



Portland Actors Conservatory

The premiere school for professional actor training in the Pacific Northwest.

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

PORTLAND ACTORS CONSERVATORY PRESENTS ALUMNI PANEL ON PROFESSIONAL ACTING CAREER PATHS

'Life After PAC' Panel Precedes Alumni Performance 'Stay for the Cake'

PORTLAND, ORE. – Oct. 22, 2009 – Portland Actors Conservatory, the premiere school for professional actor training in the Pacific Northwest, will present a panel discussion titled "Life After PAC," illuminating how Conservatory graduates navigate professional careers after completing their training. The panel will feature alumni Leanne Littrell (*Leverage*), Joe Healy (Northwest Classical Theatre), and Maria Aparo ("Pride and Prejudice") on Saturday, Nov. 7 at 6:30pm before alumni performance group The Montgomery Street Players' "Stay for the Cake" 7:30pm performance.

WHO: Portland Actors Conservatory alumni Leanne Littrell, Joe Healy and Maria Aparo
WHAT: A panel discussion on "Life After PAC"
WHEN: **Saturday, Nov. 7 at 6:30pm preceding "Stay for the Cake" at 7:30pm**
WHERE: Portland Actors Conservatory
1436 SW Montgomery St.
Portland, OR 97201
COST: Panel discussion is free and open to the public; "Stay for the Cake," an evening of one-acts by the Montgomery Street Players, is \$10.

Please reserve seat for panel discussion by emailing pacinfo@actorsconservatory.com. Tickets for "Stay for the Cake" can be purchased online at actorsconservatory.com.

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Stay for the Cake represents all-original work written, directed, designed and performed by The Montgomery Street Players, a new performance group comprised of Portland Actors Conservatory alumni. *Stay for the Cake* runs October 30 through November 15 at the Conservatory's Firehouse Theatre.

Each of the three plays in *Stay for the Cake* explores multiple aspects of the creative life. In *Phyllis Hartnoll's Final Lesson*, our heroine spins her last lecture as professor at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, but gets most of it wrong. The Grimm Brothers take a break from folk tales in *Donnerstrasse* to write a pop song that will become popular one hundred years later – and a lawyer in a red hood tries to sort out the resulting legal mess. Wrapping up the evening, a character based on philanthropist Paul Graham instructs the audience on constructive disagreement in *How to Have an Argument*. The existential crisis that interrupts him brings about an exploration of the creative process, gratuitous accents and cake for all.

Founded in 2009, The Montgomery Street Players is a performance group comprised of graduates from the conservatory's professional actor training program. They will promote *Stay for the Cake* on the Oregon Cultural Trust's Day of Culture, October 8 at Pioneer Courthouse Square.

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.

ABOUT THE MONTGOMERY STREET PLAYERS

The Montgomery Street Players is a performance group comprised of conservatory graduates from the classes of 2007 (Sarah Farrell), 2008 (Maria Aparo, Elizabeth Calhoun, Robby Lundergan, Tom Mounsey, Scott Rogers) and 2009 (Vinnie Duck, Linda Merican, Phoebe Smallwood). *Stay for the Cake* is the first production to be written, designed, directed and performed by the group.

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