



NEWS RELEASE

June 25, 2009

For immediate release

Photos available

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What: Free First Thursday performance

Who: Portland Taiko, Asian American Drum Performance

When: July 2, 6:30pm

Where: US Custom House lot at NW Davis and Broadway

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

Media Sponsor: PosterGarden

FREE OUTDOOR PORTLAND TAIKO PERFORMANCE BEFORE THEIR SOLD OUT ROOFTOP SHOWCASE, *TRICKSTER TALES*

Asian American drum performance ensemble Portland Taiko is going outside to play for First Thursday, offering a free outdoor performance in the US Custom House parking lot on the corner of NW Davis and Broadway on July 2 at 6:30pm.

The outdoor performance precedes their sold out rooftop event *Trickster Tales*, previewing the company's artistic collaboration with contemporary Native American artist Rick Bartow. Portland Taiko and Bartow are working together on visual design, set pieces, and a new story to premiere at *Oregon Lost & Found*, September 19 and 20 at the Newmark Theatre. The artists explore Japanese and Native American folklore's mischievous animals and characters and the tricky games they play. *Trickster Tales* is cosponsored by Froelick Gallery. The event features musical performances by Bartow and Portland Taiko and shows July 2 at 8pm on the DeSoto Building Rooftop at 724 NW Davis Street.

Portland Taiko's 2009 season partnership with Bartow continues the tradition of artistic collaboration in their work. The ensemble blends and innovates the rhythms of taiko with a myriad of artistic genres to create their unique fusion of thunderous beats, flowing melodies, colorful visuals, and expressive dance movement. This year marks Portland Taiko's 15th anniversary, with sold out performances at both of their spring "reunion" concerts. In August the group will also celebrate the release of their 3rd CD, *Rhythms of Change*.

Tickets for their 15th Anniversary season finale concert, *Oregon Lost & Found*, on September 19 and 20 are on sale now at www.portlandtaiko.org, in person at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts box office, or by phone at (800) 982-2787. Tickets for the Portland Taiko 15th anniversary cast party, Detention Taiko Style! September 20 7pm are on sale at www.portlandtaiko.org, in person at the Hollywood Theatre Box Office, or by phone (503) 205-0715.

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