

THE AUSTIN

CHRONICLE

A Welcome Place

FronteraFest '98: Bigger but Still Room for Everyone

By Adrienne Martini and Robert Faires

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Dress Me Blue/Window Me Sky

In FronteraFest, it is hard to tease out who is most hospitable: the hosts, the performers, or the audience. Each group seems equally willing to go out on any limb to support the creation of something new. The Frontera folks open their space, provide lights, sound, set pieces, marketing, and advice. The audience warms to every performance, no matter how silly or atonal or violent. The performers invite the audience into their work with good humor and the promise of doing their best - and occasionally with outright bribery. It's an extremely cordial setup and, after attending several of this year's Fest performances, Arts Editor Robert Faires and I believe it's tied to FronteraFest's success story.