

10/3/24

AAUW Ashland & Jackson County Library Services
November 12, 2024 "Big Ideas" Program

Forecasting a Bright Future for OSF

Founded in 1935 by Angus L. Bowmer, the Tony Award-winning Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) is among the oldest and largest professional non-profit theatres in the nation. The Festival has weathered a few "tempests" in recent years, but as it approaches the 90th anniversary in 2025, things couldn't look more promising.

"One Brick at a Time: Rebuilding the Oregon Shakespeare Festival" is a free public program on Tues., November 12, 4:00-5:30 p.m., in the Gresham Room at Ashland Library, 410 Siskiyou Blvd. Part of the "Big Ideas" program series, it is presented by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Ashland Branch and Jackson County Library Services.

The speakers are OSF Artistic Director Tim Bond and Board Member Amy Cuddy. They will discuss the comprehensive process by which OSF has been rebuilt following the Covid-19 pandemic, focusing on several key areas of transformation. This includes shifts in programming, key leadership appointments, and efforts to strengthen relationships with both the local and broader communities. Additionally, they will explore the adjustments made to business operations, all aimed at ensuring the Festival's long-term sustainability.

Bond became the Festival's seventh Artistic Director, returning to Ashland in 2023. He previously served as Associate Artistic Director under Libby Appel from 1996 to 2007. Bond's contributions to OSF include directing 13 productions, championing equity and inclusion efforts, and establishing the FAIR Program, a groundbreaking initiative dedicated to nurturing the next generation of diverse theatre artists and administrators.

Bond has held leadership roles across the country including Artistic Director at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Producing Artistic Director at Syracuse Stage, Artistic Director at Seattle Theatre Group, Artistic Director of The Paul Robeson Theatre, and Head of the Professional Actor Training Program at the University of Washington School of Drama. He has served on the national boards of trustees for both Theatre Communications Group and ASSITEJ: The International Association of Theatre for Children and Young Audiences. Bond received a B.F.A. in Dramatic Arts from Howard University and an MFA in Directing from the University of Washington.

Amy Cuddy moved to Ashland in 1986 to work at OSF. In the 1980's and 1990's she worked in the Development and Marketing departments and, as the Director of Marketing and Communication, had oversight for publications, media relations, education programs, box office, house staff and volunteers. After OSF, Cuddy had a 20-year career at the Oregon Community Foundation, where she was most recently the Philanthropic Advisor and Regional Director for Southern Oregon.

Cuddy joined the OSF Board in Fall 2023 and is a trustee of The Carpenter Foundation in Medford. Her past board service includes a decade on the Oregon Tourism Commission and the legislative task force whose work resulted in the creation of the Oregon Cultural Trust. Born and raised in Connecticut, Cuddy holds a B.A. and an MBA from Yale.

Questions? Contact AAUW “Big Ideas” coordinator Marilyn Hawkins, (541) 708-6697, mhawkins@prhawk.com; or Ellie Anderson, Ashland Library, (541) 774-6896, EAnderson@jcls.org.

2024-2025 “Big Ideas” Schedule	4:00 p.m.	Ashland Library
Nov. 12	“One Brick at a Time: Rebuilding the Oregon Shakespeare Festival”	
Jan. 7	“The Current State of Local/Regional Journalism”	
Feb. 4	“The Teenage Brain: Impacts on Despair, Homelessness & Substance Abuse”	
March 4	“Oregon Gun Laws Still Under Fire? An Update on Measure 114”	