



## The Many and Mysterious Plots of Portlandia

After five seasons of Portlandia, it almost seems like the world knows more about our fair city through that TV show than due to reality. So now when I'm telling visitors about famous Portland sites, I find myself tying everything back to my favorite episodes and the ridiculous plotlines. How could I describe the sum of all the amazement I have for how those plots connect? It would almost be like trying to describe that nebulous, intangible thing that Portlandia is really all about.

- The Ace Hotel recreated one of Portland's famous protests, featuring a plethora of sour stomachs filled with red, white, and blue mashed potatoes and plenty of Ipecac.
- City Hall janitor Leonard Brownstein is the leading co-signer on all the strangest bills written when the Mayor got a great idea during a late night at the Square Tavern.
- The Feminist Bookstore is forced to deal with their new neighbor and her raucous new band "Feminem" during the evening rush at *First* Thursday.
- The Home Plate Café serves food based on the rules of breakfast baseball. A dish thrown *fair* can't fall off the table and the customer must shout "*safe*!" or tip extra.
- Land Gallery is known for "putting a bird on it," with no concern for what "it" is. A bird stamp on unidentified *dried* jerky led to questions from the World Wildlife Federation.
- The Paxton Gate is named after actor Bill Paxton, who played the first Portlandian ever portrayed on TV. Stereotypically, he rode a unicycle and only spoke in *rhyme*.
- Powell's Books employee Ashley once decided to *cut* from the shelves every book written in 1974, the birth year of her ex-boyfriend Stupid Jerkface Stan.
- The Vera Katz Esplanade is the city's foremost location for the Philosophy Club's Reason Rap Battles: freestyle solutions to life's most confusing problems.
- Voodoo Doughnuts has become the real soul of Portland's tourist scene, though
  most are unaware of the "how many donuts can you hang on your [beep]" contest.
- Voodoo Two tried to create a signature donut to compete with the "cock and balls."
   But a heart-shaped donut with oozing red jelly was too much, even for Portlandians.
- The White Stag Sign famously gains a sweet little red nose during the holidays, which is stolen in a tense heist scene by Portland's only Reindeer Liberation activist.
- Zupan's Market celebrates holidays in style, with a manager who loves to dress up like President John Quincy Adams and sound a hunting horn in the produce section.