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MEDIA CONTACT

Nicole Lane

Festival Director

nicolealane@comcast.net

360.601.4298

FERTILE GROUND 2022 LINEUP ANNOUNCED

38 Projects Virtual (& Hybrid) + Uncurated

theatre, dance, puppetry, circus, animation, multidisciplinary arts, improv, spoken word, stop-motion animation, musical & devised theatre

5 GROW Awards + 10 GROW Light Selections

13th Annual New Works Festival

PORTLAND, OREGON – December 5, 2021 | The Portland-grown Fertile Ground Festival of New Works, a program of the Portland Area Theatre Alliance (PATA), is delighted to announce the 38 projects involved in the 2022 festival Thursday, January 27 through Sunday, February 6. Of these, five projects were awarded a \$500 GROW Award, and 10 were selected for the new GROW Light designation. For the 13th annual festival, Fertile Ground will present online programming from 36 producers and 38 projects, some of which will also host in-person events in tandem with online festival events. Over the past 11 festivals, Fertile Ground has welcomed more than 1,200 “acts of creation” from Portland’s artistic communities that thrive on stages, nooks and crannies throughout the city, and now screens world-wide.

Fertile Ground is an incubator for new work of all forms and at all stages of creation, offering theatre and dance, workshops, staged readings, readings and an abundance of multidisciplinary events. Presenting an astonishing breadth of creative work are seasoned theatre and dance companies alongside new artist-creators of every ilk. Alongside seasoned producers, dozens of new artist-creators of every ilk, playwrights, choreographers and multidisciplinary storytellers will offer their work in this collaborative Portland artistic showcase festival. [A full list of the 38 Fertile Ground 2022 projects can be found here.](#)

The 13th annual festival returns to its uncurated roots and offers the new works showcase to all area artists. Additionally, instead of presenting Fertile Ground projects via their online distribution platforms, as accomplished for Fertile Ground 2021 (FG21), the festival will return to being a marketing platform for these new works and directing audiences to producers’ virtual (recorded and livestreamed) and in-person productions. FG22 producers will produce/premiere their work on their own platforms, at the times and dates of their choosing. Producers will set their own pricing and box office, and determine how they plan to distribute their work to audiences.

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Fertile Ground Festival of New Works 2022
Presented by the Portland Area Theatre Alliance

Dates: January 27—February 6, 2022
Venue: Various | online & in-person see producer listings
Tickets: Various | online & in-person see producer listings

KEY LINKS:

[FG22 Project Listings](#) Descriptions, images and photos for each project
[FG22 Overview](#) Learn about how this year’s festival emerged
[GROW PANEL](#) Headshots and biographies for each panelist
[GROW AWARD](#) Learn about these awards
[GROW LIGHT](#) Learn about this new GROW Panel selection
[FG22 Photos](#) All producer press photos will available for download. Name of show/producer/photo ID/photographer credit in the file name.

→ INVITATION TO MEDIA

“Meet the Media Night”

Date: Monday, January 10 | 5:30-9:30pm
Venue: Zoom
Description: Think “Speed Dating” to quickly “meet” project creators and get a snapshot about their project directly from them. This event is intended to be mutually beneficial. In years past, this in-person event served as a press launch meets cocktail party. Like last year, this year’s event we will be an approximation via Zoom.
The plan: media members will be in a Zoom room, producers/creators will be let into the room one-at-a-time, on a schedule in order of the festival schedule, at 5 minute intervals. Breaks are scheduled.
RSVP Contact: Nicole Lane, Festival Director. Contact her to RSVP, and with any and all questions

“Fertile Ground 2022 is yet another myriad of ripe voices who have created new works spanning almost every art form — from theatre, musical theatre, puppetry, improv, circus and aerial arts, stop-motion animation, dance, social action and cultural commentary,” said **Nicole Lane, Fertile Ground Festival Director**. “Through their work, steeped in the voices and richly lived experiences of these artists, we can see our community just a little more clearly through lenses of realism, fantasy and aspiration. From saving the planet, to depictions of God and Satan, death, immigration, grief and 'group think' experiences, I see many thematic threads centered around existential exploration. So many investigations of the space in which we *live* in today’s world, exploring what autonomy really is, and what does it mean to *exist* – and in whose culture? This festival’s acts of creation are from artists who are asking themselves, and audiences, a lot of deep questions – certainly commentary on the past two years.”

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GROW LIGHT – YEAR 1

New for the 2022 Fertile Ground Festival of New Works: GROW Light selections. The GROW Panel for the 2022 festival created this category to “shine a light” on projects aligned with their mission to uplift and center artists and content that express significant representation of underrepresented communities, and that would do so in an artistically notable manner.

2022 GROW LIGHT SELECTIONS

1. COCOA *Knowledge of Good and Evil*
2. DM & Associates *PLEDGE*
3. Do It For Mead *Misadventures of Missy Black*
4. Fools House *Heart of Stone*
5. Leaven Dream Puppets *Alma's Wish*
6. Polaris Dance Theatre *Groovin' Greenhouse*
7. +Street Scenes *The Enemy of the People*
8. Vanport Mosaic *SOUL'D*
9. Yantra Productions *Cosmogonos*
10. Echo Theater Company *Touch and Go*

Fertile Ground's GROW Panel for the 2022 festival made the GROW Light selections. They reviewed each Fertile Ground 2022 project based on their submitted project description and scored each on a 1-10 scale evaluating the involvement of artists and stories from underrepresented (Black, Indigenous, People of Color, LGBTQ2IA+, Disabled) communities. These GROW Light selections are the top 10 scored projects, that also surpassed a 70% cumulative score average. The GROW Light list includes GROW Award recipients, which was a separate adjudication process. Scores were collected through a secret ballot voting system. Panelists recused themselves from projects in which they were involved, and a proxy vote by non-voting members was cast in their place.

GROW AWARDS – YEAR 2

Fertile Ground's GROW Panel selected the five 2022 GROW Award-winning projects, from a submission pool of 12 applications. Fertile Ground created the GROW Awards for the 2021 festival to support organizational efforts to increase access and decrease financial barriers to allow for a greater participation of new voices. These funds are intended to formalize and expand the festival's initiatives to address equity and access barriers to participation that exist for underrepresented (BIPOC, LGBTQ2IA+, Disabled) artists. The 2021 festival instituted an advisory group of local artists and administrators to adjudicate the GROW Awards that distribute funds to artists/producers through the GROW AWARD program.

Five GROW Awards have been awarded for the 2022 festival totaling \$2,500. Three \$500 awards were funds set aside by Fertile Ground Festival of New Works to continue to offer this opportunity to local artists/producers, and a grant from the Think System Foundation funded two more awards for the 2022 festival.

"It is truly exciting to see how the Portland Area Theatre Alliance and Fertile Ground have come together to provide a platform for new and diverse work," said **Samson Syharath, GROW Panel Chairperson**. "Having so many different voices in the room provides an abundance of knowledge and perspective. The GROW Panel is incredibly valuable in working to advance projects that are inclusive, and elevate voices that are typically underrepresented. I believe that this year's GROW Award selections will help uplift projects that align with our mission to address equity and access barriers in the festival that exist for underrepresented artists."

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2022 GROW AWARD WINNERS

1. *Cosmogonos* from producer Yantra Productions
2. *Heart of Stone* from producer Fool House Art Collective
3. *Knowledge of Good and Evil* from producer Project C.O.C.O.A.
4. *PLEDGE The Musical* from producer D&M Associates
5. *The Enemy of the People* from producer +Street Scenes

[LEARN ABOUT THE GROW Awards](#)

FG22 GROW PANEL

The GROW Panel, a decision-making body created for the 2021 festival, adjudicated applications for the GROW Award. This diverse local artistic community cohort examined all Fertile Ground 2022 projects and made “GROW Light” selections that the group would like to “shine a light on” based on their artistic tastes, and their aim to elevate projects that feature underrepresented artists and stories. The 17 GROW Panel members include: Sara Jean Accuardi, Tamara Carroll, Michael Cavazos, Jane Comer, James Dixon, Tracy Cameron Francis, Robert Guitron, Heath Hyun Houghton, Nicole Lane (proxy vote only), Raz Mostaghimi, Bianca McCarthy, Val Yvette Peterson, Tess Raunig, Dre Slaman (proxy vote only), Logan Starnes, Samson Syharath (Chair/Facilitator), and Mark Woodlief.

The GROW PANEL is composed of individuals whose identities encompass a spectrum of underrepresented voices, along with Fertile Ground and PATA representatives. Demonstrating Fertile Ground’s commitment to broadening representative inclusion of local artists, the panel was instituted in order to include a wider range of community artists and create an equity-infused decision-making process to curate and adjudicate GROW Awards for the 12th annual festival in 2021. For the uncurated 2022 Fertile Ground, this body continues to adjudicate the GROW Awards, and also made the new GROW Light selections in a separate evaluation process.

[LEARN ABOUT THE GROW Panel](#)

KEY LINKS

[GROW PANEL](#) headshots and biographies

[GROW AWARD](#) details

[GROW LIGHT](#) details

[Fertile Ground Festival](#) overview information for Fertile Ground 2022

ABOUT FERTILE GROUND

The Fertile Ground Festival of New Works, a program of the Portland Area Theatre Alliance (PATA), is an 11-day arts festival held every January/February. The Fertile Ground Festival of New Works serves our community’s artists and audiences by offering a new works festival featuring a myriad of artistic endeavors by local artists. 2022 marks the 13th annual Fertile Ground Festival.

The festival provides art-makers and producers a marketing umbrella and professional development opportunities. The annual festival offers a platform that fosters relationships between artists, producers and arts patrons, and deepens an appreciation for the abundant “acts of creation” in our community.

Fertile Ground is committed to the continued examination and expansion of efforts toward equity, inclusion, diversity and accessibility at every level. The festival works toward creating an inclusive, welcoming festival platform shared by intersectional identities and underrepresented voices across race, ethnicity, color, age, gender identity and sexual orientation, and physical or intellectual ability.

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A program of the [Portland Area Theatre Alliance](#), Fertile Ground was launched in 2009 to provide a platform for local theatre companies to showcase their commitment to new work. The festival encourages all artists, of all backgrounds and disciplines, elevating a wide swath of voices and generating an exciting array of arts-centric offerings. Fertile Ground establishes for both artists and arts patrons that our community is truly fertile ground for creativity, innovation and daring acts of performance.

fertilegroundpdx.org

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