

A Opening Production of God's Favorite, by Neil Simon



A comedy of Biblical proportions, loosely based on the Biblical story of Job, "God's Favorite" written by one of the most beloved playwrights in history

A comedy of Biblical proportions, written by one of the most beloved playwrights in history, opens this week with PassinArt Theatre Company's Fall season opening production of "God's Favorite."

Written by Neil Simon, it's the story of a wealthy man suddenly visited by a messenger from God, who sends a series of trials against the man to test his faith; it's loosely based on the Biblical story of Job.

The cast for the production includes: gifted leading man James Dixon, holding on as the family 'patriarch', Joe Benjamin and Shakespearean actor Orion Bradshaw as God's stalwart messenger, Sidney Lipton joined by an ensemble cast.

Director William (Bill) Earl Ray is a multi-talented powerhouse of Portland stages, with acting and directing credits at multiple theater companies across the city. He relishes the chance

to expand PassinArt's repertoire and at the same time interpret mainstream American theater for contemporary audiences rooted in the Black community.

"As I understand the history of PassinArt, "God's Favorite" is completely out of the ordinary for the company," he said. "What it represents for me as the Artistic Associate is that PassinArt: A Theatre Company is quite ambidextrous in our thought process for producing plays for the community."

Ray's perspective comes from years in film and live theater, from popular tv shows and independent movies to major stage productions.

"Neil Simon is one of our country's prolific playwrights of comedy. He can turn tragedy into funny moments to let us laugh at ourselves," Ray said. "At a time where our country is in such disarray – we chose to do "God's Favorite" so laughter

and joy can fill our hearts as we head into November," Ray said. "We need laughter!"

While considered a schtick-filled comedy, don't be fooled; Neil Simon's genius is in his ability to make audiences both laugh and cry. Definitely pack a hanky.

"God's Favorite" is the very first show of PassinArt's 2024-2025 performance season, which includes: Black Nativity, the beloved holiday musical production written by Langston Hughes (Nov. 29-Dec. 15, 2024); and DOT, a dramatic comedy by actor/writer/director Coleman Domingo about one family's attempt to care for an elderly mother who is losing her memory (March 19-April 13, 2025).

The production will be held at the Brunish Theater in Portland. Performances are September 6-29, 2024, 7:30 pm Thursdays-Fridays and 2pm Saturdays-Sundays. Get tickets at www.passinart.org

"Little Campers" Celebrated NICU Reunion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

in our lives, yet one of the most beautiful moments." Saint was delivered at Kaiser Permanente Sunnyside on Sept. 6, 2023, and spent 107 days in the NICU. "The care that Saint received during his stay in the NICU was absolutely incredible. Saint was on a C-pap from birth until he was 36 weeks gestational age. Throughout his stay he also received two blood transfusions. He was on a feeding tube while

in the NICU and was able to come home without it."

Hernandez continues, "Saint just celebrated his first birthday! He is full of life and love. You will always catch him smiling and on the go. He is an extraordinarily strong, smart, active and a very alert boy. It was great having the support of the NICU team because they were there every step of the way, making it easier on our family. Especially while juggling two of Saint's siblings at home and in school."



PASSINART
A THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS

God's Favorite

By Neil Simon

September 6-29, 2024
7:30 pm, Thursdays and Fridays | 2 pm, Saturdays and Sundays

Directed by
William (Bill) Earl Ray

BRUNISH THEATRE
1111 SW Broadway Ave., 4th floor, Portland, OR 97205

Owen Carey PHOTOGRAPHY



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