

2014 Portland arts preview: Drama, dance, music and more



The Cloud Gate Dance Theater explores spirituality and dance with three and a half tons of rice. (*Cloud Gate Dance Theater of Taiwan*)

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There's a lot to look forward to already in the world of Portland arts, so let's hit the ground running in 2014. From hip-hop/indie collaborations to dancing in rice, it looks like it's going to be an interesting year for the arts.

DRAMA, DANCE AND RICE

[David Stabler put together a nice preview of upcoming performing arts shows](#), but I'm particularly excited for **Gidion's Knot** at Third Rail Repertory Theater, a tense play that pits 5th-grader Gidion between his teacher and mother following his suspicious suspension from school. The 2012 play, written by Johnna Adams, touches on bullying, homophobia, suicide and freedom of speech. [The show runs February 21 to March 16 at Third Rail.](#)

If that sounds a little too intense, check out **"Songs of the Wanderers"** from Taiwan's Cloud Gate Dance Theater. The large-scale show depicts a spiritual pilgrimage with powerful imagery via three and a half tons of rice. [The one-night-only show is happening March 4 at the Keller Auditorium.](#)

INDIE ROCK AND HIP-HOP

If your New Year's resolution is to be hip to the Portland music scene this year, you can start things on the right foot with the latest album by Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks. "Wig Out at Jagbags" marks the Portland indie legend's return after two years in Berlin, and is sure to up your indie cred. **The album is out Jan. 7 on Matador.**

One of the most exciting up-and-coming acts in town is hip-hop trio TxE, who will be releasing their sample-based homage to Portland's indie scene, "TxE vs PRTLND," on Jan. 21. **Our music critic David Greenwald is already a fan, calling the trio's work** "exciting, engaging music -- made more so by representing not just Portland rap, but Portland, period."

Among the well-established musicians, superstar duo Broken Bells, made up of The Shins' James Mercer and prolific producer Danger Mouse, look to impress with their sophomore album "After the Disco." The collaboration sounds promising on **the record's first single, "Holding on for Life."** The album is out Feb. 4 on Columbia.

NATIVE ARTS

There are plenty of interesting art shows this winter, but the end of the season will bring with it one of the most hotly anticipated visual arts shows of the year, **"Portland 2014: A Biennial of Contemporary Art."** Organized by the Contemporary Art Center of Portland, and put together by L.A. curator Amanda Hunt, the multi-venue exhibition will show off well-seasoned pros and up-and-comers alike. The show runs March 8 to April 27.


To satisfy your art fix before March, check out Art Gym's **"I.M.N.D.N.: Native Arts for the 21st Century."** The exhibition features native artists from the Northwest and Canada. While the artists still hold onto their ancestry, the show demonstrates how they bring their cultural traditions into the 21st century. **"I.M.N.D.N." runs Jan. 13 to Feb. 14 at Marylhurst University.**

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