



PortFringe Festival Welcomes Performers from Across U.S.

2016 PortFringe artists hail from California, New York, Georgia & beyond

PORTLAND, Maine — The PortFringe theater festival, celebrating its fifth birthday in 2016, is pleased to welcome a number of non-local artists to this year's eight-day extravaganza.

In addition to artists from around Maine, the PortFringe 2016 lineup includes acts from California, Georgia, New York, and Pennsylvania. Several of these shows have been or will be performed at other fringe festivals across the United States.

“We are excited to increasingly be considered a stop on the U.S. ‘fringe circuit,’” said Stacey Koloski, a founding PortFringe committee member. “With artists coming from around the country to present work in PortFringe, audiences have a unique opportunity to see cutting-edge work from Maine and beyond, in intimate venues and at low ticket prices.”

Acts coming from afar for this year's festival include:

- **BEACHED, AN ISLAND TRAGEDY** | Mainland Productions, Brooklyn, NY + Bar Harbor, ME | A companion piece to *Holler* (PortFringe '14), is loosely adapted from *King Lear* and set on a tiny island in Downeast Maine—the kind of island you can only reach by mailboat. With a mix of sea shanties and original music, *Beached* is a play about fathers and daughters, fathers and sons, brothers and sisters, the pursuit of art, and the deep-felt fear of growing old. | [Portland Stage Mainstage](#)
- **PIECE OF THAT CAKE** | Riva Rubenoff, Philadelphia, PA | A one-woman, stand up comedy, wholly ridiculous excursion into the great, wide world of street harassment. | [Portland Stage Storefront](#)
- **MAMALOGS** | Debbie From, Cleveland, GA | Prepare to be transported on a humorous and heart-warming journey skirting around the topic of motherhood. Whether you're a mother or you have a mother, come meet an array of characters who share intimate details reflecting varied perspectives on the vastness of parenting and life. A series of adult-themed monologues crafted from a combination of interviews, stories and personal experiences. | [Portland Stage Storefront](#)
- **PLUNGE** | Breathe Theater Company, New York City | A young girl and her teacher battle their demons together. Who said learning to swim was easy? Born out of a fascination with water, PLUNGE blends traditional solo performance with aerial silks for a lighthearted look at childhood and courage. | [Geno's Rock Club](#)
- **GARBAGE** | Megan Bandelt, New York City | In a constant ricochet between disorder and disease, bubbly M brings us through her story of surviving emotional trauma, having blonde hair and how to perfectly stack pill bottles. With the aid of trusty rainbow socks and music, “Garbage” is a story of learning not to carry it all with you. The Garbage team is a collective of theater-makers from New York City who are active members of the downtown theatre scene, academia and general tomfoolery. | [Portland Stage Storefront](#)

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- **THE PENIS PAPERS by JOSHUA JAMES** | Constructive Outrage Productions, New York City | An up-close comic examination of what it means to grow up with Penis, the first time you touch it, the first time someone else touches it, the first time it touches you. Everything you really need to know in order to own and operate a penis. | [Geno's Rock Club](#)
- **THE DISTANCE PROJECT: POCKETS, KNAPSACKS, HEARTS AND HEADS** | Mal Cherifi, Philadelphia, PA | Distance is an amount of space between two points, two people and two realities. It can be slow but sometimes it's worth keeping...Don't take a pee break, listen to some crappy pop music and question the questionable. Ignore the hazard signs, get caught up in the wanderlust. | [Portland Stage Studio Theater](#)
- **CHRISTMAS IN BAKERSFIELD** | Les Kurkendaal, West Hollywood, CA | This is the story of Les and Mike. When Mike brings his boyfriend Les home for Christmas to meet his Conservative Caucasian Right Wing Republican parents, he realizes that he forgot to tell them one very important thing, that Les is black. | [Portland Stage Storefront](#)
- **WHALES** | Hit the Lights Theatre Company, New York City | Inspired by Moby Dick, game shows, punk rock and documentaries, Hit the Lights! Theater Co. invites you to catch a glimpse at the world that brought us a certain legendary white whale and the men that hunt him. | [Empire](#)
- **CAMP SMILE POWER: CURING ANGER ONE SMILE AT A TIME** | Amanda Erin Miller, New York City | Fifteen-year-old Kevin was sent to Camp Smile Power, an anger management camp, on a plea deal. His crime? Throwing a rock at Mayor DiBlasio's head. Camp director Joanne (a broom puppet) hosts this end-of-summer event in which Kevin presents what he's learned about managing his anger, hopefully without cracking. | [Geno's Rock Club](#)

(See www.portfringe.com for individual show dates and times.)

"I love PortFringe," said Sam Plattus, of Maineland Productions, based in Brooklyn and Bar Harbor. The company's *Holler: An Appalachian Tragedy* was popular at PortFringe 2014 and they'll be back producing *Beached, An Island Tragedy* in this year's festival. "It's a real community of artists making and seeing theater in one of my favorite cities in the world."

Interviews with out-of-town artists can be arranged.

For more information, visit www.portfringe.com or follow us on Facebook/Twitter/Instagram.