

# PORTLAND REVELS



NEWS OF THE REALM

AUGUST 2016

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Venetian Masquerade Ball**

*Set-up, tickets,*

*gift shop, clean-up*

*October 15th*

*Artists Repertory Theatre*

[Volunteer Here!](#)

## Autumn Equinox Pub Sing and Canned Food Drive - September 18th



On Sunday, September 18th, Portland Revels will be partnering again with Lift Urban Portland for our Autumn Equinox Pub Sing. While the change of the seasons can bring warmth and welcome, it can also be a hardship for the homeless and hungry in the Portland community. Last year we dedicated our autumn pub sing to serving those in need, and it was such a success we're doing it again. We're grateful to the Lucky Lab Beer Hall on NW Quimby for allowing us to use the space this year for no cost.

Join us for a family-friendly evening of singing and merriment, and help the hungry while you lift a pint. The event usually costs \$10 a head (and we'll split those proceeds with Lift Urban Portland). But if you bring 3 cans of food you get in for \$5, and if you bring 4 or more you get in for free! You can learn more about both of our organizations at the event, and help us sing in the fall while giving back to the community.

For suggestions about what the food bank most needs right now, check out Lift Urban Portland's suggestions [HERE](#).

We hope to see you there! Tickets are available at the door, or at [www.portlandrevels.org](http://www.portlandrevels.org)

## Our Fall Calendar is Heating Up!

**Pub sing! Backstage Tours! Masked Ball!** *Have you marked your calendars?*

Here are some highlights of the exciting events we'll be bringing you in the next few months:



• **Autumn Equinox Pub Sing and Canned Food Drive – September 18th, 6–8:30 PM**

*Lucky Lab Beer Hall, 1945 NW Quimby*

See above for details

*\$10 or less with a donation of canned food*

• **Inside Revels: Backstage Rehearsal Tour – October 3rd, 6:30 PM**

*NE Portland*

Join our adult and children's chorus as they rehearse for the Christmas Revels. Meet our artistic team, take part in opening circle, sing warm-ups with the cast, and enjoy wine and nibbles with our Executive Director.

*Free – space limited. [SIGN UP HERE](#)*

• **Venetian Masquerade Ball – October 15th, 7–10 PM**

*Artists Repertory Theater – Morrison Lobby – 1515 SW Morrison Street*

Come in costume (or rent from us!) and join in the dancing at our first-ever family-friendly masked ball! You'll learn some of the same styles of dance featured in our Christmas Revels, and join the grand march!

*Adults \$12.50 (+2 fee) online/\$16 at the door, Kids (5–12) \$7.50 online (+\$1 fee)/\$11 at the door. Kids 4 and under free. [BUY TICKETS HERE](#)*

• **Inside Revels: Backstage Rehearsal Tour – November 7th, 6:30pm**

*NE Portland*

Join our adult and children's chorus as they rehearse for the Christmas Revels. Meet our artistic team, take part in opening circle, sing warm-ups with the cast, and enjoy wine and nibbles with our Executive Director.

*Free – space limited. [SIGN UP HERE](#)*

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## From the Desk of the Executive Director



I've been a little obsessed with two things lately. First – and this is an obsession I suspect I share with many of you – this year's election. No matter what your political stripe, I think most of us can agree that this has been a political season like no other. We've been witness to a lot of very exciting political theater, with an extensive cast of characters – some of whom we are still only just getting to know.

Second – I've been obsessed with masks. Masks, you say? Yes. This year's Christmas Revels, set in Renaissance Venice, is a light comedy with clowns and dragons and folderol. Yet it also has this theme as an undercurrent: *what happens when the role you play in your world (e.g. your job) doesn't reflect your true self? How do you find that true self, and learn to reconcile it with the rest of your life?*

I've recently learned that in Renaissance Venice everyone was wearing [masks](#). Masks were often worn to parties, to events, and sometimes just to go shopping or take a walk. They created a means to level the playing field between classes, to give people a way to let their hair down, to express themselves and to be someone else. I also just learned this week that masks had another use – *as a way to remain anonymous when voting*.

There is a specific kind of mask from that time period – called a [Bauta](#) – that was the standard for going out to vote (or to exchange secrets – or get into mischief). An image of one is above. It was worn by men as an everyday mask, and is said to be quite comfortable. It fits tightly to your forehead, and then extends outwards from the nose down, thus allowing you to remain anonymous while not impeding your ability to speak, eat or drink (or disguise your voice). In Renaissance Venice there were no mail-in ballots or curtained voting booths, I'm assuming. They had Bautas, usually worn with a tricorne hat and black cloak. [Women, btw, often wore [Mutas](#) (or, Morettas) (note the similarity to the word "Mute"). Mutas are a round black circular mask which cover the mouth entirely, and in fact were often held on the face with a button clenched between a woman's teeth. A woman could not speak with one on].

We don't have to hide our faces and identities to vote our preferences anymore (and women don't have to wear masks that keep them from speaking). But in this shifting landscape of political reality and pretense, I wonder: *what will happen if and when the masks truly come off?* When, if ever, will the truth of who our candidates are be transparent?

Until then (ha!) join us on October 15th, at our masquerade ball. Come in costume, disguised or not, or come as your true self! We'll have beautiful masks for sale – replicas of the ones you'll see in this year's show.

And come enjoy the grand promenade of our cast, both with and without masks, during this year's Christmas Revels, *Commedia Italiana*.

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**Take a dip and sing-a-long!**

Get the last taste of summer at Summer Revelry pool party and singalong. Generously hosted by Reveler Cyndi G. Join Revels cast members and our music director for fun in the sun on September 10th at 6 PM. Sangria, wine, beer, soft drinks, burgers and hot dogs will be provided, bring a side dish or dessert to share. Admission: \$25 donation to benefit Revels.



For more information about this and other adventures this fall, [click here](#).

## Revels Recommends



### [Korean Food Festival](#)

Sunday August 28th, 1–5 PM | EcoTrust | 907 NW Irving St

Award winning chefs from various parts of the Pacific Northwest share their love and appreciation for Korean food and flavor.

### [Festa Italiana Portland](#)

August 25th–27th | Pioneer Courthouse Square

Celebrating Italian American culture with entertainment, food, wine/beer, a raffle and more!

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