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NEWS RELEASE

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE AND KARAOKE FROM HELL COLLIDE FOR A CAUSE AT DANTE'S

Your chance to be a rock star *and* support the arts: proceeds to benefit Just Add Water/West, PCS' annual playwrights' festival

At **10pm on Monday, May 15th** at Portland's favorite devilish downtown hotspot, **Dante's** (1 SW 3rd at Burnside), **Karaoke from HELL** will be doing what they do best: making rock stars out of regular Janes and Joes with their trademark, **live-band-backed karaoke**. What's different on this particular evening is that **\$3 of the \$5** cover charge benefits **Portland Center Stage's** annual playwrights' festival, **Just Add Water/West(JAW/W)**.

Since 1993 **Karaoke from HELL** has been kicking out the jams for wanna-be front men and pop-divas all over Portland. There's no tele-prompter, but co-founder and Portland music mogul Tres Shannon will give you the lyrics on paper and she'll stop just short of breaking her back to make the singer a star...whether or not there's room for a tune in that bucket they're riding to *you know where*. The rest of the band won't slack off either, playing over 300 different songs and adapting to the strengths and weaknesses of crooners, screechers and growlers alike with remarkable effectiveness that, at times, seems to defy the laws of nature.

Here's what the critics have had to say about **Karaoke from HELL**...

"It resembles plain-old karaoke in the same way elk hunting resembles Whack-a-Mole... Walking off stage after a triumphant performance... it's nearly impossible not to consider starting your own band." ~ Jay Horton, Willamette Week

"...you couldn't find a better time if you tried." ~Murray Cizon, Portland Mercury

The evening's beneficiary, **Just Add Water/West** is **Portland Center Stage's** developmental festival of new work for the stage. Every summer, PCS gathers together a company of professional playwrights, directors, actors, dramaturgs and other collaborators, who dedicate ten days of intense workshop time to some of the nation's most innovative, ground-breaking, genre-busting works in progress. The Festival culminates in concert presentations of the plays, and includes a full slate of performance events, forums and other free activities for the public. A recent world premiere production at PCS, *Celebrity Row*, was work-shopped at JAW/W last summer and played to packed houses at the Winningstad Theatre in March and April. Two other JAW/W "graduates" have now landed on the 2006-2007 PCS season in the Bob and Diana Gerding Theater in the historic Portland Armory. Public performances at this year's Just Add Water/West festival will run from July 21-23. Further festival details are forthcoming and will also be available at www.pcs.org.

To take part in this evening of unrepentant vanity and be a do-gooder for local theater at the same time, show up at Dante's on May 15th with as many friends as you can wrangle and cough-up \$5 each at the door. If you're one to do homework, download the **Karaoke from HELL** song-list at www.karaokefromhell.com and blow the dust off your Mister Microphone.