to help tell this story. It’s about Rich trying to recover his dad’s voice, bring him into the presence of his life, and it’s Lukas—magic, mischief, and sound. We are so grateful to be working with David Van Tieghem, brilliant sound designer, and Michael Commendatore, the projection designer.”

"We initially invested in developing the play at Portland Stage during the pandemic to support Rich Topol, Willy Holtzman, and the team who came to work on the staged reading," said Executive and Artistic Director Anita Stewart. "But the audience response to the staged reading when its working title was 'Give Me a Moment' was so enthusiastic we decided to continue developing it and to bring it to our Mainstage this season."

CAST & ARTISTS

Rich Rich Topol*

Director Julia Gibson

Scenic & Costume Designer Anita Stewart**

Lighting Designer Marie Yokoyama**

Sound Designer David Van Tieghem**

Projection Designer Michael Commendatore

Stage Manager Meg Lydon*

**member Actors' Equity Association*

***member United Scenic Artists*

QUICK INFO

IN THEATER DATES November 3 - 21

DIGITAL STREAMING DATES November 17 - December 5

FREE CONVERSATIONS TO ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

[Artistic Perspective • Sunday, November 7](#) • In theater, following the show

[Curtain Call • Sunday, November 14](#) • In theater, following the show

RUN TIME 90 minutes, no intermission

BOX OFFICE HOURS Tuesday through Saturday • Noon to 5 pm and 2 hours before performance time

BOX OFFICE PHONE 207.774.0465

BOX OFFICE EMAIL boxoffice@portlandstage.org

TICKETS ONLINE <https://www.portlandstage.org/show/searching-for-mr-moon/>

PRICES

In-Person \$20-\$63. Discounts for seniors 65+ and students.

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

Streaming \$25 online, or call the box office for Pay-What-You-Can.

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

ABOUT PORTLAND STAGE COMPANY

48th season

Portland Stage offers Mainstage performances, New Works, and Education programs. The 2021-22 Mainstage season is trying to maintain its regular schedule as safety and artists' unions permit, including one co-production musical with Maine State Music Theatre, 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. Subscribers gain insider access, significant savings, and flexibility. Visit portlandstage.org to learn more.
