



“HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!” PortFringe Festival Turns 5 in 2016

Eight-day party features 12+ performances
across Portland’s Arts District

PORTLAND, Maine — The fifth annual PortFringe theater festival will take place June 18-26, 2016, featuring more than 120 genre-defying performances at venues across Portland’s Arts District.

The festival, a high-energy celebration of theater arts run entirely by volunteers, was founded in 2012 and has grown steadily since its inception. PortFringe 2015 generated \$30,000 in ticket sales, all of which was funneled directly back to PortFringe artists.

The PortFringe 2016 lineup includes original plays, experimental works, multimedia performances, dance, comedy, and musical theater. More than 50 individuals and companies will present over 120 shows during the week. PortFringe shows are an hour or less, and start times are staggered, encouraging attendees to take in as much of the fun as they can!

“PortFringe is Portland’s best kept secret — but those are the famous last words of any city’s secrets,” said Mariah Bergeron, a founding PortFringe committee member. “The festival showcases an enormous number of local and national performances, hidden in rock clubs, on tiny stages, and also huge theaters. Plus, all the proceeds go back to the artists, which is relatively unheard of. At a time when it’s harder and harder for artists to afford to create experimental work, PortFringe provides a platform and support for just that kind of innovation.”

PortFringe artists hail from around Maine and beyond. Several are involved in the “fringe circuit,” having taken their shows to fringe festivals around the country. PortFringe is a member of the U.S. and Canadian Associations of Fringe Festivals.

Interviews with organizers and participating artists can be arranged.

PortFringe 2016 venues are Portland Stage Studio, Storefront, and Mainstage theaters (25A Forest Ave); Geno’s Rock Club (625 Congress St); and Empire (575 Congress St). PortFringe Central is located in the Portland Stage lobby.

###

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