

Nancy Sellers Beats Cancer

Former Our House leader speaks candidly

by Jaymee R. Cuti

Cancer survival, a change in directors and demolition of a building mark the major changes at Our House of Portland in 2005. Nancy Sellers had led the residential care facility for people with AIDS since 1999. When she stepped down in January after being diagnosed with uterine cancer, board chairman Wayne Miya took over as interim executive director.

Our House also underwent major renovation. The original facility, built in 1959, was demolished last month, and rebuilding has begun.

Sellers spoke with *Just Out* about beating cancer and her plans for the future.

Jaymee R. Cuti: How is your health?

Nancy Sellers: My health is great. I completed all of my treatment, surgery, radiation and nine months of chemotherapy, and I'm fine. Everything's clear.

JRC: Congratulations. Are you planning to return to Our House?

NS: I can't say I'm quite ready. I'm still involved with Our House. I'm going to help them with their capital campaign. I just started to feel well enough that I'm giving myself a break to do things with my kids and a little bit of traveling. I'm giving myself about six months to regain my strength and build stamina. Then I'll think about what my next steps are.

JRC: What was most unexpected about the experience?

NS: The mental part of cancer was so much of a surprise to me. I couldn't believe how tired I could be mentally. I had some silly notion I could read all these books I haven't read, but the treatment was so assaulting that at times I didn't have the energy to turn the page.

JRC: How you feel about stepping down from Our House?

NS: They're in great hands. Wayne Miya is a very solid executive director. He brings a lot of skills to the job. He stepped right in from basically the day I announced I was leaving and made a huge commitment.

JRC: What perspective has surviving cancer afforded you?

NS: I think if you really paid attention with cancer, you could be a good Buddhist. The first thing cancer's done is it really slowed me down. It was a habit to have my life filled full of details and lists. You just have to learn to take it one day at a time and be as present as you can because you never knew how you were going to feel from one hour to the next or one minute to the next. I certainly think cancer makes me say I have to live at a pace that allows me to take good care of myself. If that means sacrificing some other things, so be it.

There is more depth in my relationships, and I have to spend good time with my grandkids and my daughter and son and friends. I don't think I was doing that before. That's the way I ought to live every day, regardless of whether I have cancer or not. There's great opportunity for a whole lot of life right now. *jo*



Nancy Sellers considers cancer a challenge to be a good Buddhist.

A Year in Theater

Exit stage right, enter stage left

by Jaymee R. Cuti

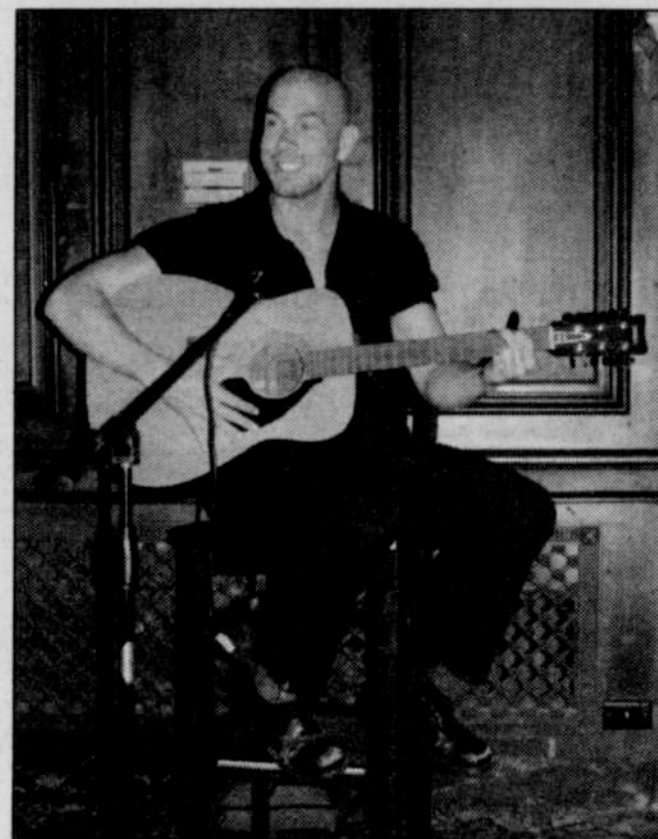
Portland's theater scene saw much commotion in 2005 with the emergence of new playhouses and the retiring of others.

Portlanders said hello to the only professional musical theater company in town when Stumptown Stages opened *Urinetown*, its premiere production. The company began when associate artistic director Gary Wayne Cash joined artistic director Kirk Mouser earlier this year. The company aims to stage original musicals with social messages.

2Boards Productions opened its second play, *Dog Opera*, a second-generation AIDS play. The company, which formed in the summer, is led by Jamie Lynne Powell-Herbold, who is bisexual.

"The idea of simple theater, that theater is two boards and a passion, has always interested me," he said.

Theatergoers embraced actor Wade McCollum's brainchild *One*, an original rock musical interpretation of *Siddhartha*, the story of Buddha. *One*, which aspires to land on Broadway, debuted at Wonder Ballroom, a new venue owned by arts promoters Mark Woolley, Chris Monlux and Howie Bierbaum. Once a boarded-up building in a quiet Northeast Portland neighborhood, the historic building is now drawing a variety of national and local arts performances to its space, which includes a cafe and art gallery.



Wade McCollum croons at a promotion for his musical, *One*.



Jamie Lynne Powell-Herbold founded 2Boards Productions.

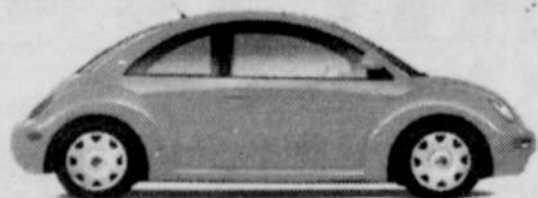
McCollum landed a prestigious award from the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards in 2005 for his performance in the title role of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*.

This year marked the fourth and final installment of 2 Gyriz Performative Arts' Interactive Language Festival, a multimedia spectacle of regional and global artists converging for a month to explore interdisciplinary and pan-genre themes, before an audience.

Founders Lisa Newman and Llewyn McCobb plan to revive the festival in a new format in 2007. The group is on hiatus as Newman prepares for a one-year master's program at Dartington College of Arts in Devon, England. By spending a year in Europe, the pair plan to explore and participate in festivals throughout the continent.

Don Horn, who founded Triangle Productions 15 years ago, ended the season with a smash hit, *The Rocky Horror Show* starring McCollum. Horn announced his semi-retirement, vowing to produce one choice play every year with Triangle, one of the oldest gay-identified theater companies on the West Coast. *jo*

Drive with Pride



Visit us online at:
www.reyreece.com
or schedule your appointment

503-256-3700
1-800-283-0592

REY REECE DEALERSHIPS
VOLKSWAGEN-MITSUBISHI-USED

122nd & East Burnside
www.reyreece.com

WESTOVER HEIGHTS
C L I N I C

**Offering general internal
medicine and excelling
in sexual health care**

Serving the community for 22 years

2330 NW Flanders
Suite 207

503-226-6678

ZAZEN
ZAZEN
ZAZEN

www.Dharma-Rain.Org

Century 21

Richard Voss, GRI ABR
Principal Broker / Owner

Peninsula Realty
6110 N. Lombard St.
Portland, OR 97203
Business (503) 286-5826
Cell (503) 804-9424



- Full Service Real Estate Office
- On Site Real Estate School
- Full Service Property Management
- Notary Services
- Fax Machine Services
- In-office Closings
- On-site Mortgage Broker

Se habla Espanol



See our help wanted ad in this issue

richard.voss@century21.com
www.century21peninsula.com
Each office is independently owned and operated