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Singlehandedly: PST's Solo Performance Festival

Forget the blanket and crackers, Singlehandedly, 2010 Solo Performance Festival is Portland Story Theater's foray into stories by and for adults. Think: The Moth, only Portland-style.

People from all walks of life - architects, legal researchers, translators, success coaches, - these people are artists who come together to craft their personal stories. Stories that delve deep; stories that resonate, touching something in us all.

It all starts in the comfort of a living room in NE Portland, the rhythm of the rain pattering on the roof while, inside, a circle of people gather together to build their stories from the experiences of their lives. They share a meal, drink some wine, and create stories that revolve around a simple idea: Sense of Place. What is it about the places that we've tasted, we've lived, we've loved? How have those experiences made us who we are?

Collaboration is the key to PST's development process. Meeting three times a week, the artists ask these questions of each other and themselves, and the answers take shape. One by one the stories emerge, coming to life.

The stories are as diverse as the people who tell them; stories about dreams of escape, about whether we live up to our dreams; stories about identity and what it is to embrace our heritage. There are sexy, sultry forays into the world of tango, hilarious insights into entertaining toddlers professionally, and poignant reminders of what it is to be human.

As the stories reach maturity they make their way towards the stage, opening up to larger audiences, sharing their lives with others. It's in the shared experience of the performance that the true power of the story is revealed; the connection is completed.

Portland Story Theatre's co-founder Lynne Duddy knows that this is the power of the story and explains "for a story to really speak, the performer has to step aside, becoming a conduit for the story to reach the audience - that's how the connection happens."

The tellings of the stories are individual. PST doesn't have a 'House Style' or believe that there is only one way to tell a story, "it's more about helping each artist find their unique narrative voice. The story is theirs to own and all final decisions about the content and delivery rest with the artist. The rest of us are here to support and give feedback during our collaborative workshops," says Lynne. So the performers play in all different styles, some leaning more towards comedy, some towards a physical performance, others working purely with the words. One thing is clear though, all have something profound to offer to the audience.

The nine full length stories can be seen as double bills in the intimacy of Hipbone Studio on Friday and Saturday evenings, starting Friday April 23rd, and the festival finishes with an exciting whirlwind of ten minute stories at the StorySLAM on May 14th.

You can see details of all the performers and their stories by going to PST's website and tickets can be reserved by calling 503-793-5484. Full Schedule included below:

The Nitty Gritty

12 solo performances over six nights and each night is a double feature: two full-length shows for a single admission! And to close out the festival, on the 7th night PST hosts a StorySLAM!

\$12 General Admission or \$30 for a 3-Night Pass. All shows 8 PM at Hipbone, 1847 East Burnside.

Friday April 23rd: Lawrence Howard / Sharon Knorr

Saturday April 24th: auGi / Penny Walter

Friday April 30th: Taru Sinclair / Will Hornyak

Saturday May 1st: Don Kern / Taru Sinclair

Friday May 7th: Lynne Duddy / Lawrence Howard

Saturday May 8th: Jordan Herskowitz / auGi

Friday May 14th: StorySLAM! showcasing Domeka Parker, Ry Stroud, Kristin Olson-Huddle, Nicole Accuardi, Enrique Andrade, Wayne Haythorn, Monique Vieu, and Jeff Burke

You can see details of all the performers and their stories by going to PST's website www.portlandstorytheater.com and tickets can be reserved by calling 503-793-5484.

The Nitty Gritty:

Singlehandedly Performance Festival Continues

Friday April 30: Will Hornyak & Taru Sinclair

Saturday May 1: Taru Sinclair & Don Kern

Friday May 7: Lawrence Howard & Lynne Duddy

Saturday May 8: Jordan Herskowitz & auGi

Friday May 14: It's a Story Slam!

Domeka Parker, Ry Stroud, Kristin Olson-Huddle, Nicole Accuardi, Enrique Eduardo Andrade, Wayne Haythorn, Monique Vieu, & Hipbone's own Jeff Burke!

\$12 General Admission or \$30 for a 3-Night Pass. All shows 8 PM at Hipbone, 1847 East Burnside.

For further information or to schedule an interview with any of the artists, please call Lynne Duddy at Portland Story Theater on 503 284 2226

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Portland Story Theater was launched in 2004 to bring the urban community together for a unique performance experience, telling tales that stimulate the mind and rouse the heart. We are a grass-roots operation, building awareness and appreciation for narrative. In late 2009, we established ourselves as a not-for-profit business. PST uses a unique collaborative approach to produce shows of people performing stories drawn from real-life experiences. We also offer workshops & 1-on-1 coaching for people who want to learn how to tell stories. Portland Story Theater has been called "raw, revealing, vulnerable," by The Oregonian for our groundbreaking work that "keeps audiences entranced from start to finish."