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Lauren Steele of Portland portrays 13 different characters in the West Coast premiere of "Queens Girl in the World," a coming-of-age story about a young black girl in the 1960s.

Coming of Age in the Tumultuous 1960s

Portland native stars in one woman show

The West Coast premiere of a charming and funny one-woman show featuring Portland native Lauren Steele is a semi-autobiographical coming-of-age story about a young black girl in the 1960s.

"Queens Girl in the World" follows Jacqueline Marie Butler as she moves from the safety of her sheltered Queens neighborhood in New York to

a new school across town in Greenwich Village, where she is one of only four black students and race suddenly matters.

Steele plays 13 characters, including her Caribbean father, imperious mother, boyfriends and bullies.

Running Thursday, Sept. 5 through Sept. 29 at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City, the Clackamas Repertory Theater production will be directed by Damaris Webb, co-founder and director of The Vanport Mosaic, a community-driven, artist-led non-profit dedicated to presenting, celebrating and preserving the si-

lenced histories of the Pacific Northwest.

To enhance the audience's experience and provide insight into the black experience in 1960s Portland, Clackamas Rep will offer pre- and post-show lectures by Percy Hampton, a founding member of the Portland Chapter of the Black Panthers; Dr. Maude Hines, professor of English and Black Studies at Portland State University; and Dr. Pancho Savery, professor of English and

Tickets may be purchased at clackamasrep.org or by calling 503-594-6047.