

Best of Campus 2014: Best Piercings and Tattoos — High Priestess delivers piercings with a punch line

By Andrea Harvey

For this year's Best of Campus, High Priestess takes the cake for best piercings and tattoos.

Walk inside High Priestess (525 E. 13th Ave.) and you'll be greeted by the friendly employees at the counter as well as the unique and inviting atmosphere. There are several puffy, black leather couches to sit on while you wait and flip through various books, magazines and photo albums. The décor ranges from Buddhist sculptures to skull paintings and alternative music plays in the background.

The employees at High Priestess are not new to the world of success and achievement, as they've been in business for more than 17 years. In the waiting room to the left, you'll find a wall dedicated to awards the shop's artists have received from different conventions and publications around the state.

On its website you can find an in-depth mission statement for each of the five Oregon locations: "High Priestess is committed to meeting the unique and individual needs of each one of our clients by providing the highest-quality body-modifications available anywhere. We aim to maintain our profitability, our sense of humor, and our moderate growth, while continuing to offer our staff benefits and safe, aesthetically pleasing work environments."

What separates High Priestess from its Eugene competitors is that unique and inviting atmosphere. "We try our best to make people feel comfortable in a situation that can be pretty scary. Getting a piercing or tattoo can make people nervous, so we try to be as friendly as possible," said Jim Sens, manager and piercer at High Priestess in Eugene.

"I like the fact that the deals they have are incorporated sometimes with charity work," said Kimia Amirifar, a UO junior who has been pierced at the shop four times. "A lot of times I've gone in to get a piercing when part of their profits went to some animal shelter or something. They're also pretty amusing people who calm your nerves during the piercing."

If you're looking for a beautiful tattoo or piercing for a good price near campus, check out High Priestess. According to the manager, the artists accept walk-ins for piercings, but for tattoos it is best to make an appointment.

Note: This anchor story was published in the Daily Emerald in print and online.