

northwest

Performance Art Finds a Home

"The life of the traveling performer and ways of the performing class is ancient and hasn't changed," said Noah Mickens, creative manager of Someday Lounge.

Now the underground performance art scene has an aboveground space.

Located at 125 N.W. Fifth Ave., Someday Lounge opened in mid-September while still under construction. The Portland Institute for Contemporary Art "was the impetus for opening that week," said Mickens. With temporary occupation permits and a temporary stage, the lounge served as PICA's puppet theater during last month's Time-Based Art Festival.

Mickens said he didn't expect to have five capacity crowd shows the first week, but he now intends for the trend to continue. Every Friday, the lounge presents St. Vitus Dance Club, which includes traditional DJ dancing with a performing dance troupe. Sundays, the Silver Gate Club evokes an old-world jazz club with performances of improv and avant-garde jazz.

Mickens is most excited about Wednesday's Someday Open Stage. "Spontaneity is so important to me as an artist. Things will happen that I'll never be able to anticipate."

As creative director, Mickens, who is bisexual, works as promoter, booker, master of ceremonies and stage manager. He has been putting on "DIY-level" shows in Portland for 10 years.

After first rejecting the position at Someday to

travel with a circus, Mickens said it became clear that not taking the job would be limiting himself and all the artists he supports. "I realized the owners really did have honorable intentions rather

than seeing this as a moneymaking venture. And that's rare in this business with club owners."

While Someday finishes up construction on its balcony and permanent stage, you can enjoy the dance-punk antics of Bats from the Pyramids of Egypt with

Modern and The Bugs of Lightning on Oct. 24. Be sure to catch Batty's Hippodrome, one of Someday Lounge's monthly events, Oct. 28.

For information about upcoming shows and events, visit www.somedaylounge.com.

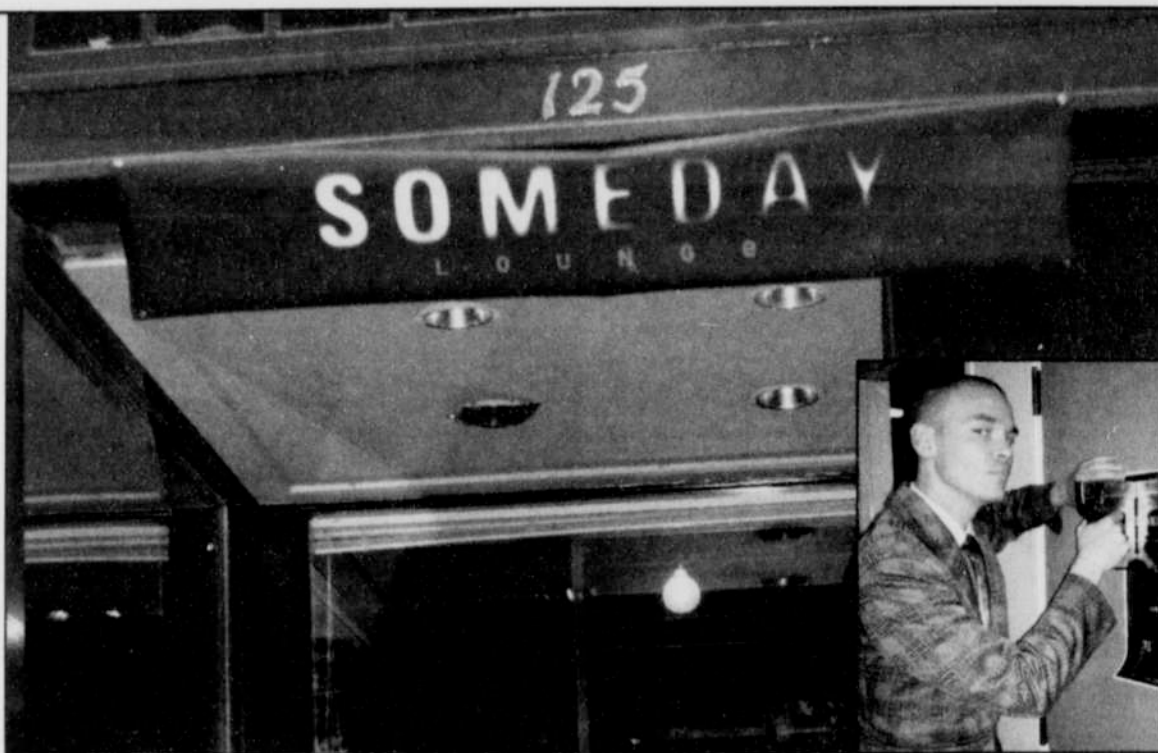
business watch

When Monkeys Paint

Beth Ann Short and Joy Leising opened 100th Monkey Studio last month at 110 S.E. 16th Ave. to serve as an open art studio and community space that encourages creativity in all people.

Part of its mission is to provide anyone—regardless of age, gender, income, ethnicity or sexual orientation—a safe and affordable place to use art materials. They also support artists in their self-expression.

"Serious artists with limited resources could be members at a nominal rate and have a place to store their art and work in an open or private studio atmosphere," said Short. "People who enjoy being creative [but] have not had as much exposure to art technique can take classes and benefit from the



Someday Lounge creative manager Noah Mickens (inset) spotlights underground artists.

teachings as well as the social connections. We see the studio as a place for anyone to get started using their creativity in hopes to use free expression and self-care in their daily lives."

Leising and Short met while working at the Boys and Girls Aid Society of Oregon. Short, who moved west from Michigan 15 years ago, went back to school in 1996 to attain a master's degree in art therapy. Leising moved to Portland from Minnesota in 1997 to attend Lewis & Clark College, where she earned a degree in sociology, anthropology and gender studies.

"Both Joy and I saw a need in the area for a safe place where people could come and be creative," Short said.

The studio holds first Friday events and

changes its shows monthly. A list of upcoming themes and a call to artists are at www.the100thmonkeystudio.com.

The Web site also lists support groups that meet in the space, including a prenatal transitions group, a self-empowerment mandala workshop and diabetes groups for adults and children. The second Thursday of every month is an HIV/AIDS support group night from 6:30 to 7:45. The drop-in gathering is \$6 for members and \$12 for nonmembers.

Tripping Out

Sierra Lonepine Briano knows a vacation spot when she sees it. She also knows that creating art in a beautiful and secluded tropical venue is the sweetest way to spend a vacation.



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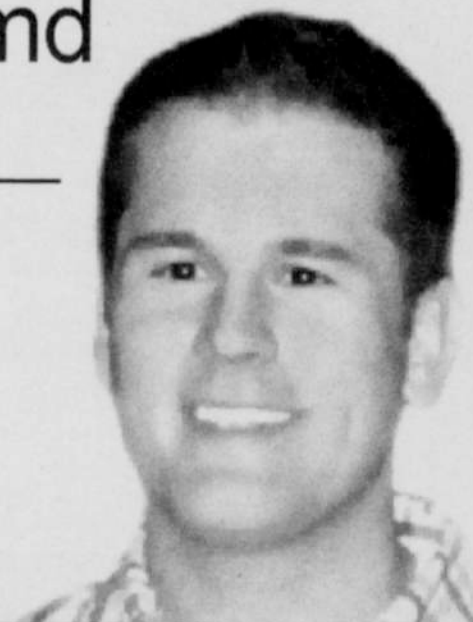
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