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PCC Histories from 50 Years



Theater director returns to his college roots

Portland Community College has teamed up with a celebrated local theater director to produce a play that is about the college's last 50 years.

Jonathan Walters of Hand2Mouth Theatre and PCC theater students conducted a range of interviews with individuals from the college community to produce the interactive play, "Project 50: From the Ground Up."

"We will give you this head-spinning, and dizzying, amount of information from all the lives that came through here and all the history that went on, and tie it all together to a much deeper question," Walters said.

Walters graduated from the PCC Theater Arts Program in the mid-1990s. That's where, he said, he developed the techniques that have won him and Hand2Mouth plenty of awards and grants. Now, he's enjoying sculpting a play that is dedicated to telling stories like his own.

"The fact we are doing a play about the college and to bring back an alum to produce the play couldn't have been better," said Patrick Tangredi, Theatre Arts program director. "More so, he

Portland Community College students audition for the interactive play about PCC's 50 years of serving the community.

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Laundry Maze Exhibit, an Immigrant Story

Speaks to struggles of low-wage work

The Chinese laundry is an iconic thread of the early China-to-US immigration story. It was a business that required little start-up capital or spoken English and was viewed as an undesirable task that could be passed on to immigrants without controversy.

Regardless of professions they may have attained before coming to the U.S., many Chinese immigrants found this particular small business to be one of the few career options open to them in their new country.

In a broad sense, jobs with "laundry" roots still represent work that a wide variety of immigrants find easily accessible regardless of past experience. Dry cleaning and housekeeping services often have a disproportionate number of

immigrants filling their ranks, once again doing difficult, lower wage work that more established Americans are happy to pass on.

Using the Chinese laundry as a jumping-off point, artist Shu-Ju Wang will present *The Laundry Maze* in the Portland Building Installation Space through March 16.

As she began her research, Wang found that immigrants continue to compromise and take on jobs with less prestige as they resettle; those with the most training and the most prestigious jobs in their native countries are generally the most impacted.

But the results were more varied than

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