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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



'Word.Voice' showcases spoken word pieces directed by young writers who have graduated from PlayWrite, Inc., an intensive, multi-week workshop. You can enjoy a free performance, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Main Stage at the Gerding Theater at the Armory, downtown, as part of Portland's Fertile Ground Festival of New Works.



Actress Chantal DeGroat participates in Fertile Ground.

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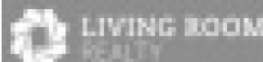


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Fertile Ground for New Works

A line-up of theatre, dance, clown, music and other arts

opens this week on stages, nooks and crannies all over Portland for 11 days from Thursday, Jan. 22 through Sunday, Feb. 1 with a wide variety of new producers, along with several returning companies.

The Portland-grown Fertile Ground Festival of New Works continues to flourish planted in a town of prolific playwrights, abundant actors, innovative dancers, talented designers and adventuresome producers.

Shining out through the winter darkness, Fertile Ground offers an astonishing breadth of creative work for the stage. From seasoned theatre and dance companies, to spunky young art-creators of a variety of ilk, Portland is fertile ground for presenting new work with world premieres or pieces at

every step in development.

In addition to seasoned producers, dozens of emerging young producers, playwrights and choreographers are also choosing to offer their work for this collaborative Portland showcase festival.

"Our city is a special place, a place where creativity thrives and creators are (almost literally) on every corner," said Nicole Lane, Fertile Ground Festival Director. "Likewise, Fertile Ground is an incubator for new works of art creation citywide in theatres, pubs, studios, community centers and galleries all over town in January. This festival is about that phenomenon, that impetus, that undercurrent in our city's culture to create everywhere, anywhere, with abounding diversity."

Full event listings, including all festival ticket information can be accessed through fertilegroundpdx.org. A printed Festival Guide is available in many theatre lobbies around town including Artists Repertory Theatre, Portland Center Stage and PCPA, among others.

Key producers this year include Post5 Theatre, Lakewood Theatre, CoHo Theatre, Action/Adventure Theatre and more, including emerging theatre companies, individual playwrights and choreographers.

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