

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Boss Hogg Christmas Tree Lot



Any Doug Fir 5-7 ft. \$20.00
 Any Grand Fir 5-7 ft. \$20.00
 Any Nobel Fir 5-7 ft. \$30.00

New Location:
 MLK between Bryant and Morgan



Richard Hunt, a noted Native pole carver, touches up the "Welcoming Pole" on the Sylvania Campus of Portland Community College.

Native Carver Restores Totem Pole 'Welcoming Pole' on PCC Campus gets a new life

Gerding Theater at the Armory
 128 NW Eleventh Avenue

503.445.3700

pcs.org

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

**JAN 24-
 MAR 8**

BY YUSSEF EL GUINDI

Threesome

DIRECTED BY
 CHRIS COLEMAN

Portland Community College's prized 30-foot red cedar "Welcoming Pole" at the Sylvania Campus is getting a second life after 13 years of damage from rot, insects and woodpeckers. The totem pole is being refurbished thanks to award-winning Native artist Richard Hunt and Sylvania's Division Dean of Visual and Performing Arts Gene Flores.

The two men have fixed the damage and repainted the totem pole with bright colors to restore it to its previous glory. It will be placed inside a new semi-glass atrium entrance to the College Center at the southwest Portland campus.

Hunt traveled down from his home studio in Victoria, B.C., to lead the effort. PCC's totem pole is the last one he ever carved and the only one of his that resides at an American community college.

"I haven't seen this one in awhile," he said. "I think it's one of my better ones."

Hunt, who began carving at 12 years of age alongside his father Henry, is part of a four-generation carving and art family in northern Vancouver Island. Hunt's grandfather, Chief Mungo Martin, was largely responsible for the resurrection of Northwest Coast carving.

In 1973, he began working at the Royal British Columbia Museum as an apprentice carver under his father and the following year he assumed the duties as chief carver in



Native history is preserved.

the Thunderbird Park Carving program. He remained in that position until he left to become a full-time artist in 1986. Now, much like the generations before him, Hunt has totem poles standing all over the world.

Towering carved cedar totem poles are part of the heritage of the Pacific Northwest Native tribes. They are filled with the images and myths from their world like bear, thunderbird, killer whale, and the like. The PCC "Welcoming Pole" consists of Hunt's family symbols - salmon, bear, eagle, snake and moon. He said his whole family carves, continuing the tradition of one of Canada's most respected carving clans.