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I REALIZED THAT
THERE IS SOME
BLANK SPACE
RIGHT HERE

WE COULD DO
ADS HERE!

MAYBE NEXT
YEAR? ;)

if you are interested in running a paid ad in our program next year,
you can send an email to startfreshfest@gmail.com

THANK YOU

We couldn't do this without support from the community. So many people showed interest and got involved, devoting their time, talents, energy, and resources to make all of this happen. It has been so heartwarming to see the community and different creative circles collaborate. Portland has such a strong creative community that deserves to be celebrated but we couldn't do this without an audience! Thank you for attending these events, spreading the word, and all of your support. We need art and freedom of expression now more than ever.

Thank you for keeping art alive!

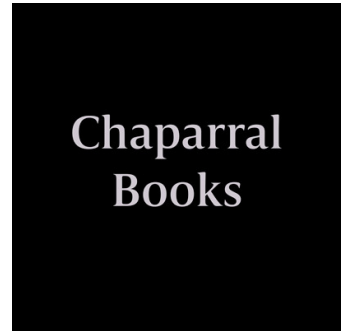
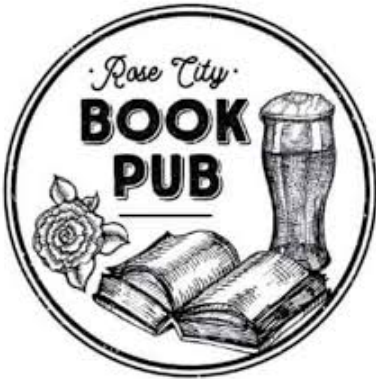
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I really, truly can't say "THANK YOU" enough for everyone that helped make this happen... but here's a word search based on real resolutions.

There's like 40 of them in there. I hope you enjoy! Have fun at the festival!

H L B U Z N J D O N O T P R O T E C T B A D P E O P L E N T
L V B O P V E H O L D Y O U R S E L F A C C O U N T A B L E
H R H N L E A R N S O M E T H I N G N E W E V E R Y D A Y S
D O D E U S T A N D U P A G A I N S T I N J U S T I C E D J
B E P R O U D O F P R O G R E S S Q M H W K B G R M V N B O
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R R E Y K A K N L D N L Y D R I V E L E S S W R R Y A E R F
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S E P S I A B H N Y D N W B W D O N A T E M O N E Y O Y V P
U B R T F G O M B N O S T O P S A Y I N G J U S T V F C E T
P E P A P S I B O Z F U P U W Z J O B C E G N W V J N L Q N
P B E Y O U R S E L F U N L E S S Y O U S U C K I G U E S S
O R I C U G G O G O C S U E U F O R G I V E Y O U R S E L F
R A M U M K K U O H U K I V E W Q C T R Y B U T T S T U F F
T V R R K U W T V E C Z B L E D G K U J V M M Z E K L T S U
L E S I Y P Q V F H G Q V J I F E U Y J Y S I C A B E A P S
I X L O R X E S A Y S O R R Y A N D M E A N I T B U S K E E
V E Q U I T V A P I N G I L F V W C A T Q J N D U Y S E A M
E X F S D N D O N A T E E N E R G Y H S V D T M Y A P A K O
A S T A R T S M O K I N G U X K B J X I A Q N Y L P L W U R
R H C J F V P R F I N D Y O U R S E L F L C L G O L A A P E
T L E Y L M E P A T D O N A T E T I M E K L H T C A S L M L
L A R S U B F O R A M O C K T A I L H O X G O I A N T K O U
X Q L S V W F O S T E R O R A D O P T A P E T U L T I T R B
J Q H G Z X Y U S E P R O T E C T I O N J I F V T D C P E E

VENUES



WEEKEND 1

Start Fresh Festival bookends the new year during the last weekend in December and the first weekend in January. Officially, we take Christmas and New Year's Day off, unofficially, we may decide to host "unofficial" events for the festival. Stay tuned in the coming years to see what we get up to!

THANK YOU for keeping art alive. We couldn't do this without you!

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26TH	SATURDAY DECEMBER 27TH	SUNDAY DECEMBER 28TH
CHECK IN PRIVATE EVENT	ARTIST MARKET 10-4 PM 1 PM BAD HOLIDAY GIFT FLIP 2 PM FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS 3 PM DOODLE TIME THE GET DOWN	ARTIST MARKET 10-4 PM 1 PM BAD HOLIDAY GIFT FLIP 2 PM PAINT & LAUGH HOSTED BY JOCELYNE BOYER THE GET DOWN
A RANDOM RYAN DANLEY SHOW TM 7 PM CURIOUS COMEDY ANNEX HOSTED BY RYAN DANLEY	ANTICHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SPECIAL 7 PM CURIOUS COMEDY ANNEX HOSTED BY MICHAEL GARCIA	WRITERS' SOCIAL HOUR PRIVATE EVENT
ROAST BATTLE LEAGUE: PORTLAND 10 PM FUNHOUSE LOUNGE HOSTED BY CAM STRONG	NEON RAINBOW 7 PM FUNHOUSE LOUNGE HOSTED BY BRENDAN CREECY	POET TOWN 6 PM CHAPARRAL BOOKS
AFTERPARTY PRIVATE EVENT	THE C*NTSULTANTS 10 PM FUNHOUSE LOUNGE HOSTED BY AKASHA	THE GAUNTLET 7: 30 PM CURIOUS COMEDY ANNEX
	AFTERPARTY PRIVATE EVENT	AFTERPARTY PRIVATE EVENT

WEEKEND 2

**FRIDAY
JANUARY 2ND**

**CHECK IN
PRIVATE EVENT**

**SATURDAY
JANUARY 3RD**

ARTIST MARKET

10-4 PM

1 PM BAD HOLIDAY GIFT FLIP
2 PM MINI POTTERY WITH RYAN
3 PM MOSIACS WITH CHERYL
THE GET DOWN

**SUNDAY
JANUARY 4TH**

ARTIST MARKET

10-4 PM

1 PM BAD HOLIDAY GIFT FLIP
2 PM HANDCUT COLLAGE
THE GET DOWN

THE YOLO MIC

4-6 PM

GREAT NOTION (NW 28th)
HOSTED BY JOSH HENRI
AND LORI VAN DEMAN

SOCIAL HOUR AND SHORTS SCREENING

11-3 PM

ECHO THEATER COMPANY

MINI-PLAY-A-THON

4-6 PM

ECHO THEATER COMPANY

3 × 30 FILMS

4 PM

CLINTON STREET THEATER
Q&A WITH FILMMAKERS
MINI LECTURE BY JERRY BELL JR

"FEATURED FEATURE" IF YOU SHOULD LEAVE BEFORE ME

6 PM

CLINTON STREET THEATER
Q&A WITH FILMMAKERS

AFTERPARTY PRIVATE EVENT

JON BENNETT...

**THIS WILL ONLY EVER
HAPPEN ONCE**

6:30 PM

ECHO THEATER COMPANY

FRIENDSHIP SHOW

7 PM

GREAT NOTION (NW 28th)
HOSTED BY FOREST EMBER

ROUGH START

7 PM

GREAT NOTION (NW 28th)
HOSTED BY JASMINE NOTHING

SEXY TALK

9 PM

GREAT NOTION (NW 28th)
HOSTED BY TONY MEYER
WITH AN "AFTER HOURS" MARKET

LOCAL AUTHOR READING

8-10 PM

ROSE CITY BOOK PUB
HOSTED BY LORI VAN DEMAN

AFTERPARTY PRIVATE EVENT

AFTERPARTY

9-11 PM
DOTS CAFE

COLLABORATIONS



ARTIST MARKET WEEKEND 1



SATURDAY DECEMBER 27TH 2025

10-4 PM

The Get Down

1 PM Bad Holiday Gift Flip

2 PM Friendship Bracelets hosted by Heather Styles

3 PM Drawing Inspiration For The New Year



SUNDAY DECEMBER 28TH 2025

10-4 PM

The Get Down

1 PM Bad Holiday Gift Flip

2 PM Paint & Laugh hosted by Jocelyne Boyer

ARTIST MARKET WEEKEND 2



SATURDAY JANUARY 3RD 2026

10-4 PM

The Get Down

1 PM Bad Holiday Gift Flip

2 PM Mini Pottery hosted by Ryan

3 PM Mosaics hosted by Cheryl



SUNDAY JANUARY 4TH 2026

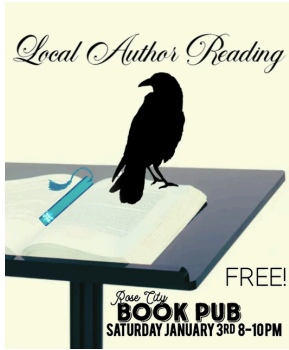
10-4 PM

The Get Down

1 PM Bad Holiday Gift Flip

2 PM Handcut Collage hosted by Jordan Cerminara

AUTHORS



Local Author Reading

Saturday January 3rd 8-10 PM

Rose City Book Pub

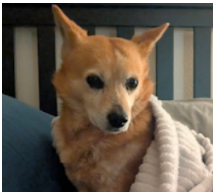
We will have a selection of local authors reading their work from a variety of genres!

Hosted by Lori Van Deman

FREE! (donations encouraged)



Aaron Simon writes genre fiction because, frankly, even sci-fi and fantasy worlds dashed with surrealism and horror are better than 2025. Am I right folks? You can find him roaming the streets of Portland, Oregon with a confused look on his face or walking his dog, who has a confused look on his face. His work has been published in *Danse Macabre*, *Lovecraftiana*, *The Chamber*, and others. <http://www.aaroncsimon.com>



Barry is not an author (as far as I know?) but very cute



Amy Baskin is an Oregon Literary Arts Fellow and 4-time Pushcart Prize nominee. She is the author of *Hysterical Cake* (Dancing Girl Press, 2022), *Night Hag* (Unsolicited Press, 2023), which explores femininity through the eternal voice of Lilith, the first woman, and *Skull* (The Poetry Box, 2024), a journey of healing from brain injury. She works for the Departments of English and History at Lewis & Clark College and helps run literary arts programs including Fir Acres Writing Workshop and the Visiting Writers Series, which is open to the public. She serves as staff advisor for *The Palatine Hill Review*, a student-run literary journal.

AUTHORS



Brandon J. Custy is a writer and aspiring storyteller from Colorado based in Vancouver, Washington. He is currently working on a short story collection that examines themes of mental illness, heartbreak, and solitude. Brandon was recently published in the *Inlandia Literary Journal*!



Douglas Cole has published two novels and eight poetry collections, including *The Cabin at the End of the World*, winner of the Best Book Award in Urban Poetry and the International Impact Book Award. *The White Field*, won the 2021 American Fiction Award. His screenplay of *The White Field* won Best Unproduced Screenplay award in the Elegant Film Festival. His work has appeared in *Beloit Poetry*, *Fiction International*, *Valpariaso*, *The Gallway Review* and *Two Hawks Quarterly*. He also contributes a column called “Trading Fours” to the magazine, *Jerry Jazz Musician*. He received the Leslie Hunt Memorial prize in poetry, the Best of Poetry Award from Clapboard House, First Prize in the “Picture Worth 500 Words” from *Tattoo Highway*, and the Editors’ Choice Award in fiction by *RiverSedge*. He has been nominated Eight times for a Pushcart and Nine times for Best of the Net. <https://douglastcole.com>



H. G. Dierdorff is the author of *Rain, Wind, Thunder, Fire, Daughter*, which was published by the University of Nevada Press in 2024. Their work has been awarded a Vermont Studio Center Fellowship & appeared in journals such as *Cut Bank*, *Arkansas International*, & *Willow Springs*. You can currently find them in Portland, Oregon, where they teach at Clackamas Community College & in the local high schools with Literary Arts.

AUTHORS



Jane Carlsen writes fiction and poetry deeply rooted in her decades-long yoga practice and thirty years as a shepherd and timberland steward in Oregon's fertile Willamette Valley. Her work has appeared in Windfall Press, Paper Gardens, Clinton Street Quarterly, and Oregon Magazine. Bridging her creative and scientific interests, Carlsen's yoga research has been published in academic journals including *Neurology* and *The International Journal of Yoga Therapy*. *Sweet Constance*, her debut novel, weaves together her intimate knowledge of the land with profound questions of belonging and stewardship. Since her move to Portland, Jane can usually be found with dirt under her fingernails, rewilding the vacant lot next door.

Jeff Alessandrelli [his bio is included on page 14]



Jennie Bricker practices natural resources law in Portland, with a side gig as a freelance editor and writer. She has previously worked as a bookstore clerk, a college writing instructor, a magazine editor, a comic book editor, a pizza delivery driver, and the brown furry mascot for a Klamath Falls pizza joint formerly known as Grizzly Bear Pizza.

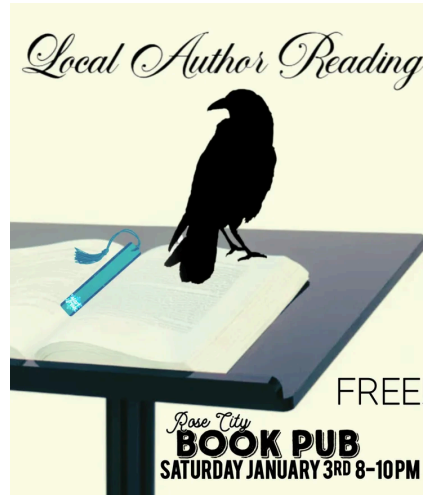
Jennie has published around 40 nonfiction articles, both magazine features and academic pieces, one of which received an award. Her short stories and microfiction have appeared in *100 Word Story*, *Third Wednesday Magazine*, and a *Writer's Digest* prizewinners anthology. Her first novel, *Thirsty Creek*, is about a small fictional community in the Willowa Mountains of eastern Oregon.

AUTHORS



Mari Matthias developed Spanish immersion curriculum for toddlers and opened a school for a few years, teaching classes full of song and play. After thirteen years with the State, she left the job to work on her first novel. Soon Mari was volunteering in the schools so much that she decided to substitute teach, until her youngest graduated in 2020. Now, in her spare time, she works as clinical coordinator for a local nonprofit family health clinic.

Her first novel, *The Runestone's Promise*, was published by Unsolicited Press in 2022. Her second, *Cleah's Bequest* is set to be published in April of 2026.



POETS



POET TOWN Poetry Reading
Sunday December 28th 6 PM
Chaparral Books

We will have a selection local poets
reading their poetry!

FREE! (donations encouraged)

Amy Baskin [her bio is included on page 9]

Douglas Cole [his bio is included on page 10]

H.G. Dierdorff [their bio is included on page 10]

Jane Carlsen [her bio is included on page 11]



Jerrod E Bohn is a poet, professor, music journalist, and trivia host living in Seattle, WA. He holds an MFA in poetry from Colorado State University, and is the author of three books, *Animal Histories* (2017), *PULP: A Manifesto* (2018), and *Ventric(L)e* (2023), all published by Unsolicited Press. From 2020 - 2024, he served as lead writer for a now defunct vinyl record club. In his free time, he enjoys cooking, reading, writing, basketball (both playing and supporting the Kansas Jayhawks), camping, hiking, and craft beer. Psst! I heard a rumor that Jerrod may be starting a monthly reading at The Ink Drinker in Ballard (Seattle)

POETS



Laura LeHew is widely published, her collections include: *Let Widows Be Widows* (Unsolicited Press) 2022, *Dear John—*(The Poetry Box) 2021, *Buyer's Remorse* (Tiger's Eye Press—Infinities), *Becoming* (Another New Calligraphy), *It's Always Night, It Always Rains*, (Winterhawk Press), and *Willingly Would I Burn*, (MoonPath Press). Her latest manuscript is entitled *The Whisper of Night Moths*. Laura received her MFA from CCA. She facilitates ;unruly poets, co-hosted a reading series, Poetry for the People, and was the recipient of the OPA's Patricia Ruth Banta Award. Laura's small press is Uttered Chaos. www.lauralehew.com | www.utteredchaos.org



R.R. Seitz or Roy Seitz is a poet, journeyman carpenter and Vietnam veteran who has organized poetry readings at the Index Arts Festival and his debut poetry collection, now back in print is called: *Right Here, Right Now*.



Ryan Mills is a letter carrier and shop steward in Portland, OR.



Jeff Alessandrelli is the co-publisher of the small non-profit press Fonograf Editions, Jeff Alessandrelli is most recently the author of And Yet: A novel about sex and shyness and society (Future Tense, 2024). He lives in Portland.



Louis White's A.M.P. [Art.Music.Poetry.] Lou hosts a lively music-infused poetry mic every month but he just added in a second show. It's the talk amongst young poets in the community and A LOT of fun!

Catch the next one on January 9th from 6-8 PM at A.M.P. Gallery 1124 NW 13th Ave, Portland, OR

COMEDY

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26TH 7 PM

CURIOUS COMEDY ANNEX

Ryan has a few great shows going on in Portland, which one will we showcase at Curious? It's a surprise but he has a few to choose from such as SMASH, Clown Alley with cohost Gabby, and other hit shows!



FRIDAY DECEMBER 26TH 10 PM

FUNHOUSE LOUNGE

Cam Strong presents Roast City, featuring five rounds of comedians going head to head.



SATURDAY DECEMBER 27TH 7 PM

CURIOUS COMEDY ANNEX

Curious Comedy Annex

Michael Garcia presents a show like MST3K where a panel of comics riff on bad holiday movies. This is a fundraiser show!



SATURDAY DECEMBER 27TH 7 PM

FUNHOUSE LOUNGE

Brendan Creecy presents Portland's best queer comedians. This show is pure gold!



SATURDAY DECEMBER 27TH 10 PM

FUNHOUSE LOUNGE

Your new favorite daytime nighttime talk show returns for their fourth episode, C*ntry Christmas-themed! Shining a spotlight on queer, femme, and nonbinary talent, riffing on hot topics, and giving away fun prizes from local women and queer owned businesses. This is a fundraiser show!



COMEDY



SUNDAY DECEMBER 28TH 7:30 PM
CURIOUS COMEDY ANNEX

15 improvisers, one champion! if Whose Line Is It Anyway and American Ninja Warrior had a hilarious love child—hold on to your seats, it's going to be a wild ride!



FRIDAY JANUARY 2ND 7 PM
GREAT NOTION (NW 28TH AVE)

Forest Ember presents: Friendship Show, where comics go head-to-head to resolve their beef and become friends [again] with the help of the audience.



FRIDAY JANUARY 2ND 9 PM
GREAT NOTION (NW 28TH AVE)

Tony Meyer presents: Sexy Talk, a sex positive show where comics can really let loose. We'll have an "after-hours" market or "mark-it" with vendors selling fun, sexy, locally made products.



SATURDAY JANUARY 3RD 4-6 PM
GREAT NOTION (NW 28TH AVE)

We wanted to create a mixed open mic that would encourage people to try comedy, poetry, or music for the first time on stage in front of a supportive audience. Lovingly nicknamed the "YOLO mic" by cohost Josh Henri last year.

COMEDIANS

Lineups are subject to change!

Please refer to the website and FB Event for any updates!



A RANDOM RYAN DANLEY SHOW™

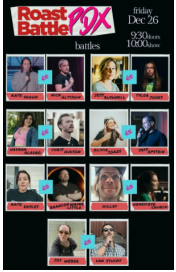
FRIDAY DECEMBER 26TH 7 PM

CURIOUS COMEDY ANNEX

Hosted by Ryan Danley

Potentially a secret guest cohost!

Lee H. Tillman, Brent Lowrey, Megan Otto and Adam Pasi



ROAST BATTLE LEAGUE: PORTLAND

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26TH 10 PM

FUNHOUSE LOUNGE

Hosted by Cam Strong

Kate Shook vs Nick Altishin, Jess Bushnell vs Tylor Jones, Havana Aladro vs Chris Hudson, Olivia Jokes vs Jeff Epstein (not THAT one), Kate Easley vs Brandon Wayne Little, Gilley vs Genevieve Church, Joy Weber vs Dan Stucky



ANTICHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SPECIAL

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27TH 7 PM

CURIOUS COMEDY ANNEX

Hosted by Michael Garcia

Carlos Romero, Chris Hudson, Dave Lowery, Emma Pace Jonas, Heather English, Jess Bushnell, Sean O'Neil, Shadd Foster, Tristian Spillman



NEON RAINBOW

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27TH 7 PM

FUNHOUSE LOUNGE

Hosted by Brendan Creecy

Ally J Ward, Imani, Mack, Nick Altishin, Cody Webb, Colin Mattox



THE C*NTSULTANTS

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27TH 10 PM

FUNHOUSE LOUNGE

Hosted by Akasha and special guest panelists!

[Lineup TBD]

COMEDIANS

Lineups are subject to change!

Please refer to the website and FB Event for any updates!



THE GAUNTLET

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28TH 7:30 PM

CURIOS COMEDY ANNEX

Hosted by a panel of judges

15 improvisers that will be announced at the show!



FRIENDSHIP SHOW

FRIDAY JANUARY 2ND 7 PM

GREAT NOTION (NW 28TH AVE)

Hosted by Forest Ember

Joe John Sanchez, Aimee Sinclair, Zane Thomas, Maeve Connor, Jason Burton, and more!



SEXY TALK

FRIDAY JANUARY 2ND 9 PM

GREAT NOTION (NW 28TH AVE)

Hosted by Tony Meyer with special guest cohost Emma Jonas
Luke Miller, Joe John Sanchez, Aleah Liebenau, Mack Lee

This show features an “after hours” market or “mark-it” ;)



YOLO [MIXED OPEN] MIC

SATURDAY JANUARY 3RD 4-6 PM

GREAT NOTION (NW 28TH AVE)

Hosted by Josh Henri and Lori Van Deman

Come try your hand at comedy, poetry, or music in front of a very supportive audience or come watch to cheer them on!



TELLTALE PRESENTS: ROUGH START*

SATURDAY JANUARY 3RD 7 PM

GREAT NOTION (NW 28TH AVE)

Hosted by Jasmine Nothing

Liam Kamp, Josh Henri, Jaren George, Zane Thomas, Ellis Durand, Ryan McAbery

*Our storytellers are also comedians!

FILM

SATURDAY JANUARY 3RD 6 PM CLINTON STREET THEATER

If You Should Leave Before Me

The special screening will be followed by an intimate Q&A with the filmmakers, giving audiences a behind-the-scenes look at the making of this acclaimed feature.

All ticketholders are invited to the afterparty at Dots cafe at 9 PM.

SUNDAY JANUARY 4TH 11-3 PM ECHO THEATER COMPANY

Talk shop over a cup of coffee or tea and a VooDoo doughnut with other film industry professionals. Then we'll sit down, shut up, and watch a selection of local short films.

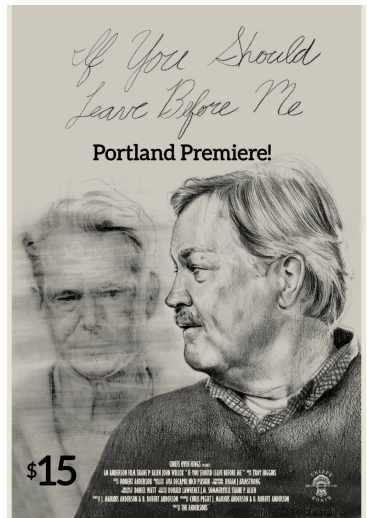
This event will have a separate program listing all of the short films.

SUNDAY JANUARY 4TH 4-6 PM CLINTON STREET THEATER

The Ogre
Carpe Diem

Invasion of the Free Box Monsters

THREE thirty minute films back-to-back and then a Q&A with our local filmmakers and a mini lecture from actor/director/producer/independent film community leader Jerry Bell Jr.



Saturday, January 3rd at 6 PM
Clinton Street Theater



Sunday, January 4th at 11 AM
Echo Theater Company



\$10 THE OGRE • CARPE DIEM
INVASION OF THE FREE BOX MONSTERS
PLUS! Q&A with local filmmakers and mini lecture!

Sunday, January 4th at 4 PM
Clinton Street Theater

FILM

SATURDAY JANUARY 3RD 6 PM

CLINTON STREET THEATER

If You Should Leave Before Me features Mark and Joshua, a married couple, face a devastating loss that strains their relationship. To escape grief, they focus on their unconventional jobs as guides for the recently deceased, leading them to the afterlife.

MATURE AUDIENCES

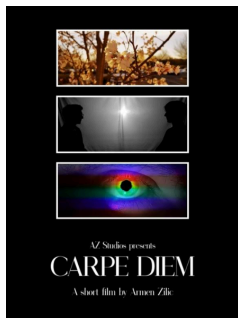
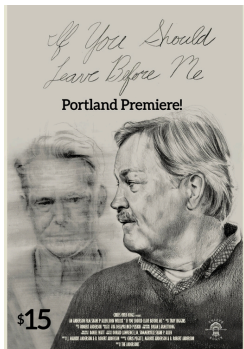
SUNDAY JANUARY 4TH 4-6 PM

CLINTON STREET THEATER

The OGRE by Justin Boswick follows a rising “pre-crash bunker wave earth tone noxious metal rubber tone mathscape grass-fed conglomerate bass post-ego brown noise premeditated deathcore punk rock jazz” band in Portland. Tensions arise between band members as they prepare for their biggest show yet. Ogre voted “best new band” by *Williamette Weekly*. Join us as we follow the band, but beware, you may end up joining as an honorary member! A great representation of the Portland music scene.

Writer-director Armen Zilic presents *Carpe Diem*. When Robby falls into a spiral of negativity, he must reflect upon himself and realize the importance of living in the moment and focusing on the positives of life.

Invasion of the FreeBox Monsters by Peter Grey follows a collection of everyday folks fights to survive a new COVID outbreak and garbage eating creatures in order to save the city of Portland and the second annual Avocado Toast Festival from the US Military and the evil General Stone?!



STORYTELLING



FACEYOURFEARSORTHEYWILLCONTINUETOHAUNTYOU*

Jasmine of Telltale pitched the idea that would eventually become “Rough Start”. We had a storytelling portion of the YOLO mic last year, but I loved the idea of having a dedicated show just for resolutions to start the year off right, or wrong! You might be disappointed in your own resolutions by the end of the year, but you won’t be disappointed in this show!

Telltale has been producing monthly shows in Portland for NINE YEARS, often fundraising for local charities to help our community.

Telltale encourages folks to “get vulnerable and take no sh*t”. We could all learn a thing or two from that. Find out more at: telltalepdx.com

QUITVAPING
STARTSMOKING
SUBFORAMOCKTAIL
LOVESHOULDHEALNOTHURT*
STOPSAYINGJUST
SPEAKUPMORE
BEBRAVE
JOINANTIFA
BEHONEST
BEKIND
DONATETIME
DONATEENERGY
DONATEMONEY
BEYOURSELFUNLESSYOU SUCKIGUESS
TRYBUTTSTUFF
USEPROTECTION
USEMORELUBE
PEE (AFTER SEX, IT PREVENTS UTIs)
TRYSOMETHINGNEW*
TRUSTYOURGUT*
ITISOKAYTOSAYNO*
PROTESTMORE
LESSPLASTIC
REPAIR
RECYCLE
BUYAPLANT
ACCIDENTALLYKILLAPLANT
FOSTERORADOPTAPET
FINDYOURSELF
FORGIVEYOURSELF
BESOMEONEYOU NEEDEDASACHILD
TAKEAWALK
BEPROUDOFPROGRESS
STAYCURIOUS
SUPPORTLIVEART
CHILLOUT
BUYLOCAL
DRIVELESS
SAYSORRYANDMEANIT
FACTCHECKEVERYTHING
LEARNSOMETHINGNEWEVERYDAY
DOUBLECHECKYOURSOURCES
STOPENABLINGWITHYOUREMPATHY
HOLDYOURSELFACCOUNTABLE
DONOTPROTECTBADPEOPLE
STANDUPAGAINSTINJUSTICE
CALLINWHENYOUARESICK*
21 COVERYOURCOUGH*
WASHYOURHANDS*

*THERE WASN'T ACTUALLY ROOM FOR THESE ONES

THEATER

I was inspired by Fertile Ground, although, they do something like 70 plays during the two weeks in April. I loved the idea of having a bunch of smaller plays made by local playwrites. This is our first year trying this format. Let's do it like Hamlet 2!



1. Ah! (the minimum) by Ryan Cuddihy
2. Teary Dragon by O. A. Griener [written by a 10-year old]
3. Swamptown Stomp (pt 1) by Jonah
4. Express by Kim Rapoport [written by a student in Idaho]
5. Swamptown Stomp (pt 2) by Jonah
6. Rhiannon by Samuel Tuschman
7. Deception by David Alan Bentley
8. Swamptown Stomp (pt 3) by Jonah
9. A surprise musical number to close out the MPAT before Jon's show

This will be the Oregon Premiere of Jon Bennett's newest play, *This Will Only Ever Happen Once**,

We added an * since this is the second showing, this NEW play just premiered at Big Britches in Bingen, WA last month in November.

Jon will be taking this show to Orlando Fringe Festival next week, so be sure to wish him safe travels!

We're on a tight schedule tonight but we will try to have a short Q&A after the performance!

Jon often hosts workshops such as "how to find your story" and can be seen performing and touring at festivals across the US and the globe!



@JONBENNETTCOMEDY
22 FIND OUT MORE AT
JONBENNETTCOMEDY.COM

SPONSORS

A majority of the festival was self-funded but we did apply for a Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) grant back in September. RACC grant award recipients will be announced in Late January, 2026. Wish us luck!

We have big plans to continue growing and celebrating more creative circles! Many festivals do not survive more than a few years due to the tremendous time, money, energy, and coordination involved. You have to be tenacious. Scrappy, even. You have to be willing to adapt, grow, and change... and that is very hard to do!

If you had fun at the festival, please consider making a donation. If you didn't have fun... please provide feedback via our anonymous e-suggestion box on the website ~~but I hope you still consider making a donation to help us grow.~~

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for next year, you can send an email to startfreshfest@gmail.com



TAPPING BONES



WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK!

You can fill out this anonymous e-suggestion box to submit comments/complaints, or suggestions

OTHER EVENTS

ART EVENTS

Monthly

A.M.P. (Art.Music.Poetry)
1124 Northwest 13th Avenue
(A.M.P. just added in a second show!)

Hopscotch Immersive Art Events
1020 SE 10th Avenue

First Thursdays in April - October
Pearl District

Last Thursdays ALL YEAR
(but outdoors June - August)
Alberta Street

Art Festivals

PAM's Fine Print Festival in January
Winter Light Festival in February
Hillsboro Chalk Art Festival in July
Spotlight: Family Arts in September
Fine Arts and Crafts in September
PICA's Time Based Art in September
Bird Alliance's Wild Arts in November

MUSEUM EVENTS

PAM's FREE First Thursdays

OMSI has multiple monthly events including OMSI: After Dark, where they open up the museum just for adults with laser shows, presentations, and activities with food and drink vendors. OMSI: SciencePub lectures feature a wide variety of topics hosted at OMSI, Mission Theater, or Kennedy School Theater (these include a ZOOM option!)

BURLESQUE EVENTS

The Victorian Belle Mansion hosts multiple monthly Burlesque/Cabaret shows!

Monthly

Funhouse Follies (Funhouse Lounge)
A Dose of Burlesque (The Pharmacy)

CABARET EVENTS

Weekly

(Dante's) Sinferno

Monthly

Karaoke Cabaret (Portland Wine Co)

After Dark by Pink Puma has a bunch of shows happening Dec-Jan (Alberta Abbey)

DRAG EVENTS

Weekly

Diva Drag Brunch (Swan Dive)
The SuperStar Divas Megashow (CC's)

Monthly

A Dose of Burlesque (The Pharmacy)

BOYerism puts on many monthly events!

WORD SEARCH ANSWER KEY

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OTHER EVENTS

COMEDY EVENTS

FILM EVENTS

laughsPDX.com is a great resource to find shows, events, and mics in Portland.

Weekly Shows

Conversational Lube
Dough
End of Story
It's Gonna Be Okay
Laugh Basement
Lyrics & Laughter
Murder Casserole
Preach!
Yolks and Jokes

Biweekly Shows

Strip City: Tits and Giggles

Monthly Shows

Be Gay, Do Crime
The Bechdel Set
The C*ntsultants
Church of the D*mned
Chapters
The F@&%%# (F-Slur) Show
The F*cks of Life
Fluid Comedy
Heart♥throb
Laugh Your Clothes Off
Laughgasm
Laughrodisiac
Leave Your Troubles
Magic Tea Party D&D
No Tomorrow
Not That Late Show
Oops, All ____!
Paraoke
The Other Thing
SMASH Comedy
Stretch Comedy
Thanks For Nothing
Queer A.F.
You Oughta Know

Every Other Month

Portland Stumps
Alberta Abbey

Quarterly

Forgotten Fantasies
Multiple venues in Portland

JBJR Productions

Indie Film Networking Events
Kennedy School Theater

M.O.R.B.s Indie Film Networking Events

Silver Birch Kitchen + Lounge
(Beaverton) or Art House (Eugene)

Film Festivals

No Worries Film Festival
Clinton Street Theater in February
(but often has monthly screenings!)

Hillsboro Film Festival

The Vault Theater in April

Portland Under The Stars Film Festival

Mission Theater in August

Portland Festival of Cinema, Animation
& Technology (PFCAT) at OMSI

GuignolFest

Clinton Street Theater in October

OTHER EVENTS

STORYTELLING EVENTS

Monthly

BACKFENCE Storytelling is an award-winning live storytelling show, podcast, and public radio series.

Closet Cases sets the stage for stories from the LGBTQ+ community, ranging from hilarious to heartwarming to heartbreaking.

TelltalePDX hosts monthly curated storytelling shows and fundraising events to support the community via multiple local organizations. Please support them so they can keep making a positive impact in Portland.

Quarterly

Portland Storytellers' Guild
Artichoke Community Music

Touring but visiting Portland!

The Moth just did (in December)
Exposed Storytelling in January

Storytelling Festivals

PSG's Storython in February
Summer Story Fest! in June

IMPROV EVENTS

Kickstand Comedy, Curious Comedy Theater, and Deep End all feature multiple workshops, classes, and events every week.

THEATER EVENTS

Fertile Ground Festival in April
JAW New Play Festival in July
Oregon Shakespeare Festival
26 Stage Fright Festival in October

WRITING EVENTS

Bold Coffee & Books, Rose City Book Pub, and Rose City Coffee all host weekly writer events!

Weekly

NW Women Writers
Portland Vortex Writing Time
Rose City SciFi and Fantasy Writers
Shut Up & Write!
Sit Down, Shut Up, and Write
Willamette Writers

Biweekly

Power of the Pen
Final Draft and Brewed (Vancouver)

Monthly

A.M.P. (Art.Music.Poetry)
1124 Northwest 13th Avenue

Constellation Poetry Reading Series
Tin House at Bishop & Wilde

The Poetry Box Readings (via ZOOM)

Writers Social
BOLD Coffee & Books

Written By, Author Gathering
Pacific Standard

Spiritual and Self-Help Writers - Somebody Needs Your Book (via ZOOM)

Writing Festivals/Conventions

S2: Small & Self Publishing Book Faire in April
[NEW!] Stafford Challenge Conference
[NEW!] Poetry Confluence in October
OryCon in October
Portland Book Festival
(formerly "Wordstock") in November

WEEKEND 1

Start Fresh Festival bookends the new year during the last weekend in December and the first weekend in January. Officially, we take Christmas and New Year's Day off, unofficially, we may decide to host "unofficial" events for the festival. Stay tuned in the coming years to see what we get up to!

THANK YOU for keeping art alive. We couldn't do this without you!

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26TH	SATURDAY DECEMBER 27TH	SUNDAY DECEMBER 28TH
CHECK IN PRIVATE EVENT	ARTIST MARKET 10-4 PM 1 PM BAD HOLIDAY GIFT FLIP 2 PM FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS 3 PM DOODLE TIME THE GET DOWN	ARTIST MARKET 10-4 PM 1 PM BAD HOLIDAY GIFT FLIP 2 PM PAINT & LAUGH HOSTED BY JOCELYNE BOYER THE GET DOWN
A RANDOM RYAN DANLEY SHOW™ 7 PM CURIOUS COMEDY ANNEX HOSTED BY RYAN DANLEY	ANTICHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SPECIAL 7 PM CURIOUS COMEDY ANNEX HOSTED BY MICHAEL GARCIA	WRITERS' SOCIAL HOUR NOON-2 PM BOLD COFFEE & BOOKS
ROAST BATTLE LEAGUE: PORTLAND 10 PM FUNHOUSE LOUNGE HOSTED BY CAM STRONG	NEON RAINBOW 7 PM FUNHOUSE LOUNGE HOSTED BY BRENDAN CREECY	POET TOWN 6 PM CHAPARRAL BOOKS
AFTERPARTY 11:30 PM FUNHOUSE LOUNGE (ALONGSIDE MIDNIGHT MIC)	THE C*NTSULTANTS 10 PM FUNHOUSE LOUNGE HOSTED BY AKASHA	THE GAUNTLET 7:30 PM CURIOUS COMEDY ANNEX
	AFTERPARTY 9:30 PM FUNHOUSE LOUNGE (ALONGSIDE THE C*NTSULTANTS)	AFTERPARTY 9 - 11 PM CURIOUS COMEDY THEATER

BONUS!

WEEKEND 2

FRIDAY
JANUARY 2ND

CHECK IN
PRIVATE EVENT

SATURDAY
JANUARY 3RD

ARTIST MARKET

10-4 PM

1 PM BAD HOLIDAY GIFT FLIP
2 PM MINI POTTERY WITH RYAN
3 PM MOSIACS WITH CHERYL
THE GET DOWN

THE YOLO MIC

4-6 PM

GREAT NOTION (NW 28th)
HOSTED BY JOSH HENRI
AND LORI VAN DEMAN

MINI-PLAY-A-THON

4-6 PM

ECHO THEATER COMPANY

"FEATURED FEATURE"

IF YOU SHOULD LEAVE BEFORE ME

6 PM

CLINTON STREET THEATER
Q&A WITH FILMMAKERS

JON BENNETT...

**THIS WILL ONLY EVER
HAPPEN ONCE**

6:30 PM

ECHO THEATER COMPANY

FRIENDSHIP SHOW

7 PM

GREAT NOTION (NW 28th)
HOSTED BY FOREST EMBER

ROUGH START

7 PM

GREAT NOTION (NW 28th)
HOSTED BY JASMINE NOTHING

SEXY TALK

9 PM

GREAT NOTION (NW 28th)
HOSTED BY TONY MEYER
WITH AN "AFTER HOURS" MARKET

LOCAL AUTHOR READING

8-10 PM

ROSE CITY BOOK PUB
HOSTED BY LORI VAN DEMAN

AFTERPARTY

10 PM

BAR MAVEN

AFTERPARTY

9-11 PM

DOTS CAFE
(PUBLIC EVENT)

SUNDAY
JANUARY 4TH

ARTIST MARKET

10-4 PM

1 PM BAD HOLIDAY GIFT FLIP
2 PM HANDCUT COLLAGE
THE GET DOWN

SOCIAL HOUR AND SHORTS SCREENING

11-3 PM

ECHO THEATER COMPANY

3 × 30 FILMS

4 PM

CLINTON STREET THEATER
Q&A WITH FILMMAKERS
MINI LECTURE BY JERRY BELL JR

AFTERPARTY

6-9 PM

SIDE STREET

BONUS!

