



alized that we needed professionally tracked and mixed audio if we were going to be taken seriously. We've been partnering with music producers and engineers for a few years now and have since moved the show to a

live venue format. That's really who we are now – a live concert show. I've also brought on a couple associate producers and we have a very seasoned host so our content is head and shoulders above where we started. As we enter 2019 we have opened our format up to national touring bands which I believe will expand our audience exponentially.

Who are some of the musicians you've had on your show?

We've had over 60 bands on the show and this season is the first that we've allowed bands from outside Portland. Recently we've worked with The Dandy Warhols, Floater, Red Fang & LA band Dead Sara to name a few.

Being locally focused for so long we've had many amazing Portland bands like Dirty Revival, My Brothers and I, Moorea Masa, One From Many and guitarist Jennifer Batten, who spent years playing for Michael Jackson and Jeff Beck. There are too many to mention here but all of our past episodes are on our website.

Where does PDX Spotlight go from here?

It's amazing what we've been able to accomplish with virtually no budget. The next step is to find a home for the show that will not only help us grow but will provide some great content for a network. We've got strong relationships with venues, music publications, radio stations and others around town but 2019 is the year that we'll be looking for additional partnerships that can help us grow. This includes advertisers, networks, gear partners or anyone who is looking for a mutually beneficial relationship with a music-focused organization.

Tell us about your family. Where in the neighborhood do you live?

We live very close to Bridlemile Elementary and have lived here since 2001. My wife, Dana, is the school secretary at Bridlemile Elementary. Our daughter, Sarah, is in eighth grade at Robert Gray and has lived in the neighborhood her whole life, so we have been a part of the community for some time now. This is exactly where we should be and are grateful that we're able to raise our family here.

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MEET **MIKE BURLING** FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF PDX SPOTLIGHT

How many people does PDX Spotlight employ?

Technically only me, however, we have between 5-20 volunteers at any given time.

How long has PDX Spotlight been in business?

We're about to wrap up our fifth season.

Describe what PDX Spotlight Does

We are a Portland-based Music TV show. Most of our shows are filmed at local venues and include about four songs and an interview. We broadcast monthly on Comcast cable access as well as on our website www.pdxspotlight.com.

How did you get into the TV business?

It was really by accident. After over 15 years with a major tech company, I found myself one of the many affected by "downsizing." Rather than jumping back on the corporate horse, I decided to start my own production company which I still operate to this day. As part of the learning process, I took classes at Open Signal which is basically the local cable access company. There I decided to take some studio classes and volunteered on a couple cable access shows. As a long time music junkie, I thought it would be fun to bring bands into the studio and film them. After finding some like-minded volunteers and after about six months of trial episodes, we realized that we had something and went live.

How has the show evolved since you first started it?

It literally started with three of us in the studio filming a band. At the time we had very little knowledge about music production, so we were recording the whole show, audio and all on a single stereo track – so, if the mix wasn't right there wasn't much we could do about it. We got better over time but we eventually re-