Local Playhouse Is “Uniquely Portland”

“We do professional theater in a neighborhood setting,” explains Portland Playhouse Artistic Director Brian Weaver, comparing his six-year-old theater company to several award-winning restaurants located in close-in Portland neighborhoods.

“We may be a professional, cutting-edge, artistically forward theater company that attracts a wide and diverse audience, but we’re also your neighborhood playhouse,” he adds. “It’s a uniquely Portland thing.”

Portland Playhouse’s home is a picturesque former church just blocks away from Sabin at the corner of Northeast Prescott and 6th Avenue in the King Neighborhood. Currently running through November 2 is August Wilson’s Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning “The Piano Lesson,” a story about an African American family in 1936 Pittsburgh struggling to overcome historic injustices while trying to create a better future. And on December 3,

3 Green Sisters: Giving Life to Unwanted Fabric

Sabin resident Suzanne Kinavey described the beginnings of her business making purses, bags, tablecloths, table runners, and more from upcycled, repurposed fabrics as “kind of an accident.” In 2000, after 20 years owning and managing a business brokering employee benefits, Suzanne was visiting her daughter in Portland when she went into Calamity Jane’s, a local store selling incredible handmade bags. Suzanne immediately thought of her sister Jennie, a talented seamstress, and wondered if she might be interested in making handmade bags, too. Suzanne explained that she was also at a turning point, looking for a job that would “help her spirit” after so many years in the corporate world.

The business that Suzanne conceived of back in 2000 is now called 3 Green Sisters and, as the name suggests, it has grown to include not only Suzanne’s sister Jennie, but her other sister Linda and one of Suzanne’s nieces. In addition, Suzanne has hired two local seamstresses to help with the orders.

As for the “green” in the name, that comes from the sisters’ use of what they describe as “fabrics which have had a prior life.” These fabrics include scraps and samples from upholstery, drapery and interior decorating shops, vintage clothing, old draperies and linens, car upholstery, and even old velvet from the pews in a Kentucky church. The sisters use the scraps and their own patterns to design one-of-a-kind items that they sell primarily through their website, www.3greensisters.com.

The business is a second career for the sisters, but they come by it naturally, as they Continued on page 2
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the theater will reprise last season’s popular holiday production of “A Christmas Carol,” which won a Drammy Award from the Portland Civic Theater Guild for “best play of the season.”

Similar to the dramatic plots it presents each season, Portland Playhouse has seen its share of ups and downs over the past six years. It was a leap of faith when Weaver and his wife, Nikki, moved to Portland from Boston — along with Weaver’s brother Michael who moved from Virginia — to start a theater company in a 1903 church. After its first opening night, when just two audience members came, the theater built a fiercely loyal audience, only to briefly lose its venue in 2012 over a zoning dispute, the Playhouse persevered. Today, the theater has a 10-year lease on the church and an amazing list of generous benefactors that include foundations and some of Portland’s well-known movers and shakers.

Just about half the theater’s actors and designers are local, with the other half coming from around the country, and in some cases, bringing with them international acclaim.

“Some of the artists who perform here have credits from big-name theaters across the country, including on Broadway, as well as in films and on TV,” Weaver says.

In addition to acting in a number of Playhouse productions, Nikki Weaver is also the company’s education director and responsible for guiding the Playhouse’s educational programs. Among them is the Fall Festival of Shakespeare, a collaboration between the Playhouse, five area high schools, and two middle schools. Each school hosts a three-month residency program with two professional directors, culminating in a 75-minute student production of a Shakespeare play at their respective schools. On November 3, middle school actors also will perform their plays at the Playhouse, and on November 22, high school actors also will present their plays at the Winningstad Theatre in downtown Portland.

Brian Weaver is enthusiastic about the Playhouse’s upcoming seventh season of plays, especially “The Piano Lesson,” which is the sixth of August Wilson’s ten plays, collectively known as the American Century Cycle, that the Playhouse has produced.

“I’m excited about it,” he adds. “I’ve been watching some of the rehearsals. The actors are just killing it. It’s going to be a truly fantastic theatrical experience.”

For more information about Portland Playhouse, upcoming productions and purchasing tickets, visit www.portlandplayhouse.org or call 503-488-5822.

— Susan Goracke
Fruit Tree Care at Sabin Orchard
Join us for the next Work & Learn Party at the Sabin Community Orchard and learn how to assess fruit trees for pest and disease problems in the fall. All are welcome, no experience necessary. Come meet your neighbors and help take care of this special Sabin spot!

When: Sunday, October 19, 2–4 p.m.
Where: Sabin Community Orchard, N.E. Mason between 18th & 19th 
RSVP: gareth@portlandfruit.org

Sabin Community Potluck
Mark your calendars: SCA’s fall general meeting is a Family-Friendly Community Potluck. Come spend an evening with neighbors, share hearty food, and learn what your community association is up to this year.

When: Monday, November 3, 2014
Time: 6–7:30 p.m. Potluck (5:30 p.m. SCA Business Meeting)

Bring your family and a dish or beverage to share at SCA’s fall general meeting. This will replace our regularly scheduled board meeting on November 10.

Walk + Bike to School Day
Sabin School will participate in International Walk + Bike to School Day on October 8 with over 4 million kids around the world to take strides toward healthier bodies and a healthier environment. There will be swag for those who walk, bike, scooter, skateboard, or otherwise roll to school, and hot chocolate for the early arrivals. Even if you are too far to walk from home, park four blocks from school and walk the rest of the way. Lace up your walking shoes or put on that helmet and join the fun!

City’s Bicycle Advisory Committee Seeks Members
The City of Portland’s Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) is seeking new members. BAC has advised city staff and elected officials on matters related to bicycling since the 1970s. Members are appointed to three-year terms and meet monthly to review and make recommendations on planning and policy documents affecting bicycling, funding priorities for bicycle-related projects, and designs for specific bikeways. All adult residents of the Portland metropolitan area who have an interest in promoting bicycling for transportation and recreation are eligible to apply. If interested, you can find more information here: www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/37435. Deadline for applications is October 24. Contact Roger Geller (roger.geller@portlandoregon.gov, 503-823-7671) with any questions.

Sabin School Fundraiser at Fremont Pizzicato
All day on Tuesday, October 14, mention “Sabin” at the 4217 N.E. Fremont Street Pizzicato location and the store will donate 20 percent of those sales to Sabin School. Stop by for lunch, grab a pizza for dinner, or order pizza for the office to support our school!

Sabin Orchard Liaison Needed
The Sabin Orchard, a partnership between the Sabin Community Association and the Portland Fruit Tree Project, needs a liaison. The liaison serves on a team that provides leadership for the orchard. It's an incredibly rewarding role (requiring about five hours a month), because you not only get to see a difference we're making in the orchard, but you interact with 15-20 cheerful volunteers who come together to improve our community. Please contact Clay Veka (contact information on p.1) if you are interested in this great opportunity.

King Farmers Market Going Strong through Weekend before Thanksgiving
If you haven’t had a chance to visit Sabin’s neighboring King Portland Farmers Market this summer, now is your chance. The market, located at Northeast 7th and Wygant between Northeast Alberta and Prescott in the parking lot adjacent to King School, is open every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through November 23.

For anyone who is counting, that means the King Market will be selling local fruits and vegetables up until the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Portland Farmers Market’s sister nonprofit, Farmers Market Fund, also operates Fresh Exchange, a matching program for SNAP recipients at the King market.

In addition to local fruit, veggies, eggs, meat, cheeses, freshly prepared foods, and more, the King market includes fun Market Play Zone activities for kids, such as make your own Mr. Potato Head and food-themed art projects. The market also features musical entertainment. For a list of vendors and the music schedule, see the King Portland Farmers Market website at www.portlandfarmersmarket.org/index.php/markets/king/.
President’s Message
by Clay Veka

Dear Sabin Residents:

If I were to use one word to describe Sabin, it would be “community.” Walking our streets this summer, I’ve loved coming across block parties, passing neighbors talking with each other in their front yards, and seeing neighbors coming together over yard sales and gardening, at playgrounds, at many of our local businesses, and at our Sabin Community Orchard.

Our Sabin Community Orchard, the special block of undeveloped land on Northeast Mason Street between 18th and 19th avenues, is a lovely orchard that needs a new orchard liaison (about four to five hours/month). This is a great community-building role. Delivering SCA newsletters is also a great way to get to know your neighbors. If you have even a small inkling that you’d like to contribute to Sabin in this way, call me and let’s talk (503-961-3702).

Another way to come together in celebration is by joining Sabin School in International Walk + Bike to School Day on Wednesday, October 8. If you are a parent or caregiver, this is the day to walk or roll to school with your student. Arrive early for hot chocolate, prizes, and conversation!

And finally, don’t miss our Sabin Community Potluck on Monday, November 3 from 6–7:30 p.m. (see Sabin Briefs for details). The gathering is an opportunity to share food and company when the days of impromptu-front-yard-gatherings have passed. We’d love for you to join!

— Clay

Upcycled Purses and More

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are from a long line of seamstresses starting with their great-grandmother Cecilia. Cecilia supported her family by sewing fabulous dresses for the elite ladies of San Francisco after her husband, Suzanne’s great grandfather, died of scarlet fever. Suzanne and her sisters learned to sew from their grandmother, who made all of the girls’ clothes growing up. The sisters incorporated this history into the website, which includes a slide show with pictures of their mother, grandmother, and great-grandma Cecilia.

Now Suzanne and her sisters (who live in California) are carrying on the family tradition while having fun and staying close by designing and sewing unique, upcycled, handmade products. And because Suzanne is a Sabin resident, she is willing to offer a community discount of 15 percent to other Sabin residents. Just mention the code “SABIN” if you visit the website and fall in love with something you see.

— Kyann Kalin

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