

Broadway in Portland Revives ‘Pippin’

By Arashi Young
Of *The Skanner News*

The 2015 season of Broadway in Portland brings the circus to town with the revival of the Broadway classic, *Pippin*. The Tony-winning musical tells the tale of a young man searching for the meaning of life. He soon falls in with a circus troupe who guide him on a surreal journey.

The Skanner News spoke with Gabrielle McClinton, who plays the master of ceremonies, the Leading Player. She pushes Pippin to be a player in her show and exacts punishment when he veers away from her.

McClinton spoke about the show, her role and what it means for her to be a performer. Here are excerpts of that interview, edited for space and clarity.

The Skanner News: How is the tour going?

Gabrielle McClinton: It's going great. We just started, this is our third week. We've gone to some

really awesome cities; Chicago, Seattle, now San Diego. We've been in really beautiful places with great weather, it's been really nice.

TSN: You sing, you act and you dance. Which one of these arts do you feel closest to?

GM: I love them all equally, but I started as a dancer. I feel I am a very physical person, I feel very at home in my own body. Dancing came naturally to me. As I grew up and started taking lessons, I got more into singing and acting. There's a lot of acrobatics in the show. We got the opportunity to learn acrobatics and the acrobats had to learn singing and dancing.

TSN: Do you see a connection between his Pippin's search for an exceptional life and those who perform in the theatre?

GM: He's searching for his meaning in life and what it means to be extraordinary. I honestly feel that we are all Pippin — not just people in theater but everybody in



'Pippin' runs Sept. 22-27 at Keller Auditorium in Portland.

general. Everybody who comes to the show is going to see themselves in the different journeys that Pippin goes on.

My character, the Leading Player, it's her job to guide

Pippin through all these different aspects of life war and love and lust and sex and politics. I think that every person can look at all these different parts of life and see parts of themselves in it. It makes you question things in your life and about yourself.

TSN: Some productions of Pippin have been criticized for being sanitized, compared to Bob Fosse's original direction. Is this revival closer to that production?

GM: We stay very true to what Bob Fosse created, but it is definitely a completely

different production because of the added an element of circus. Actually, Bob Fosse was really interested in the circus, as well.

Director Diane Paulus and Gypsy Snider, who is in

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Black PFLAG Runs Book Drive for Incarcerated LGBT Youth

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Throughout the month of September, the PFLAG Portland Black Chapter is collecting reading materials for incarcerated queer youth. The organization is looking for literature from Queer and Transgender authors with a focus on writers of color.

PFLAG Youth Coordinator Leila Hofstein said the Oregon Youth Authority approached her for guidance in helping queer and transgender youth. The book drive is the first step in a plan to provide support and mentorship to these young adults.

Hofstein said it was a big step for the OYA to even acknowledge the different sexual orientations and gender identities

of their wards.

"We saw a big institution trying to push and make that change and we wanted to hop on board and keep that momentum going," she said.

Organizers are looking for zines, books, magazines as well as reference materials that would enable youth to build skills to help them transition to life after incarceration. These books would include things like the classic career guidance manual *What Color is Your Parachute?* and memoirs from others who have experienced incarceration.

These books and magazines can be dropped off at three Portland locations:

- **Food Fight Grocery** - 1217 SE Stark St.

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Stacy and Wilbeck presents

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SEPT. 12
11 A.M.-6 P.M.

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- LINCOLN/SW 3RD**
 - Live music, food carts and vendor booths
 - Catch the Orange prize wheel, souvenir photo
- SOUTH WATERFRONT/SW MOODY**
 - Tilikum Village: drumming, dancing and more, hosted by The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
 - Free healthy treats, kids' activities and food/beverages
- OMS/SE WATER**
 - Live Portland Opera performances + activities inside
 - See inside the new All Classical 89.9 FM studio
 - Fun giveaways and free wi-fi
 - BridgePort beer garden featuring Orange Line IPA
 - Vintage steam engines at Oregon Rail Heritage Center
- CLINTON/SE 12TH**
 - Live music, food carts and vendor booths
 - Salt & Straw booth featuring special-edition Olive Oil & Burnt Orange Marmalade ice cream
- SE BYBEE**
 - Complimentary bucket of golf balls and clubs at Eastmoreland Golf Course
- SE TACOMA/JOHNSON CREEK**
 - Vendor booths
 - Claudia the Chinook salmon (climb inside a 29-foot salmon!)
- MILWAUKIE/MAIN**
 - Beer garden and food carts
 - Block party and live music showcase featuring Norman Sylvester, The Waxwings, Alan Jones Sextet and Bobby Torres Ensemble
 - Dunk tank + kids' train rides, obstacle course and climbing wall
 - Milwaukie Farmers Market
- SE PARK**
 - Live music, food carts and vendor booths
 - Catch the Orange prize wheel, souvenir photo
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