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Press Release: January 28, 2025

SPOTLIGHT A FAMILY ARTS FESTIVAL

A Weekend of Creativity & Fun for the Whole Family

1000 SW Broadway
T-100
Portland, OR 97205

Phone: 503-222-2190
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nwcts.org

Our mission—
to educate, entertain
and enrich the lives
of young audiences

**Founding Executive
Director**
Judy Kafoury

Managing Director
Nick Fenster

Artistic Director
Sarah Jane Hardy

Portland's favorite family arts festival returns for one weekend only! Catch the city's best theater, music, dance and visual arts geared toward children and families at *Spotlight: A Family Arts Festival!* This is the third time that Northwest Children's Theater will host this lively and interactive experience where you can see all of your favorite family-friendly acts perform in one place — The Judy, Portland's hub for youth arts.

Festival attendees may travel from room to room as artists perform in four different spaces: The Schnitzer Stage, The Ball Black Box, The Family Cinema and The Lobby. Families will experience a wide variety of art from drumming to dance and poetry to puppet making. The incredible lineup of performers includes David Durosier, Mo Phillips, John Ellingson, Estampa Mexicana, Brick Bending, Catalyst, BodyVox's Junior Artist Generator, and Matt the Traveling Typist.

"*Spotlight* has become one of our favorite events to create as an organization," says NWCT Artistic Director Sarah Jane Hardy. "We love collaborating with the best artists in the city and creating a truly immersive experience for families. Our home at The Judy, with its multiple performance spaces, is really what inspired this festival."

Meet the performers:

David Durosier is a dance teacher, drummer and choreographer from National Ballet of Haiti, where he worked for 15 years. David has been performing since he was 12 years old and is the only designated cultural ambassador for Haiti on the West Coast. With this designation from the Haitian government, he has traveled and taught people all over the world. He is passionate about sharing his talents and culture with everyone.

Mo Phillips is a teaching artist and a fun-time maker in Portland, Oregon. He writes and records songs, makes oddball videos, produces choose-your-own-adventure musicals, all in Mo-Fi. Mo-Fi is a way of making art centered on joy and exploration, primarily of inexpensive apps that do silly stuff. When not teaching song writing in schools or shredding ukulele for the people, Mo is a dad. That's his favorite job, the rest is just gravy.

John Ellingson is NWCT's Associate Artistic Director. He's been designing sets, props and puppets for NWCT for more than 10 years. John's designs have won multiple awards, including Drammys for *The BFG* (2013) and *James and the Giant Peach* (2014). In 2015, he designed the set for NWCT's *Mary Poppins*, which won both the Drammy and Portland Area Musical Theater Awards for Outstanding Set Design—the PAMTAs also awarded John's prop design for the same production.

Estampa Mexicana is a baile folklórico dance group from Gresham Oregon. Baile folklórico is an incredibly important part of Mexican culture and it incorporates the traditional music, dress, and dance from Mexico's many diverse regions and states. Dance is an international activity shared among all peoples and Estampa Mexicana is honored to share Mexico's beautiful dance tradition with the world.

Jeff Sanders (aka Brick Bending) is a local Portlander whose geometric LEGO creations have been seen 250 millions times across online platforms. Come help him use his iconic LEGO building style to create larger-than-life community builds unlike anything you have ever seen! Come build, play, or just sit back and watch the magic unfold.

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Release Date
January 28, 2025

End Date
February 2, 2025

Media Contact
To set up interviews
or discuss other
possibilities for
stories,
please contact:
Ashley Coates
NWCT Marketing
Support
ashley@nwcts.org



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Catalyst: NWCT's **Youth Company** is an advanced training program for performing arts and technical and design theater students ages 12 to 18. At Spotlight, they'll be performing a musical revue!

BodyVox's JAG is a pre-professional program for dancers ages 14+. Members of our Junior Artist Generator, "JAG" for short, perform existing repertoire and exciting new works by renowned choreographers. Dancers train in ballet, contemporary, jazz, and student's choice of 2-4 elective dance techniques.

Matt the Traveling Typist is first and foremost a fan of all things analog! He's been a fan of typewriters since 2018, when he purchased his first machine, a 1965 Olympia SM9. He immediately fell in love with it, thus beginning his passion for typewriters. Matt began street typing in 2022 and has been honored to perform *On the Spot* typing at many fun places, including Mike Bennett's Wonderwood, Gallery Go Go, The Museum of Museums, the Portland Night Market, and the Bend Night Market.

ONE WEEKEND ONLY!

February 1 & 2, 2025

AT NWCT's HOME:



The Judy Kafoury Center for Youth Arts
1000 SW Broadway, Suite T-100
Portland, OR 97205

COST: Pay-what-you-will starting at \$10

Performances start at 11am and run until 3pm across four performance spaces at THE JUDY: The Schnitzer Stage, The Ball Black Box, The Family Cinema and The Lobby. Stay as long as you'd like!

Most enjoyed by ages 5 and up

TICKETS & SCHEDULE:

nwcts.org/spotlight

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