



NEWS RELEASE

August 3, 2009

For immediate release

Photos available

Contact: Michael Griggs
(503) 288-2456
info@portlandtaiko.org
www.portlandtaiko.org

What: *Oregon Lost & Found* and *Taiko Show & Tell*

Who: Portland Taiko, Asian American Drum Performance

When: *Oregon Lost & Found* September 19, 8pm and September 20, 2pm
Taiko Show & Tell, Children's Matinee, September 19, 1pm

Where: Newmark Theatre, Portland Center for the Performing Arts, 1111 SW Broadway, Portland

Tickets: *Oregon Lost & Found*: \$21.75-\$29.75 + service charges

Taiko Show & Tell: \$11.75-\$17.75 + service charges

Tickets on sale online at www.portlandtaiko.org, in person at the PCPA box office, or by phone 800.982.2787. For group tickets call 503.288.2456.

Season Supported by: The Collins Foundation, James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, Kinsman Foundation, Oregon Cultural Trust, Spirit Mountain Community Fund, Target

Media Sponsor: PosterGarden

PORTLAND TAIKO SEASON FINALE RUMBLES THE NEWMARK THEATRE IN *OREGON LOST & FOUND*

After sold out shows at their previous three concerts, Asian American drum ensemble Portland Taiko rumbles the stage one more time in 2009 in its gala 15th Anniversary Season finale concerts. Guest artists Ann Ishimaru and Zack Semke return to take the stage with the ensemble, with visuals and a live art performance by artist Rick Bartow. *Oregon Lost & Found* and the children's matinee, *Taiko Show & Tell*, premiere September 19 and 20 at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, Newmark Theatre.

In honor of Oregon's 150th anniversary coinciding with Portland Taiko's 15th birthday, PT sought out the traditions and stories of the people who lived on this land before Oregon became a state. To celebrate the contributions of those cultures, the ensemble embarked on a unique artistic collaboration with contemporary Native American artist, Rick Bartow. Bartow is an award winning, nationally celebrated artist, whose work is shown in Portland at the Froelick Gallery. Bartow and Portland Taiko seek to explore the convergence of traditional and modern cultures that make Oregon's journey through 150 years of statehood unique.

Asian American
Drum Performance

3230 NE Columbia Blvd

Portland, OR

97211

ph: (503) 288-2456

fax: (503) 288-2460

email:
info@portlandtaiko.org

As they worked together this season, the artists found similarities in aspects of their different cultures. They were inspired by the oral traditions and stories of the mischievous characters that abound in both Native American and Japanese folk tales. Trickster characters appear in central creation mythology, profound morality tales, and in silly anecdotes.

These tales of tricksters inspired the artists to write a new story that will make its premiere in *Oregon Lost & Found*, with original masks created by Rick Bartow. Says Producing Director, Teresa Enrico, "This is a story of what can happen to someone who has lived their life and lost much: their family, time, and memories. To them it looks like there is not much to live for or to look forward to, but sometimes, something can happen and there are things that can be found which provide some kind of hope."

The songs of *Oregon Lost and Found* reflect these moments of loss and hope. "*Slipping through My Fingers* is inspired by the loss of time and memories that can slip away, sometimes without us knowing, other times with a sense of urgency connected to the loss," says the song's composer and PT's Artistic Director Michelle Fujii. "Another piece, *Korekara* which means 'from now on' looks to the future while paying homage to the taiko pioneers of the past."

In addition to the design elements and masks Rick Bartow is creating, he will also take the stage with a "live art" creation during the course of the program. Starting with one or more blank canvases (in his work he often works on 3 canvases at the same time), he will paint as Portland Taiko plays, and the audience will see a new work of art emerge.

Taiko Show & Tell, Portland Taiko's popular annual children's matinee also takes the stage on September 19, at 1pm at the Newmark Theatre. Weaving elements from *Oregon Lost & Found* with audience interaction and education, it gives the entire family a chance to enjoy explosive taiko rhythms and hilarious storytelling antics.

Oregon Lost & Found premieres September 19 at 8pm and September 20 at 2pm at the Newmark Theatre, Portland Center for the Performing Arts. *Taiko Show & Tell* plays September 19 at 1pm. Tickets are on sale online at www.portlandtaiko.org, in person at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts box office, or by phone 800.982.2787.

Guest Artist Bio

Rick Bartow's tribal affiliation and heritage is Wiyot of Northern California. Transformation mythology, both personal and shared are at the center of many of his works. He has received many honors, such as a solo exhibit at The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (New York, 2003), The Eiteljorg Museum's Fellowship for Native American Fine Art (Indianapolis, 2001), a year-long installation in the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden at The White House (1997-98) a Flintridge Foundation Fellowship (2001-02) and an interview on National Public Radio with Ketzell Levine (2003). Bartow collaborated with Master Printmaker Seiichi Hiroshima (Salem, 2006) at the Bush Barn Art Center.

See more of Rick's work in *Snake Dance* at the Froelick Gallery, 714 NW Davis, September 1 to 26, or visit www.FroelickGallery.com.

#