



Portland Actors Conservatory

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PORTLAND ACTORS CONSERVATORY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS IN ACTION WITH YEAR LONG EVENT SERIES

Events Embrace Community, Quality of Training, and 25 Years in Action

PORTLAND, ORE. – Sept. 21, 2009 – Portland Actors Conservatory, the premiere school for professional actor training in the Pacific Northwest, will mount a yearlong celebration of its 25th anniversary with monthly events embracing community and excellence in actor training.

“The Conservatory’s growth since 1985 has been steady and organic, with a dramatic spike last year when we were nationally accredited.” said Nurella Doumitt, Portland Actors Conservatory executive director. “Since then, our offerings and infrastructure have skyrocketed, and this year we’ve expanded our Conservatory to a fulltime day program while continuing to offer studio classes in the evening. We’ve got a lot to celebrate.”

The yearlong anniversary celebration will include monthly events fostering local community as well as the Conservatory’s national reputation for actor training and performance. Participation in events with local arts providers include New Oregon Arts and Letters’ Interview Series on performance Sept. 30, and hosting an education panel for the Fertile Ground Festival of New Work in Jan.-Feb. 2010.

Additionally, the Conservatory will conduct a volunteer drive through the Conservatory’s Roundtable of supporters, present an evening of alumni-produced original one act plays with an alumni panel discussion, a season play selection announcement event, a retrospective on the history of the Firehouse Theater, and local interviews for 2010 enrollment in the Two Year program.

The Conservatory also plans to support its alumni network with quarterly meetup events, and expand curriculum for its graduation showcase class in self-marketing and business instruction.

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Founded in 1985 by artistic director Beth Harper as an acting school in a former Hollywood dentist's office, Portland Actors Conservatory grew to offer a Two Year Conservatory program in 1994 which was fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) in 2008. With accreditation through NAST last year, credits earned through the Conservatory became transferable to a four-year University. The Conservatory's first executive director, Nurella Doumitt, joined the organization through a grant from the Murdoch Foundation in Spring of 2009. This Fall, the school will become eligible to offer Federal Financial Aid to its Two Year program students for the first time.

Portland Actors Conservatory has graduated over 150 alumni since beginning in 1994, and has passed nearly 2,000 students through its evening studio classes.

ABOUT PORTLAND ACTORS CONSERVATORY

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, Portland Actors Conservatory is the premiere school for professional actor training in the Pacific Northwest. Artistic director Beth Harper leads the Conservatory's multiple offerings including its fulltime, Two Year Professional Training Program, ongoing Studio Class offerings, and the Summer on Stage youth theatre program. Portland Actors Conservatory provides the highest standard in actor training with distinguished faculty including Beth Harper, Connor Kerns, Philip Cuomo, and Michael Mendelson among others. The Conservatory is located near Portland, Ore.'s city center in the historic Firehouse Theatre, housing an upstairs studio space as well an intimate 70-seat theatre. Portland Actors Conservatory annually produces a three show season featuring its second year students working alongside professional guest artists, in addition to two student showcases. Portland Actors Conservatory is Oregon's only independent professional actor training school accredited with the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

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