Directed by Kevin Jones, CEO and Founder of the August Wilson Red Door Project, and a critically acclaimed actor and director, *Hands Up* is a set of seven monologues originally commissioned by The New Black Fest in New York City.

Jones said he wanted to bring *Hands Up* to Portland because of the artistic quality of the piece and because it aligns so well with the Red Door mission, which is to change the racial ecology of Portland through the arts. “Portland has a healthy natural environment,” he said, “but it has a lot of work to do to create a healthier racial or social environment, a city where everyone can thrive.”

He begins every performance of *Hands Up* by saying to the audience: “We’re not asking for your agreement or your opinion. We’re asking you to understand that these are the real-life

**ART NOTES**

A publication by the Regional Arts & Culture Council for the Portland metropolitan area

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**FEATURE**

Using theatre to change the racial ecology of Portland

By Bonnie Ratner, August Wilson Red Door Project

How *Hands Up* is having a major impact on Portland audiences

Five thousand Portlanders have seen *Hands Up* in the past year.
experiences of thoughtful, law-abiding human beings over a lifetime. This repetitious has infiltrated the psyche of the African American culture. So, watch and experience it from that perspective. And then let’s talk.”

Then the lights go out, and an actor stands on the stage and speaks some truth. The audience sits in the dark, and through the rite that still gives theatre much of its potency, a community emerges with a common purpose: to listen, to learn, to feel. When the production is over, Red Door Founders Kevin Jones and Lesli Mones ask a simple question: “How do you feel?” Not what is your racial analysis or what have you read on the subject, but simply, “How do you feel?” And from that simple truth, said Jones, “We begin to heal.” Audience members agree, calling the experience “transformative” and “unforgettable” and “necessary.”

When Hands Up first opened, it played to about 50 people, but it didn’t take long before audiences reached 300. Those audiences were diverse in terms of race, ethnicity, age and class – an uncommon mix for Portland and a demonstration of changing the social ecology by “mixing it up” for shared experiences.

Hands Up has had a major impact on Portland audiences. Jones thinks this impact is possible in theatre in a way that is not available in traditional diversity, equity and inclusion trainings because the artistic experience permeates audience consciousness. “As a diversity consultant and theatre professional for over thirty years, I can tell you that theatre is a much more effective way to have impact,” he said. Jones added that the difference lies in what happens between actors and audiences. “Theatre experiences can be provoked and disturbed, but they are also protected. As an audience member, I can watch someone get shot on stage and have an experience of that shooting and I can accept it, question it, contemplate it, learn from it—all simultaneously.”

The philanthropic community responded to the success and potential of Hands Up. RACC, Multnomah County, The Collins Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, Oregon Community Foundation and the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation all have contributed to Hands Up’s success.

Hands Up is a different theatre model. Community partners host performances, engage their constituencies, and help facilitate talkbacks. Significantly, the Red Door has performed Hands Up for the Portland Police Department and engaged in productive conversations revealing multiple perspectives. Other partners include the NAACP, YWCA, Wieden and Kennedy, Portland State University and funders. Kevin Jones explains how the Red Door thinks about systems change:

“If you partner with the Red Door, you’ll hear about making change from a systems theory perspective. Everything is a system, and all systems have boundaries. All systems protect, expand and evolve. It is the boundary that protects. The boundary maintains the mechanisms that keep the system intact. But when things aren’t working in a system, it needs feedback so it can evolve. Feedback informs the boundary. Hands Up and the conversations that follow, provide feedback to systems that are stuck. This is an important function of art and artists. If you’re ready to partner with us, or just curious, email us at info@reddoorproject.org.”

The August Wilson Red Door Project’s

NEW BLACK FEST’S HANDS UP:
7 PLAYWRIGHTS, 7 TESTAMENTS

Superiority Fantasy by Nathan James
Holes in My Identity by Nathan Yungerberg
They Shootin’ Or I Ain’t Neva Scared...
by Idris Goodwin
Dead of Night... The Execution of...
by Nambi E. Kelley
Abortion by Nsangou Njikam
Walking Next to Michael Brown by Eric Holmes
How I Feel by Dennis Allen II

Next performances:
Friendly House, May 13 (2:00, 7:30 pm)
Wieden & Kennedy, May 27 (7:30 pm) & May 28 (2pm). Reservations are required and can be made as of April 15th at boxoffice@reddoorproject.org.
FEATURED EVENTS

All events funded in part by the Regional Arts & Culture Council racc.org/calendar.

TICKET DISCOUNTS subject to availability:
+ Work for Art donors can use their Arts Card to get 2-for-1 tickets (workforart.org/artscard).
+ Low-income Oregonians participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can access $5 tickets through the Arts for All program (racc.org/artsforall).

NEW ACQUISITIONS FOR THE VISUAL CHRONICLE OF PORTLAND CONT TO 4/21
RACC, Portland Building Installation Space racc.org, 503.823.5111

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERVIN JOHNSON & CRISTIÁN URETA
4/1-30
Blue Sky Gallery blueskygallery.org, 503.225.0210

COSTUMES, REVERENCE, AND FORMS // A PORTLAND/PHILADELPHIA MIXER
4/6-6/3
A participating artist, Tabitha Nikolai ccac.pnca.edu, 503.226.4391

SENSORY GYMNASTICS
4/9-30
Disjecta disjectaarts.org, 503.286.9449

TERRA  + ☀
4/13-22
Oregon Ballet Theatre obt.org, 503.222.5538

BEEHIVE  + ☀
4/13-5/14
Broadway Rose Theatre Co. broadwayrose.org, 503.603.9862

WASHER/DRYER
4/14, 20
by Nandita Shenoy Theatre Diaspora thetediaspora.org

DOCTALK
4/17
NW Documentary nwdocumentary.org 503.227.8688

ART SPARK
4/19
RACC at Produce Row portlandartspark.com 503.823.5111

LIVE WIRE!  + ☀
4/20
Live Wire! Radio livewireradio.org, 503.548.4920

POLICY AND IMAGINATION: PLACE-KEEPING IN PORTLAND
4/20

SH*T SHOW: A STORY OF INVISIBLE ILLNESS
4/20-30
Creator, Anna Sell http://bit.ly/2orVF9A

SPIRITRIALS
4/21-30
Created & performed by Dahlak Brathwaite Boom Arts boomarts.org, 503.567.1644

DEBUSSY’S LA MER  + ☀
4/22-24
Oregon Symphony orsymphony.org, 503.228.1353

5TH ANNUAL SPRING CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL
4/22-5/6
Classical Up Close classicalupclose.org

ROBIN HOOD  + ☀
4/22-5/21
NW Children’s Theatre & School nwcts.org, 503.222.2190

SUNDAY, JULY 30: IN THE GARDEN OF ARTISTIC DELIGHTS
Join us for paella dinner, hosted beverages, a brief live auction, and artistic discoveries sprinkled throughout the magical gardens of Sampson and Beasley. Tickets are $150 each, and all proceeds help RACC provide more grants for individual artists in our community. racc.org/garden.
CAMERATA PYP + ☀ 4/23
Portland Youth Philharmonic  portlandyouthphil.org 503.223.5939

OREGON BOOK AWARDS 4/24
Literary Arts  literary-arts.org, 503.227.2583

CHE MALAMBO ☀ 4/25-26
White Bird  whitebird.org, 503.245.1600

THE TALENTED ONES ☀ 4/25-5/21
Artists Repertory Theatre  artistsrep.org, 503.241.9807

HELEN SUNG QUARTET ☀ 4/27
PDX Jazz  pdxjazz.com

CONTACT DANCE FILM FESTIVAL ☀ 4/27-29

APRIL 2-25
AN IRIS STANDS TALL — a mother’s journey, a daughter’s transition
Artwork by Annette Sabater http://bit.ly/2lVnFAv RACC Project Grant

BodyVox
bodyvox.com, 503.229.0627

SATCHMO AT THE WALDORF ☀ 5/4-27
Triangle Productions! trianglepro.org, 503.239.5919

VIVALDI’S WORLD ☀ 5/5-7
Portland Baroque Orchestra  pbo.org, 503.222.6000

LA BOHÈME ☀ 5/5-13
Portland Opera  portlandopera.org, 503.241.1407

SOIRÉE ☀ 5/6
Third Angle New Music  thirdangle.org, 503.331.0301

PINKALICIOUS: THE MUSICAL ☀ 5/6-6/4
Oregon Children’s Theatre  octc.org, 503.241.9807

MONUMENTAL CLASSICS ☀ 4/29-30
Echo Theater Company  echotheaterpdx.org, 503.231.1232

STATE OF THE ARTS 5/4
RACC at Portland City Hall  racc.org, 503.823.5111

QUEST FOR BEAUTY: THE ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPES, AND COLLECTIONS OF JOHN YEON ☀ 5/13-9/3
Portland Art Museum  pam.org, 503.226.2811

SPRING COMMUNITY CONCERT ☀ 5/14
Metropolitan Youth Symphony  playmys.org, 503.239.4566

BATTLE OF THE BANDS 5/17
RACC & Work for Art  workforart.org/bob, 503.823.5111

THE LANGUAGE ARCHIVE ☀ 5/17-6/11
Portland Playhouse  portlandplayhouse.org 503.488.5822

PINKALICIOUS: THE MUSICAL ☀ 5/17-6/11
Oregon Children’s Theatre  octc.org, 503.241.9807

GODSPELL ☀ 4/28-6/11
Lakewood Theatre  lakewood-center.org 503.635.3901

SOIRÉE ☀ 5/6
Third Angle New Music  thirdangle.org, 503.331.0301

MONUMENTAL CLASSICS ☀ 4/29-30
Echo Theater Company  echotheaterpdx.org, 503.231.1232

STATE OF THE ARTS 5/4
RACC at Portland City Hall  racc.org, 503.823.5111

SUMMER SPLENDORS ☀ 6/8-10
NW Dance Project  nwdanceproject.org 503.828.8285

(Cont.)

Building Community Funding from the Meyer Memorial Trust can support projects where Oregonians can achieve their full potential, to have a voice in decisions that affect them, and to engage in and help build vibrant communities. http://bit.ly/2mu3sar. DEADLINE: 4/19/17


NEH’s Preservation Assistance Grants help small and mid-sized institutions, such as libraries, historical societies, and archival repositories, improve their ability to preserve their significant humanities collections. http://bit.ly/2mMia2E. DEADLINE: 5/2/17


NEA’s Art Works: Creativity Connects Projects that support collaborative, mutually beneficial partnerships between the arts and non-arts sectors. http://bit.ly/2nx1QDr. DEADLINE: 5/4/17

Printmaking Residency. Salem Art Association provides an experimental space for artists to work and collaborate and for the community to engage with working artists. No stipend or housing.

Art Passport PDX. Arts writer and activist Jennifer Rabin founded Art Passport PDX, a free public program to get people engaged in the visual arts. Hand in your completed passport for a chance to win $1600 to spend on art. http://bit.ly/2m75Jsh. DEADLINE: 6/14/17

Clackamas County Tourism & Cultural Improvements Grants are intended to provide support for capital improvements, unique opportunities or unforeseen needs. http://bit.ly/2hd0mBp. DEADLINE: 6/20/17

CALLS TO ARTISTS

CALL FOR HOME (IN). Possibilities include artwork about shelter, family, immigration, homelessness, nostalgia, architecture, domesticity and the planet we all share, Earth. http://bit.ly/2neJbEr. DEADLINE: 4/17/17

CALL FOR ARTISTS BY ARTIST AND CRAFTSMAN SUPPLY. All participating artists will get a 5”x7” wooden panel for 10% off to create a feather masterpiece in any medium of your choice. http://bit.ly/2mVL5XL. DEADLINE: 4/22/17

CALL FOR LINE. Open to all mediums, sizes & concepts that relate to, or include, a line. Imagine … a chorus line, signing on the dotted line, horizon lines, jump ropes, a police line up, waiting in TSA lines, cross-hatching, long and winding roads, etc. http://bit.ly/2neuKAa. DEADLINE: 4/25/17


OPEN STUDIOS OF BEAVERCREEK. Local artist can be a part of this tour, or if you live further away you can participate by being a guest artist. http://bit.ly/2o3OGav. DEADLINE: 4/28/17


AFFORDABLE ART FOR EVERYONE invites artists to apply for 9/16/17 art show at the Washington County Fair Complex in Hillsboro, OR. http://bit.ly/2mtRbCF. DEADLINE: 4/30/17

8TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON COUNTY ARTISTS OPEN STUDIOS TOUR is an opportunity for Washington County artists to show their work, meet potential patrons, connect and educate the community about the process of art making. http://bit.ly/2mKqHwQ. DEADLINE: 5/1/17

FUTURE TELLERS is a juried show for art that encourages creativity and ingenuity held at Gallery 114, one of the oldest artist collectives in the Northwest. http://bit.ly/2nDXDGQ. DEADLINE: 5/2/17


OREGON HUMANITIES’ RESPONSIVE PROGRAM GRANTS support programs created in response to timely issues or events that the applicant organization is qualified to help the public explore. http://bit.ly/2m4YDz6. DEADLINE: 9/30/17

2017 RESIDENCY AND RETREAT IN ITALY. La Macina di San Cresci (in Tuscany) is a unique place where artists can live and work together and explore the surrounding areas with cultural and historical significance. http://bit.ly/2hei30g. DEADLINE: 10/31/17

BEAVERTON ARTS DIVERSE ART OFFERINGS GRANTS support rare or unexpected opportunities, especially for emerging artists, students, or organizations for workshops, art classes, or art activities that serve Beaverton residents. http://bit.ly/2mogNaE. DEADLINE: 12/31/17


JUNE 17 - 30

THE PIANIST OF WILLESDEN LANE
Portland Center Stage pcs.org
RACC General Support Grant

( Photo: Patrick Weishampel blankeye.tv)


37TH ANNUAL JURIED ART SHOW at the Umpqua Summer Arts Festival. The arts festival accommodates over 100 fine artists offering a wide variety of high-quality handcrafted arts such as jewelry, wood, ceramics, glass, fibers and more. http://bit.ly/2nT4Ccp. DEADLINE: 6/2/17


BUSINESS MANAGER sought by Hoffman Academy will be responsible for overseeing all non-music functions of the studio with the assistance of a small office team. http://bit.ly/2o6b3YP. DEADLINE: 6/29/17

CERAMIST, PNCA's Sculpture Department is seeking a P/T faculty member to teach ceramics at all course levels and be available for individual mentoring of advanced students working in clay. http://bit.ly/2nKDNdL. DEADLINE: 6/30/17


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR sought by Architecture Foundation of Oregon, will be responsible for the organization’s consistent achievement of its mission and financial objectives. http://bit.ly/2o0Io7S. DEADLINE: 6/31/17

SUMMER CAMP JOBS open at Caldera which offers three eight to ten day camp sessions, serving over 150 youth from Portland and Central Oregon at their Arts Center in Central Oregon. http://bit.ly/2m8w26w. DEADLINE: 6/30/17


MARKETING AND DIGITAL MANAGER sought by Portland Opera to develop integrated marketing plans, manage the day-to-day marketing activities, and lead comprehensive digital marketing efforts to ticket sales. http://bit.ly/2nKC6Nn. DEADLINE: 6/30/17


UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP at WALLOW Gallery (Carlton, OR). Looking for passion filled volunteer students of the arts to join the team for the summer months. http://bit.ly/2nGoFnz. DEADLINE: 5/1/17

ARTIST’S STUDIO SPACE TO SHARE. Great workspace in inner SE. 200+ sq. ft available in overall 450 sq. ft. studio, with windows, garage door open to good light; $1.10/sq. ft. http://bit.ly/2nG0fnz. DEADLINE: 5/1/17

ART PORT TOWNSEND 19TH ANNUAL JURIED ART SHOW are seeking 2D or 3D submissions for Expressions Northwest from artists in WA, OR, ID, MT, AK or British Columbia. http://bit.ly/2mVZuDC. DEADLINE: 6/6/17

SEQUOIA GALLERY SEeks MEMBERS. Call for 3D work only. This includes clay (ceramics), sculptural, vessels, fiber art. http://bit.ly/2nKQfVk. DEADLINE: 6/1/17

Call for 3D work only. This includes clay (ceramics), sculptural, vessels, fiber art. http://bit.ly/2nKQfVk. DEADLINE: 6/18/17

CALL FOR THE OPEN SHOW EXHIBIT at Lake Oswego Festival of the Arts (6/23-25). Registration and artwork drop off is one day only from 1-4pm at Lakewood Center for the Arts, 368 S. State Street, Lake Oswego, OR. http://bit.ly/2n0MkSK. DEADLINE: 6/18/17

NORTH PORTLAND UNKNOWN FILM FESTIVAL is encouraging film-makers and artists of all shapes, sizes, colors, genders and so on to submit films. http://bit.ly/2noMkSK. DEADLINE: 7/1/17


July 15-16, 2017, Caldera which offers three eight to ten day camp sessions, serving over 150 youth from Portland and Central Oregon at their Arts Center in Central Oregon. http://bit.ly/2n8W26w. DEADLINE: 6/31/17


MARKETING AND DIGITAL MANAGER sought by Portland Opera to develop integrated marketing plans, manage the day-to-day marketing activities, and lead comprehensive digital marketing efforts to ticket sales. http://bit.ly/2nKC6Nn. DEADLINE: 6/30/17


WORKSHOPS / LECTURES


4/26-27 OREGON HERITAGE SUMMIT which offers participants broad solutions for heritage funding and has case studies in heritage funding from around the state. http://bit.ly/2o0BrMyN.

4/29 RACC WORKSHOP: GRANT WRITING FOR INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS: ¡ROMPE LAS DUDAS DE COMO APLICAR A UN GRANT! This bilingual grant writing workshop is focused on demystifying the grant writing process. http://bit.ly/2nTjOXb.


6/15-25 PACIFIC UNIVERSITY RESIDENCY WRITERS CONFERENCE. This 10-day conference is packed with workshops, lectures, readings, classes and more. http://bit.ly/2o43w0B.


OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

6/15-25 PACIFIC UNIVERSITY RESIDENCY WRITERS CONFERENCE. This 10-day conference is packed with workshops, lectures, readings, classes and more. http://bit.ly/2o43w0B.

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WORKFORART.ORG/BOB