



Portland Actors Conservatory

Press Contact: Jessica Wallenfels
jessica@actorsconservatory.com
W 503 274 1717
C 503 453 4497

PORTLAND ACTORS CONSERVATORY LAUNCHES FULLTIME DAY PROGRAM SEPT. 23

*In 25th Year, Professional Actor Training School
Migrates Nationally Accredited Program from Evening to Day*

PORTLAND, ORE. – Sept. 14, 2009 – Portland Actors Conservatory, the premiere school for professional actor training in the Pacific Northwest, will migrate its nationally accredited two-year professional actor training program from evening classes to a fulltime day program starting Sept. 23.

The Conservatory's accreditation with the National Association of Schools of Theatre in 2008 has elicited growth in both enrollment and financial aid, and allows transferable credits to and from a four-year University. As a result, administration opted to split the school's two major offerings to accommodate future growth of both the two-year professional actor training program and the ongoing evening Studio classes.

"Making Conservatory studies the central focus of a student's life is of the utmost importance for professional actor training," said Beth Harper, Portland Actors Conservatory artistic director. "It also utilizes our building more efficiently and creates space for a growth leap we feel confident in taking."

Conservatory enrollment has grown 41% over the past year and 33% from three years ago. This year's Conservatory has a total enrollment of 24 students, the largest in the Conservatory's history. Student interest continues to broaden internationally; the Class of 2011 includes international students from Greece and Australia.

A fulltime day program comes in the Conservatory's 25th anniversary year, kicking off a yearlong celebration of its 25th anniversary with monthly events embracing community and excellence in actor training.

1436 SW Montgomery Street Portland, OR 97201
(503) 274-1717 (503) 274-0511 (fax)
Email: painfo@actorsconservatory.com
www.actorsconservatory.com

Founded in 1985 by artistic director Beth Harper as an acting school in a former Hollywood dentist's office, Portland Actors Conservatory grew in 1994 to offer a Two Year Conservatory program and has since graduated over 150 alumni as well having passed close to 2,000 students through its evening studio classes.

ABOUT PORTLAND ACTORS CONSERVATORY

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, Portland Actors Conservatory is the premiere school for professional actor training in the Pacific Northwest. Artistic director Beth Harper leads the Conservatory's multiple offerings including its fulltime, Two Year Professional Training Program, ongoing Studio Class offerings, and the Summer on Stage youth theatre program. Portland Actors Conservatory provides the highest standard in actor training with distinguished faculty including Beth Harper, Connor Kerns, Philip Cuomo, and Michael Mendelson among others. The Conservatory is located near Portland, Ore.'s city center in the historic Firehouse Theatre, housing an upstairs studio space as well an intimate 70-seat theatre. Portland Actors Conservatory annually produces a three show season featuring its second year students working alongside professional guest artists, in addition to two student showcases. Portland Actors Conservatory is Oregon's only independent professional actor training school accredited with the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

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