



Young Portland Speaks

Rogue Pack General Information/Organization Description/History:

Rogue Pack's (RP) mission is to create a community where youth transcend social barriers by taking ownership of their stories through theater arts. Rogue Pack is a nonprofit theatre company that facilitates storytelling theater workshops for underserved youth. Our staff of theatre professionals help youth write their unique stories then aid them in developing and devising a script through writing and performance workshops in script creation, organization, editing, directing and the rehearsal process. The purpose of our organization is to provide youth of all backgrounds and income levels access to high quality theatre arts programs. RP advances inclusion and equity because we target youth from diverse backgrounds. Participants are youth of color, immigrants, in foster care, Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) custody and have disabilities. Storytelling workshops allow these communities to be heard by the larger community, breaking down barriers of isolation, fostering understanding and acceptance.

RP brings underserved youth from all over Portland and provides a space for them to perform their stories. The community witnesses their powerful stories and becomes aware of their struggles and potential. Youth cross social barriers by performing their stories, participating in talkbacks and conversing at receptions where participants and audiences mingle.

RP has provided theatre workshops for disconnected and low-income youth for over 10 years. We participate in the Fertile Ground Festival annually and have expanded the number of performances. In 2018 we presented girls from Boys & Girls Aid performing from their script, "Truth and Dare," for the Fertile Ground Theatre Festival. RP conducted workshops for a year at **Donald E. Long Detention Center** with young men 15-17 awaiting trial. They wrote "Creating Life Inside," which was performed by actors at Sellwood Playhouse during Fertile Ground 2019.

Other partnerships are at Title I schools, youth organizations, residential treatment centers, incarcerated, in DHS/foster care, homeless, youth who identify as LGBTQ, POC, and who experience mental health issues and disabilities. Past partners include: **p:ear**, drop in center for homeless youth; **Boys & Girls Aid** for adjudicated teenage girls, and girls 12-17 in the foster care system; **Ninth Grade Counts**, a Portland Public School targeting Academic Priority students, **Folk Time**, a nonprofit for youth diagnosed with mental illnesses and SUN (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods) after school programs at **Lane Middle School**, **Jason Lee K-8** and **Madison High School**, the most diverse Title I schools in PPS; and **MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility**. RP served 80 boys at Donald E. Long Detention Center and 46 girls each year in foster care from 2011-2018 at Boys & Girls Aid, and **Parrot Creek Residential Treatment Center** for adjudicated males, **Harmony Academy** for youth in recovery, **Raphael House** domestic violence shelter, and **Parenting With Intent**. During the 2021-22 we are holding workshops at **Clackamas School District Enrichment Camps**, **Janus Youth Programs** and **Homeplate Youth Services** for youth experiencing

homelessness. We are currently partnering with the **DART program** (adolescent residential treatment) at Portland Public Schools (PPS)

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Rogue Pack's goal is to engage and empower these young people by writing their personal stories and sharing them in the theatrical process, improving their communication and interpersonal skills through writing, reading, public speaking, movement, improvisation, and collaboration—skills that can be applied in any professional field they may plan to enter.

Along with our artistic partners, we will rebuild these troubled youths' resiliency and self-esteem by providing a safe environment where their artistic expression can be fully developed, realized, and their voices are heard, strengthening their presence in the community.

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Rogue Pack Theatre Collective – our new branch formed in 2020

Rogue Pack Theatre Collective (RPC) is a theatrical hub in the Sellwood, a middle-class neighborhood in Portland OR where youth receive mentorship in all aspects of the theatrical process. From conception to performance, students experience hands-on training from working theatre professionals. All classes culminate with a live performance for friends and family.

Parents pay for these classes and 10% of the proceeds get funneled into sustaining Rogue Pack free programs for underserved, low-income youth. Sometimes these youth are not able to perform their stories for the community because they cannot be photographed or recorded or simply because they are not ready to and that is their choice. Therefore, the RPC youth can perform their stories for them as is the case with our first original film which was inspired by young men ages 13 – 17 in Oregon Youth Authority custody...

In addition, RPC develops seasonal projects throughout the year that give students who take classes opportunities to perform outside of the classroom and out into the Portland Community at large. Our most recent project with RPC youth was the silent film, "The Masked Villain of Sellwood." Youth of all ages from RPC courses performed in the movie directed and written by RPC film instructor Randy Sean Schulman and inspired by stories from boys in OYA custody. It was shown to a sold-out house at the Moreland theater.

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