

# ASHLAND DAILY TIDINGS

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Thanks to those who made OSW a success

Oregon Stage Works' move out of the A Street location is complete.

Over the past number of years we at Oregon Stage Works and before that at Actors' Theatre have worked tirelessly to create programs that enhance the cultural fabric of our community, programs that include Ashland Children's Theatre and the Playwrights Unit.

Our efforts to build an adventurous, discerning audience through the staging of entertaining and thought-provoking American works focusing on the actor and the text are exemplified by productions of "American Buffalo," "How I learned to Drive," "Glengarry Glen Ross," "Things We Do" (the four play series dealing with the Israeli/Palestinian conflict) "Orphans," "Our Town," "The Crucible," "The Trip To Bountiful," "To Kill A Mockingbird" and many, many others.

On rare occasions we missed the mark, and even then, we worked with every fiber we could muster to bring a certain execution, a certain excellence to our stage. The responsibility to strive for that quality in the staging of live performance is very real to me. It goes beyond any particular theater or specific production and must, I feel, speak to the power of words in action;

to infusing performance with a force of life that generates, in that room, in that moment in time, a sense in each of us of belonging to this extraordinary human family.

The actor is always the bringer of this quality. We may be wowed by a particular directorial flourish, but the quality of communication that I am speaking of is always through the performer. This quality of performance has no line of demarcation. It can be found in a garage or storefront theatre just as readily as in a million dollar facility.

What it cannot do without is space to breathe life into the material — and talent and craft, a craft so exquisite that it brings with it the chance of being transformed into art. This craft, this insight, when you can find it, deserves to be given the opportunity for continued growth, and it certainly deserves to be compensated.

The unrelenting passion to communicate — to strive for these moments in time — that kept Oregon Stage Works going over the past number of years is simply not enough anymore. Financial constraints have cut the breath needed for consistency and growth into the kind of work I am speaking of.

While the loss of our lease has disrupted our season's schedule of plays, it has also given us the time to breathe, to reflect on exactly what kind of theater we want to continue with. In that reflection there is the very real possibility of a full and exciting future.

In the meantime, we intend to continue Oregon Stage Works Ashland Children's Theatre as well as the Playwrights Unit.

On behalf of all the dedicated people involved with Oregon Stage Works — the actors, directors, designers, technicians, teachers, our board of directors and our volunteer staff — I want to heartily thank you for your support and encouragement through the years.

Peter Alzado

Producing Artistic Director

Oregon Stage Works