

artslandia



Artslandia Out & About



I LOVE TO EAT at PCS - "Thank you for inviting me into your kitchen."

By Amanda Valley, Artslandia Magazine I LOVE TO EAT is a truly fun, and fabulous, evening with the bombastic James Beard. He is portrayed lovingly by Rob Nagle, also an Oregon native who moved at a young age because "he wasn't given a choice." To be perfectly honest, I had no idea what to expect from the show when I sat down. Would the actor be delivering an extended monologue on a stark stage? Would he be cooking for 90 minutes? Would it be a multi media experience (as so many one person shows can be)? Turns out, it is none of the above. The piece is like listening to your flamboyant great-uncle regale you with stories of fantastic experiences, while feverishly multitasking and constantly being interrupted. The pace never lags and Mr. Nagle's warm presence sort of makes you wish the evening didn't have to end. He does, however, prepare a recipe to share with the lucky audience members in the front row. You'll even learn a thing or two about travel, language, cooking (of course) and the early days of television. PCS usually has excellent sets and this is no exception. Beautifully appointed with the right vintage feel but with all the modern conveniences, Beard's apartment looks move in ready...running water and everything! Theatrical touches, such as the pots and pans hanging from the proscenium and a world map masking the back wall, add just the right touch of whimsy. My favorite moment of the evening is when Beard tells a story of a hot plate disaster at a Macy's cooking demo. (Spoiler alert...he used irons propped upside down to prepare the food) The playwright, James Still, then drops on us one of the best pieces of advice anyone can ever give; "You can be a Diva and throw a fit or you can make it work and get applause." I anticipate much applause for this show, which runs at the Gerding until February 3rd. Bon Appetit!