

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Ready, Set, Create



'Fertile Ground' showcases new works

Fertile Ground, Portland's city wide creative festival, will feature over 50 world premiere works in dance, theater, music and art projects, Friday, Jan. 22 through Feb. 2 at various locations in the city.

Now in its second year, the festival encompassing new genres (dance, comedy, poetry, music, visual art) and over 50 separate world premiere projects to create a rich and inspiring

sneak peek into the newest work being created by Portland artists and performers.

The participants will feature Portland artists from age 8 to 80 (literally) working with organizations as diverse as Whitebird Dance, Artists Repertory Theatre, the Attic Gallery Workshop, Miracle Theatre, Polaris Dance, Portland Center Stage, Simple Machines, Oregon Children's Theatre, Shaking the

Tree, Oregon Ballet Theatre, and the Working Artists Network.

There will be ballet dancers collaborating with poets, karaoke memoirists, playwrights inspired by novels and dancers inspired by schoolhouse indie rock bands and their coming out experience.

SexyNurd, a workshop production one man show created by AuGi Garred, is one of 50 world premiere projects by Portland artists coming to the Fertile Ground Festival, Jan. 22 through Feb. 1.

Festival Passes are available for \$50 through the Fertile Ground website, fertilegroundpdx.org. The pass will grant admission to all 50 plus participating festival projects, plus admission to the after hours parties with the

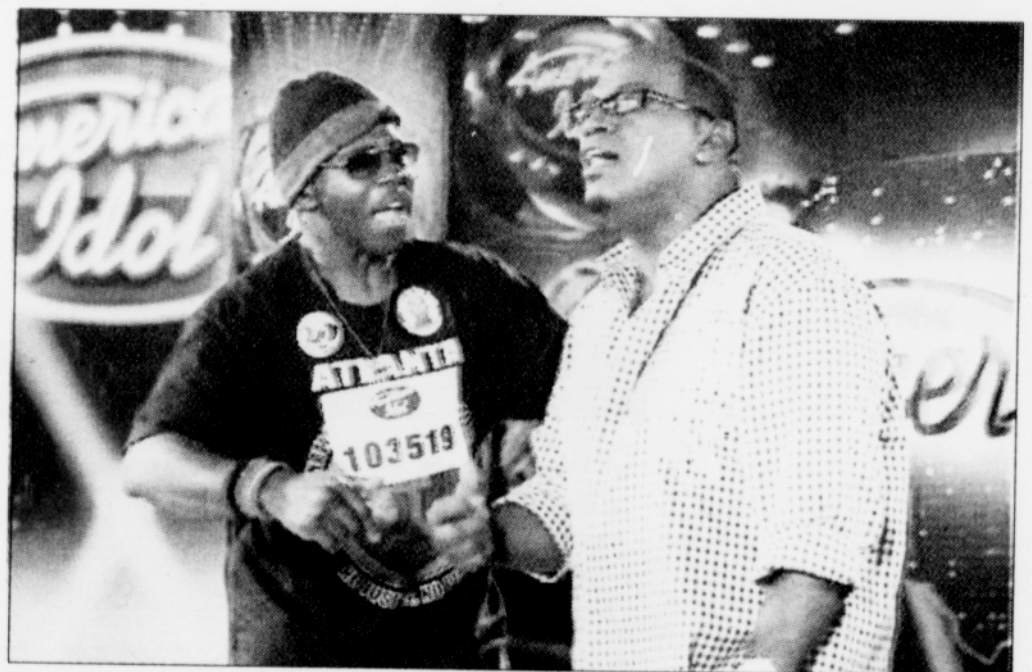
artists taking place at Curious Comedy.

Fertile Ground was launched by the Portland Area Theatre Alliance to provide a platform for Portland theater artists to showcase their commitment to new work.

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'Idol' Performance Steals Show

Pants. On. The. Ground.
With those four words, "General" Larry Platt has gone from "American Idol" reject to Internet sensation.
The 63-year-old civil rights vet-



American Idol judge Randy Jackson joined "Pants on the Ground" singer Larry Platt.

eran performed his original hit at an audition for the show's ninth season, winning over judges Randy Jackson and Kara DioGuardi — and earning a nervous endorsement from incurable skeptic Simon Cowell.

"I have a horrible feeling that song could be a hit," Cowell reluctantly predicted.

Platt's fan base exploded after the Jan. 13 show as his audition hit YouTube and Twitter. Within hours, he had been clicked and tweeted into one of the Internet's most popular topics.

On Thursday at his home in East Atlanta, the e-celebrity seemed dazed by the attention.

His show-stealing performance came at the end of the popular show that featured auditions from Atlanta

taped on Aug. 17.

The spotlight on him, Contestant 103519 began singing — rapping? — the now infamous verse: "Pants on the ground! Pants on the ground! Looking like a fool with your pants on the ground!"

Within moments of chanting the chorus, singer and guest judge Mary J. Blige sank into her chair and howled with laughter, tears filling her eyes. Jackson bobbed his head and smiled. And just as a scowled Cowell tried to wrap up the performance, Platt dropped to the ground in a split.

For Platt, the song was just another one of his causes. He said Thursday that he and his civil rights colleagues sacrificed too much for today's youth to walk around with sagging pants.

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