



Accordianist Adam Young, reed player Mitch Imori, and trombone player Justine Canfield were part of an April 2019 performance of the Tony-Award-winning musical *Urinetown* by Portland's Stumptown Stages. When the company is able to resume live theater, its musicians will be part of American Federation of Musicians Local 99. (Photo by Paul Fardig, courtesy of Stumptown Stages)

Musical theater, when it reopens, will be union

Portland music theater company Stumptown Stages has voluntarily recognized Musicians Local 99 to represent its musicians.

Stumptown, a nonprofit, had productions of *Pippin* and *Annie* scheduled this fall in Portland's Centers for the Arts, but the pandemic forced postponement. Local 99 Secretary-Treasurer Mont Chris Hubbard says Stumptown Producing Artistic Director Kirk Mouser approached him in June about union representation.

"I saw it as a real opportunity for us to stand up and support our local musicians," said Mouser, who is himself a

member of the Actors Equity and SAG/AFTRA unions. Stagehands employed by the company are members of IATSE Local 28.

Mouser also led Stumptown to reclassify actors and musicians as employees, not independent contractors. Portland Center Stage and several other theaters have also made that change.

Union recognition with Local 99 became official in September after Hubbard signed up an overwhelming majority of the 13 musicians who've worked on productions the last

two years. The two sides expect to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement, hopefully by the time the theater is able to reopen. As with lots of other live entertainment companies, that might have to be after a COVID-19 vaccine is developed. Right now, theaters are closed under the governor's order through the end of the year, but Mouser said Stumptown Stages is looking at summer 2021 dates for a return, possibly in outdoor venues if a vaccine isn't widely available by then.

—DM

UNIONIZATION → SEPT-OCT 2020

The following are Oregon and Southwest Washington workplaces where workers have decided whether to be represented by a union. The thumbs-up symbol means workers will be union-represented. Thumbs-down means they'll be on their own. "Decert" means a decertification election, where union-represented workers voted whether to remain union. The information comes from the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board.

Union election results

Employer (Location) Union	Yes-No	
American Eagle Protective Services (The Dalles) SPFPA ▪ 18 security officers at The Dalles Lock and Dam and the John Day Dam	13-0	👍
CASA of Oregon (Sherwood) CWA Local 7901 ▪ 21 workers at a nonprofit rural and farmworker housing developer	11-5	👍
Veterans Care Centers of Oregon (Lebanon) USW DECERT ▪ 196 workers at an assisted living center for veterans	59-34	👍
Albertson's (Ontario) UFCW Local 555 ▪ 4 customer service center clerks	2-0	👍
Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital (Newport) SEIU Local 49 ▪ 8 phlebotomists	5-0	👍

...Oregon OSHA says employers must protect workers from COVID-19

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CIO and its affiliated unions helped mobilize hundreds of workers to submit testimony. But Trainor said still stronger rules are needed, particularly for workers in corrections, agriculture, and food processing. A September outbreak at Pacific Seafood in Warrenton infected 94 workers.

One farmworker who'd been scheduled to take part in the press conference proved to be a case in point—she was unable to attend after testing positive for COVID-19, Trainor said.

MK Fletcher, a Health & Safety Specialist at the national AFL-CIO, said Oregon has been more transparent than other states about workplace outbreaks. According to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), as of Oct. 28, a total of 8,172 Oregon workers had contracted the virus on the job, and 35 of them have died from it. COVID-19 infections resulting from workplace outbreaks now account for nearly 20% of current reported cases in Oregon.

As of Oct. 28 there were active outbreaks under way at 76 Oregon workplaces. The biggest were at correctional institutions and food processing facilities. State prisons in Ontario, Pendleton, Umatilla and Salem were four of the top five current hotspots, totaling 1,188 cases as of Oct. 28. Potato processor Lamb Weston plants in Hermiston and Boardman, the Amazon warehouse in Troutdale, and the Walmart Distribution Center in Hermiston were also in the top 10.

COVID-19 cases are on the rise, and if the new OSHA rules are to have an impact, employers will have to return to greater vigilance. Matt Calzia, a registered nurse on staff at the Oregon Nurses Association, warned that nurses have been seeing their employers adopting a more cavalier attitude as the pandemic wears on.

BECOME A SAFETY STEWARD

See the complete rule at osha.oregon.gov/covid19

DID YOU KNOW

RAYMOND HARRIS?

DID YOU WORK AT: PORTLAND, OR AREA SHIPYARDS
IN THE 1960s?

OR: HEAT TREATER AT LEBARRE MACHINE WORKS
IN THE 1970s-1985?

The law firm of Schroeter Goldmark & Bender is seeking information on behalf of the family of Raymond Harris.

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