

Let's duet

Two Portland theater companies set up shop together
and create a community space

by Inga Sorensen



Not ready for show time: Don Horn at the future home of triangle productions! and Stark Raving Theatre Company

Don Horn, executive producer and founder of the Portland-based avant garde theater company triangle productions!, can tell you there's nothing like seeing a dream become a reality.

"That's definitely true," says Horn, who happily reports that a funding group has approved a loan which will allow him and Myra A. Donnelley of Stark Raving Theatre Company—and their corporation called MY-DON, LLC—to purchase a 15,000-square-foot building at 3040 SE Belmont St. in Portland.

The space, formerly the Montag Oil building, will house, among other things, two theaters, an AIDS Memorial Room, an Archives Room containing historical materials about the sexual minorities community, and permanent office space for both triangle productions! and Stark Raving Theatre Company. The establishment will be called Theater Theatre.

"It really is like a dream come true," says Horn, who this past summer stood before audiences attending his theater company's run of the popular gay-themed play *Jeffrey* to ask for their support in making his vision become a reality.

"And they did come through," says Horn, who estimates \$3,000 was raised by his personal appeal.

Rob Buckmaster, a talented and well-received Portland actor who recently died from AIDS complications, starred in *Jeffrey*.

"I feel like I needed to do this for him," says Horn about his decision to create an AIDS Memorial Room at the Belmont site. "Rob was dear to me, and many of us have lost loved ones to this disease. This room will be for all people—women, men, children—who want a safe place to remember their loved ones."

According to Horn, the AIDS Memorial Room, slated for dedication on June 21, 1996, may include photographs and booklets that people can

read and write in as a way of remembering those who have died from complications of AIDS.

Horn says he has spoken with the Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest, which gathers historical data relevant to the region's sexual minorities community, about storing its materials in the Archives Room.

Horn says he'd also like to set up a videotaping system so that people from the sexual minorities community can come in and record their oral histories, which in turn can be preserved for future generations.

"Can you imagine all of the stories that Darcelle can tell?" he laughs. "Our community has so much to offer, and we have to preserve and share this treasure chest of information."

According to Horn, a great deal of renovation must occur before Theater Theatre can be opened to the public. Until then, his company's productions—including the upcoming run of *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*—will be held at the Main Street Playhouse in Portland.

Horn says September 1996 is the target date for theater productions at the new location, but he says he is striving to make the AIDS Memorial Room and Archives Room available to the public much sooner.

"But there remains a lot of work to do," he says. Among Horn's biggest renovation needs are building insulation, drywall, and electrical materials and installation, as well as the required earthquake retrofitting of the 4,500-square-foot area for the two theaters.

Horn says in-kind or financial contributions to assist with the effort are greatly appreciated.

"I want this to be a place where gays and lesbians can celebrate pride every day—not just once a year," he says. "I want this to be valuable to the whole community."

Anyone wishing to help out should contact Horn at (503) 246-8967.

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