

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



'Hands Up' delivers a gripping performance by black actors who provide unflinching accounts of what it's like to be black in America.

Red Door Project's 'Hands Up'

What it's like to be black in America

Portland's 5 and The August Wilson Red Door Project present "Hands Up," a production of monologues commissioned by the New Black Fest and directed by Portland playwright and director Kevin Jones that provide unflinching accounts of what it is like to be black in America.

The testaments by six black men and one black woman are gripping, powerful, and stir many emotions.

After each performance, a cast member leads the audience through a frank discussion about race. Performances opened on Monday and continues through Thursday, Oct. 20 at the Winningstad Theatre, downtown. This is an all-ages show and you can reserve four seats for free.

According to Jones, "Hands Up," is a reflection of the diverse reactions that emerged in the black community post Ferguson.

"Yes they are stories of pain, but more profoundly they are stories of remarkable resilience. As the director, I have chosen to focus on the power in that resilience," he said. "What helps any individual to grow

and thrive is being connected to their strengths, gifts and the ability to emerge from whatever life puts on their path."

The August Wilson Red Door Project is committed to changing the racial ecology of Portland through the arts.

Debut Future Soul Artist

A singer-songwriter from the Washington, D.C. area getting good reviews for a new sound described as future soul by bridging contemporary with old school music makes his Portland debut Monday, Oct. 24 at the Wonder Ballroom on North Russell Street.

Christopher Gallant, known better by his last name Gallant, had his debut EP "Zebra" and studio album "Ology" this year. Publications like Billboard and NME labeled him a "breakthrough artist of 2015" and his single "Weight in Gold" debuted on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon to a standing ovation.

Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$16-\$18.



Christopher Gallant

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