



# PHAME

## PRESS RELEASE

PHAME's Original Rock Opera *The Poet's Shadow* Opens Friday (8/23) at Hampton Opera Center  
August 19, 2019



*Animations of drawings by PHAME students will be projected onto the stage, serving as the primary set design element for the show.*

PHAME's collaborative rock opera opens this Friday, August 23 at Hampton Opera Center. The rock opera brings to fruition an 18-month collaboration between PHAME Academy and Portland Opera. In addition to lending PHAME the use of their Hampton Opera Center for the production's performances, Portland Opera has taught opera-related classes at PHAME and is providing one-on-one vocal coaching to lead actors. The production also partners with Portland's acclaimed dance duo Wobbly Dance, who are choreographing the movement chorus, and with Metropolitan Youth Symphony, whose students will join PHAME's iPad musicians in making up the production's orchestra.

The run of five evening performances and two matinees includes performances that provide ASL interpretation, audio description, audio assist, and modifications for sensory sensitivities. The original production includes artists with developmental disabilities at every stage of the process, not just performing on stage but also writing the libretto, designing the musical themes, and designing the costumes. PHAME artists also created the drawings that will be animated and projected onto the stage, serving as the primary set design element. The opera is the first fully staged PHAME production written by people with developmental disabilities.

A contemporary and original fairy tale, *The Poet's Shadow* tells the story of Elizabeth, a young poet who, in despair following a break up, writes a series of poems that take on a life of their own. In search of resolution, she embarks on a quest that will challenge everything she knows about courage, strength, and love.

**Complimentary press tickets are available**—please contact Anya Roberts-Toney at [aroberts@phamepdx.org](mailto:aroberts@phamepdx.org).

### ***The Poet's Shadow***

Seven performances: August 23, 24, 25 (matinee), 28, 29, 30, 31 (matinee)  
Hampton Opera Center, 211 Southeast Caruthers Street Portland, OR 97214  
Tickets on sale now at [www.phamepdx.org/poet](http://www.phamepdx.org/poet)

**PHAME Academy** is a fine and performing arts academy serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We offer three ten-week terms of arts-based classes each year, as well as many performance opportunities. Taught by talented arts education professionals, our classes include visual art, acting, choir, dance, musical theatre and many more. PHAME is built upon the belief that art is for everyone. We believe that students, artists, teachers, and the greater community can empower themselves through the arts. With that in mind, PHAME brings passion, joy, and rigor to arts education and performance.

**Portland Opera** is an acclaimed opera company whose mission is to inspire, challenge and uplift its audiences by creating productions of high artistic quality that celebrate the beauty and breadth of opera.

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