

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

National ComedySportz Teams Rally At Artquake

The two teams shake hands and run to opposite sides of the court, glowering at each other as the ref reviews the rules of the game. After the national anthem, the battle begins. This is no ordinary game. This is a battle of wits, where wordplay and comedy are the name of the game, and players can be thrown out for making the audience groan. This game is called ComedySportz, and now ComedySportz-Portland is going national, at this year's Artquake.

During the "Moyer Theatres ComedySportz Championships at Artquake," "actletes" from ComedySportz-Portland will battle wits against teams from Los Angeles, San Jose, and current comedy League of America champs Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 1-3 1995. This is the first year comedy has been part of the Artquake festival, which is in its 19th year, and has become the largest arts festival in Oregon. In addition to comedy, Artquake will continue their agenda of theatre, dance, film, visual arts, music, literary arts, fine crafts, and culinary arts.

"As the new, hot art form, we feel ComedySportz will add to Artquake's artistic agenda," said Karen Whitman, festival director.



The Portland ComedySportz "actletes".

"While improv comedy often gets a bad rap, ComedySportz is consistent with all of Artquake's values. They maintain a clean, family show, while providing artistic stimulation for the audience. The fact that this is a national tournament only adds to the excitement."

ComedySportz is clean, improvisational comedy performed by actletes, based on suggestions from their audience. The original ComedySportz was started in 1984 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and it is

now in more than 20 cities nationwide. ComedySportz-Portland opened in April of 1993, and has just completed its 250th show.

Teams from around the nation have been competing in the ComedySportz national tournaments for the past eight years. The Milwaukee and Los Angeles teams have won several tournaments in the past, and San Jose had been in the top five since 1993.

Patrick Short, founder of ComedySportz-Portland, said, "Port-

land audiences are ready for the top level of improv, and this is it. I have seen and played against these teams since 1988, and know how good they are at what they do. Portland will have to be at its best to stay competitive. While we're clearly the underdogs, we have the home field advantage, and that's a great recipe for fun. And after all, isn't fun what this is all about?"

Sponsors of the "Moyer Theatres ComedySportz Championships at Artquake" are Coffee People, Continental Airlines, KVO Advertising & Public Relations, Micro Accounting Systems, and Moyers Theatres.

Performances will take place as follows:

- Friday, September 1 at 9:00 p.m. Portland vs. Milwaukee
 - Saturday, September 2 at 3:00 p.m. All Four teams
 - Saturday, September 2 at 8:00 p.m. San Jose vs. Milwaukee
 - Saturday, September 2 at 10:00 p.m. Portland vs. Los Angeles
 - Sunday, September 3 at Noon Championships (All four)
- Friday and Saturday evening performances will take place at the Moyer's Little Rosy Theatre, 1947 NW Kearney St., Portland. tickets

are \$7.00 in advance/ \$8.00 at the door. Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and Sunday noon performances will take place at the Dolores Winningstad Theatre at PCPA, 1111 SW Broadway at Main, Portland. Tickets are \$4.00 in advance/ \$5.00 at the door. For reservations or more information, call 503-236-8888.

Classes Start September 14th!
ComedySportz Fall Training Camp: ComedySportz Portland is seeking a diverse, high-energy group of individuals for its next beginning improv workshop series. Theatre,

comedy or improv experience OK but not necessary - we are more interested in your attitude and dedication than your past. Players for our ongoing paid performances will be selected from the workshops. There is a charge for the workshop series, but payment plans are available and free admissions to our shows are included. There are a limited number of scholarships available. Please call Patrick or Ruth at 236-8888 for information and registration.

Thank you for supporting Portland's hottest comedy Improv!

"Picnic By The Points"

The Oregon Convention Center invites Oregonians to celebrate its 5th anniversary at "Picnic By The Points", September 8, 9 and 10, 1995.

The two day outdoor festival on Saturday and Sunday will transform the OCC parking lot into Oregon's largest picnic celebration, featuring fun activities for the whole family (clowns, face painters, and OMSI hands-on science fair), a variety of local Northeast neighborhood food booths, and mainstage entertainment with Portland's top blues and gospel artists, including Cascade Blues Association "Muddy Awards" winners Paul deLay, Linda Hornbuckle, Janice Scroggins and Curtis Salgado. On Saturday versatile lady Linda Hornbuckle sings the blues, but on Sunday she teams with Janice and the Youth Gospel Choir to close out the day. Watch for the complete blues and gospel line-up prior to the weekend event. The hours are 12 noon until 9 p.m. with the building open for self-guided walk-arounds from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. A surprise birthday celebration with free cake will be held at the end of the evening.

"Oregonians have made the Convention Center a huge success, so "Picnic By the Points" is more than just a birthday party, it's our way of thanking our neighbors, local businesses and the entire region for making this all happen," said Jeff Blosser, OCC Director.

In addition to the weekend festivities, there will be a gala luncheon on Friday, September 8, at noon in the Bud Clark Ballroom titled "We've Proven Our Points". Tables of ten and individual tickets will be sold. The fun planned for the luncheon includes a video and a slide show, the Golden Point awards ceremony (definitely to compete with Oscar, Emmy and Tony) which will recognize those people or organizations who have helped put the OCC into the record

books, Mike Burton, and a special birthday celebration for everyone. The Portland Oregon Visitors Association is planning a fam trip in conjunction with this event and the weekend activities.

A recently completed study commissioned by the Oregon Department of Economic Development showed that the OCC business created more than 6,000 jobs in 1994 and has had a five year local financial impact of \$1.46 billion. "This is a case where reality has far surpassed all expectations," said Blosser. "Picnic By The Points" will celebrate the successes of the past five years and look forward to the next five."

Tickets on sale at FASTIXX (subject to convenience charges) and at the gate the days of the events. Proceeds from the nominal "gate-charge" will benefit selected non-profits in the North and Northeast neighborhoods adjacent to the Oregon Convention Center. And you can leave your car at home -- come to the Picnic on Tri-Met, show proof of your fare at the picnic and get a free ride home. The following lines serve the OCC and Rose Quarter Transit Center across the street -- MAX, 1 Greeley, 4 Fessenden, 5, 6, 8 NE 15, 10 NE 33rd, 40 Mocks Crest, 41 Fremont, 63, 70, 77 and 91X.

"Picnic By The Points" is generously sponsored by Pepsi Cola, GES Exposition Services, Tri-Met, Northwest Natural Gas, Widmer Brewing and Don Wirfs and Associates. Vintage Trolley extended hours are compliments of Red Lion Lloyd Center.

For more information about "Picnic By the Points", please call Lynda Grice at 284-5293 or Nancy Goss Duran at 235-7709.

- Entertainment Line-Up**
Saturday, Sept. 9, All Blues Day
- 12 noon The Paul deLay Band
 - 2pm Paulette 'N Power
 - 3pm Jim Mesi & Jim Mesi Band
 - 4:30 Norman Sylvester Band
 - 5:30pm Linda Hornbuckle & Friends
 - 7pm Curtis Salgado Band
 - 8:45pm Birthday celebration
- Sunday, Sep. 10, All Gospel Day**
- 1pm Portland Mass Choir
 - 2pm Golden Eagles
 - 3pm Portland Metropolitan Youth Mass Choir
 - 4pm New Hope Missionary Baptist Choir
 - 5pm Inspirational Sounds
 - 6pm Heavenbound
 - 7pm Tracey Harris
 - 8pm Linda Hornbuckle, Janice Scroggins and the Youth Gospel Choir
 - 9pm Birthday celebration

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PICNIC BY THE POINTS
SEPT 9 & 10 1995

Oregon Convention Center
 5th Birthday Celebration

Both days -- 12 noon until 9 pm on going music with surprise birthday celebration, children's activities, north and northeast neighborhood food vendors.

\$5 adults, \$3 kids 6-12, under 6 free. Tickets available at all FASTIXX outlets, subject to convenience charges and at the gate the days of the events. Proceeds will benefit The Cultural Restoration Fund. And your car leaves your car at home -- come to the Picnic on Tri-Met, show proof of your fare at the picnic and get a free ride home. The following lines serve the OCC and Rose Quarter Transit Center across the street -- MAX, 1 Greeley, 4 Fessenden, 5, 6, 8 NE 15, 10 NE 33rd, 40 Mocks Crest, 41 Fremont, 63, 70, 77 and 91X.

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NO COOLERS, FOOD, BEVERAGES, RECORDING DEVICES, BOTTLES OR CANS ALLOWED.

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Sunday, Sept. 10 All Gospel Day

- 1pm Portland Mass Choir
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