

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Cast members from the new Cable TV show 'Portlandia' during a scene in Tom McCall Waterfront Park, downtown. The premiere episode airs on Friday, Jan. 21 at 10:30 p.m. on Comcast Channel 503 and Dish Channel 131.

Focusing on the Eccentricities of Portland

Portlandia comedy series debut

If you don't already look the part, get ready to put on your flannels, combat boots, facial piercings, favorite unnatural hair colors and re-live the 90s! Why? Because you will be transported to a land where the 90s still exist in "Portlandia," a comedy series coming to cable and satellite TV.

Created by Fred Armisen, formerly of Saturday Night Live, and Carrie Brownstein, a member of the groups Wild Flag and Sleater-Kinney, the show premieres on Friday, Jan. 21 at 10:30 p.m. on Comcast channel 503 and Dish channel 131.

Presented by the new Independent Film Channel, Portlandia features a 6-part, short-based comedy series where each episode's character-based shorts draw viewers into the creators' dreamy and absurd rendering of the Rose City of Portland.

The show was dreamed up when Armisen and Brownstein were hanging out in Portland this summer, shooting scenes that made them laugh. A few film edits later, Portlandia evolved.

"I love Portlandia. It really represents so much of what I love culturally, musically and in so many other ways," said Armisen.

Portlandia's inhabitants include but are not limited to the owners of a feminist book store; a militant bike messenger; an artsy couple who

attach cut-outs of birds to everything ("put a bird on it!"); an organic farmer who turns out to be a cult leader; an adult hide and seek league; and a punk rock couple negotiating a "safe word" to help govern their love life.

The first episode depicts Armisen and Brownstein meeting with the Mayor of Portland (played by Kyle MacLachlan) who solicits the duo to write a new theme song for the city. This segment features a cameo from the real mayor of Portland (Sam Adams) playing the assistant to MacLachlan's "mayor." Much of the series' original music is written and performed by Armisen and Brownstein.

Crashing the scenes of Portlandia, are an assortment of guest stars including Kyle MacLachlan (Twin Peaks, Sex and The City), Aubrey Plaza (Parks and Recreation), Selma Blair (Legally Blonde, Hellboy), Heather Graham (The Hangover), Edie McClurg (Ferris Bueller's Day Off), Kumail Nanjiani (Michael & Michael Have Issues), Jason Sudeikis (SNL, The Cleveland Show), and Gus Van Sant (Milk). Singer/songwriter Aimee Mann also guest stars, alongside James Mercer (The Shins), and local Portland musicians Jenny Conlee and Colin Meloy (The Decemberists) and Corin Tucker (Sleater-Kinney).



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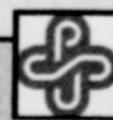
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