

Hello again! This is Derek Firenze with your local news and commentary for Thursday, August 17, 2023 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

Have you seen the ghostly figures painted white walking the streets of downtown Port Townsend this week? No, they aren't coated in zinc oxide to protect from sunburn in the blazing heat (though it might help). Those are performers for this year's sold-out Salish Sea Butoh Festival. For those who don't know, Butoh is a form of dance first developed in Japan in an effort to defy and subvert authority, including conventional notions of dance. Instead of seeking the prim and proper beauty of ballet or other forms of dance, Butoh delves into the grotesque, surreal, and sublime.

Salish Sea Butoh was originally co-founded by Iván-Daniel Espinosa and Cosmo Rapaport and is now a collective of dancers, performers, and multimedia artists in the Pacific Northwest, deepening the study and exploration of Japanese Butoh and Butoh performance. Their performances and workshops have taken place across the Quimper Peninsula, including a blind-folded tour of downtown on Monday which follows in the tradition by subverting the idea of "sight-seeing." Performers also cascaded down the steps by the Haller Fountain on Tuesday; and on Wednesday the infamous Butoh Cabaret was the first official event at the newly refurbished space in the Zee Tai Building on Water Street in Port Townsend.

If you've missed this magic so far, don't worry, there are still tickets available for their main event, the Performance Gala which will include master dance artists from Japan, Mexico, and the good ol' U.S. of A. That event will take place this Saturday, August 19 with doors opening at 7pm and the show starting at 7:30 inside the Palindrome at EagleMount Wine & Cidery. All ticket purchases also include admission to a post-show reception for a chance to meet and talk to the artists. Tickets can be found in advance at <https://www.salishseabutoh.com/>.

Speaking of haunting, Port Townsend continues to mourn the upcoming loss of the Castle Restaurant and Bar inside the most famously haunted building in town, the Manresa Castle. After issuing a press release announcing the closing earlier this week, Cameron Roberts, who owns the restaurant with his wife Plai, took to social media to clarify some of the details. One of the most difficult-to-understand pieces of the closure surrounds the cancellation of the business's insurance policy seven months ago that they say was without notice. Cameron said that they didn't realize the policy was canceled right away because they have a variety of insurance policies with the same company and continued to see automatic payments without noticing the change in amount until they went looking for a copy of the business's policy. He added that they are looking into legal action because of the lack of notification. At the same time, he admitted some responsibility, noting that he and his wife have moved four times since owning The Castle and it's possible the letter went to one of their old residences, or even that the notification letter could have been thrown away before making it to Cameron. The problem now, Cameron said, is not so much the insurance though. That issue could possibly be worked out, but their lease agreement with the owner of the Manresa Castle cannot, as Cameron said, "The landlord has asked us to leave and make room for another possible tenant. They don't want to wait around to see if the problem is solvable or not. It's a bummer." Cameron went on to thank all of those who have reached out with support, adding that it truly means a lot.

The Castle's final event on their final day will be held this Sunday, August 20 at 6:30pm with a book release for Meeting-Place Chapbooks from Winter texts, the local small press owned by Cameron's brother Conner Bouchard-Roberts. The authors of two new small books from the press will read from their work which includes a uniquely strange cookbook entitled "Speculative Cookery" by Hans Barr as well as "Haptic Verse", a

collection of poetry by Haines Whitacre. The Castle was the first place I ever performed my poetry in Port Townsend, so I'll definitely be there feeling all the feels.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and 5pm Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org. This is Derek Firenze. Thanks for listening.