

**TOWER**  
THEATRE FOUNDATION  
PRESENTS

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**20 & 21**

**B E N D**  
**OREGON**

# stage 2022

PNW

# the change

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# The Bend Cultural Tourism Fund is proud to support Stage the Change PNW.

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A Visit Bend Project

# IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO STAGE THE CHANGE!



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We are thrilled to welcome high school students from all over the Pacific Northwest to the Tower Theatre's inaugural Stage the Change Conference.

We believe you will be motivated and changed by what you hear, see, and talk about this weekend. We are already inspired by your commitment to make the world a better place.

Please set a goal to meet new people while you're here. Connections you make during this conference can evolve into collaborations. Become co-creators of art and co-leaders in transforming the world.

It's been a privilege connecting with the region's arts leaders and change-makers to plan this conference, and to have them share their expertise and experiences with you.

At the end of the conference, you'll receive an evaluation form. Please take the time to complete it and give us your honest feedback.

Thank you for participating. And remember – Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change.

— the Staff and Board of the Tower Theatre Foundation

## STAGE THE CHANGE - NEW YORK



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Welcome to Stage the Change, PNW! After nine years of staging changes in New York, extending our mission to the west coast is truly a dream come true.

Students and educators harness a unique and powerful energy, sparking the type of influence that can make a profound difference in our communities. As we take this step together here in Bend, our vision is to build a foundation for diverse, inclusive communities where young artists are empowered with freedom of thought and encouraged to express their truth.

It is a privilege to be among you here in the Pacific Northwest and see our vision come to light with your globally-minded, genuine and passionate community of artists. Thank you Sharon Maier-Kennelly, Dani Wyeth and the Tower Theatre for your insightful work and commitment to making this event a reality. Thanks to all the artists, presenters, educators, and new PNW "Stage-the-Change" who join the movement and ensure that our arts voices will be heard!!

— Ruthie Pincus, Executive Director, Stage the Change NY



# STAGE THE CHANGE SCHEDULE

Friday, May 20, 2022		Location
1:30 pm – 6 pm	Welcome packets/registration open in Tower Lobby	Tower Theatre Lobby
6 pm – 6:30 pm	Group Welcome	Tower Theatre
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	<b>Keynote:</b> Anthony Rapp	Tower Theatre
8 pm – 9:15 pm	<b>Live at the Tower:</b> Anthony Rapp in Concert Thank you to Brad Ruder & Limelight Entertainment for Supporting This Concert	Tower Theatre
Saturday, May 21, 2022		Location
9:30 am – 10:30 am	<b>Keynote:</b> Elizabeth Woody	Tower Theatre
11:30 am – 5 pm	<b>Workshop 1:</b> 11:30 am – 1 pm <b>Workshop 2:</b> 1:30 pm – 3 pm <b>Workshop 3:</b> 3:30 pm – 5 pm	COCC & OSU-Cascades
5 pm – 6:45 pm	<b>Dinner Break</b>	
7 pm – 8:30 pm	<b>Stage the Change Student Showcase</b>	Tower Theatre
8:30 – 9:30 pm	<b>Dessert Reception &amp; Student Networking</b>	Dessert Reception & Student Networking

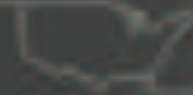
# WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

	Art & Racism	Art & Environmental Activism	LGBTQ+ Equality	Adversity Meets Innovation
Time / Location	COCC	COCC	OSU-Cascades	OSU-Cascades
11:30 am – 1 pm	<b>Hip Hop as Resistance Culture</b> Mic Crenshaw	<b>Recycling Imagination for a Re-Imaged World</b> John Kish	<b>Songwriting, Self Expression and Identity</b> Maiah Wynne	<b>Embracing Adversity: Turning Challenges Into Triumphs</b> Chris Thomas
1:30 pm – 3 pm	<b>Off the Page: Using Famous Words to Create Dynamic Monologues</b> Marcus LeGrand and Bess Goggins	<b>Devising for the Environment</b> Johamy Morales	<b>Staging Identity: A Movement Workshop For Actors and Dancers</b> Shaun Keylock	<b>Innovative Communication through Movement</b> #instaballet
3:30 pm – 5 pm	<b>Bee Hive Practices: Using Beyonce to Explore Anti-Racism in Dance</b> Oluyinka Akinjiola	<b>Climate Crisis and Critical Creativity</b> Mic Crenshaw	<b>Intro to Consent &amp; Intimacy Onstage</b> Jace Meyer-Crosby	<b>Finding Your Voice and Expression: Your Words are Powerful</b> Brent Florendo

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# STUDENT SHOWCASES

SATURDAY, MAY 21 AT 7 PM AT THE TOWER THEATRE

— EMCEE ALETA NISSAN —

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**Dylan Rundle** – Sisters High School

Performing: A personal speech

**Theatre 360**

Performers:

- Tia Wisco
- Marcus Roberts
- Sage Goldstein
- Asher Wisco
- Caroline White

Performing: *Life On Mars?*

Finale from *Rent*

**High Desert Dance** – *Tenderness*

Performers:

- Addie Hagensee
- Merritt O’Gorman
- Jamari Lopez
- Aspen Cross
- Cora McMullan
- Raechel Hollie
- Emily Fischer
- Kendra Davis

**Madeline Stutte** – Mt. View High School

Performing:

- A monologue from the play “I and You” written by: Lauren Gunderson

**Redmond Proficiency Academy**

Performing: *Anti-Polio Picnic*

Performers:

- Casey James
- Lydia Carter
- Allie Smith
- Cohen Flanagan
- Katey James
- Kendra McGuire
- Ruby Boland
- Talon Confer
- Claire Gray

**Dance Arts Unlimited, Advanced Ballet**

Performing: *Alone*

Performers:

- Jazy Serrano-Avila
  - Sarai Graves
  - Amira Lopez
  - Tiana Avila
  - Kadence Graves
  - Piper Anderson
  - Leah Young
  - Sydney Broncheau-Shimoaka
-

# KEYNOTERS

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## **ANTHONY RAPP**

Rapp is best known for originating the role of Mark Cohen in the Tony Award-winning rock opera "Rent." The groundbreaking musical explores the struggles with life, love and AIDS, and the impact each has on our society. After taking the show from Off-Broadway to Broadway, and Chicago to London, Rapp reprised his role in the 2005 motion picture adaptation of the stage play.

He is back on tour with a performance adapted from his 2006 national best-seller *Without You: a Memoir of Love, Loss, and the Musical "Rent"*, detailing his experiences during the drama's original run—as well as his personal struggle with losing his mother to cancer.

Rapp serves on the board of the nonprofit organization Friends In Deed, which provides emotional support for anyone with a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, cancer or other life-threatening physical illnesses.

In the CBS All Access new series *Star Trek: Discovery*, Rapp plays the TV franchise's first openly gay character, astromycologist Lt. Paul Stamets.



## **ELIZABETH WOODY**

Woody, of Navajo/Warm Springs/Wasco/Yakama, has published poetry, short fiction, essays, and is an accomplished visual artist.

Her first collection of poetry, *Hand Into Stone*, received a 1990 American Book Award. Her second and third collections of writing were published in 1994: *Luminaries of the Humble*, by the University of Arizona Press; and *Seven Hands, Seven Hearts, Prose and Poetry* by the Eighth Mountain Press. From 2016-18 she served as the Oregon Poet Laureate.

As an artist, Ms. Woody has had exhibits showcased both regionally and nationally. Presently, Woody serves the Central Oregon arts community as the Executive Director of The Museum At Warm Springs.

# THANK YOU

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Ruthie Pincus & Stephanie Turner, Stage the Change NY  
Partners COCC, OSU-Cascades, and OUT Central Oregon

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Photographer Larry Rosenberg

Video by WK Productions

Showcase Emcee Aleta Nissan

Anthony Rapp Performance Sponsor Brad Ruder & Limelight Entertainment

# FACILITATORS

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## **OLUYINKA AKINJIOLA**

Oluyinka is the Artistic Director of Rejoice! Diaspora Dance Theater and on the dance faculty of Jefferson High School in Portland, Oregon. After receiving an MFA in Dance Choreography and Performance, she founded Rejoice! as a platform to create Black contemporary dance work with movement foundations from Africa and the African-Diaspora. Her choreography focuses on the complex identities, histories and futures of Black communities. Oluyinka was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance at Reed College and SUNY The College at Brockport, and a three-year guest artist for the Sankofa African Drum and Dance Ensemble. Her work was featured at the International Association of Blacks in Dance conference (Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles), Carnival 2014 (Salvador, Brazil), TEDxMtHood, and Portland's Newmark Theater. Most recently, Oluyinka received the Oregon Dance Education Organization's 2020 teacher of the year award.



## **ANTONIO ANACAN (#instaballet)**

#instaballet was founded in 2013 by professional ballet dancers Antonio Anacan and Suzanne Haag to support local artists and give audiences a more intimate and interactive view of how ballets are constructed. #instaballet seeks to update the way ballet is presented by breaking the barrier between audience and performer. Each #instaballet performance crowdsources ideas from the audience to create a new ballet in real-time. The result is community-driven art.

Originally from Hawaii, Anacan completed his ballet training at The San Francisco School of Ballet and Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. He performed professionally with Eugene Ballet for six years, during which time he co-founded interactive performing group #instaballet. He is currently the Artistic Director of #instaballet as well as a member of the IATSE 675 Stagehand Union



## **SUZANNE HAAG (#instaballet)**

Haag is a dancer, choreographer, and dance educator based in Eugene, OR. Currently, she is both the Resident Choreographer of the Eugene Ballet and the Executive Director of #instaballet, a unique interactive dance company that she co-founded in 2013 while still dancing professionally for Eugene Ballet. Her stage career includes performances with national companies including: The Hartford Ballet; Nevada Ballet Theatre; Ballet Idaho; DROP Dance Collective; and the National Choreographers' Initiative. She performed with the Eugene Ballet for 15 years before retiring from the stage in 2018.



## **MIC CRENSHAW**

Born in Chicago and raised in Minneapolis, Crenshaw is an independent Hip Hop artist, emcee, poet, educator and activist in Portland, Oregon. Crenshaw is the lead U.S. organizer for the African HipHop Caravan and uses cultural activism to develop international solidarity, human rights and justice through Hip Hop and education. In his teenage years, Crenshaw actively confronted white supremacist gangs in the growing hardcore punk music scene. In addition to his highly-acclaimed work in spoken word and Hip Hop, Mic co-founded GlobalFam Entertainment which works in partnership with his nonprofit Education WithOut Borders to create and maintain a computer center for more than 400 disadvantaged youth in Burundi, Central Africa. Education WithOut Borders also serves as an umbrella for the Portland Books For Prisoners chapter and GlobalFam itself. Mic recently was among a cohort of BIPOC scientists, artists, writers and adventurers who traveled to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to examine issues of climate change and the impact of Gwich'n peoples and wildlife inhabiting the land since prehistoric times.



## **BRENT FLORENDO**

Brent is of Wasco/Yakama/Warm Springs decent. He is a traditional storyteller, fancy dancer, and drummer as well as an actor, playwright, and musician. He is the Native Nations Liaison Instructor and Native American Studies Director at Southern Oregon University. Brent also leads the Konaway Niika Tillicum Youth Programs. Brent enjoys recruiting, teaching and working with Native youth and the community at large.



## **SHAUN KEYLOCK**

(Shaun is an award-winning choreographer, director, teacher and dancer based in Portland, Oregon. His work has led him into dance, film, theater and visual art. In 2018, Keylock founded Shaun Keylock Company, known for its distinctive visual style and unique approach to contemporary dance and performance. As principal choreographer, Keylock creates original works that are at once both technically sound and radically subversive. The company has been presented by: On the Boards (Seattle); Dance Source (Houston); PUSHFest (San Francisco); Ten Tiny Dances; and New Expressive Works (Portland). Most recently, Keylock choreographed the U.S. debut of "When the Sun Comes Out" presented by Portland Opera. An advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, Keylock regularly collaborates with drag queens, fashion designers, musicians, filmmakers, artists, and activists to create a loud declaration of queerness both on stage and in performance. Keylock has taught workshops and master classes throughout the Pacific Northwest and Texas, and been a guest faculty member at the University of Oregon, Texas A&M University, Columbia Dance, The Portland Ballet, NW Dance Project, BodyVox Dance, and Velocity Dance Center in Seattle.



## **JOHN KISH**

Horticulturist, actor, and business owner Kish is often found running his indoor plant shop, Somewhere That's Green, located in the Bend Central District. He founded the shop in 2018 and has grown it to great success. This year, he's opening a small theater space within the plant shop called "The Greenhouse Cabaret". John has starred in numerous productions Off-Broadway in New York City, Portland, and Bend, as well as running his own theater company on the side. He is also known as the "Plant Kween", Bend's main plant-themed drag queen persona, Fertile Liza! John grew up in a small town in Oregon but had great aspirations. He graduated from Oregon State University in 2011 and graduated from Circle in the Square Theater School in New York City in 2013.



## **MARCUS LEGRAND**

LeGrand has been a lover of the arts since his adolescence when he performed with the Uwharrie Players traveling around North Carolina. His entertainment journey led him to perform in numerous community theatre projects as a student at University of Washington-Seattle and while living in Southern California. Most recently, he has worked with BEAT Children's Theatre teaching and developing summer classes for Central Oregon students. He is Co-Chair of The Father's Group's After-School Program, a Director of the Bend-La Pine School Board, the Afrocentric Student Program Coordinator at Central Oregon Community College, and an active supporter of his two theatre kids. Marcus believes that diversity and inclusion is the catalyst for communities to understand that inclusion matters.

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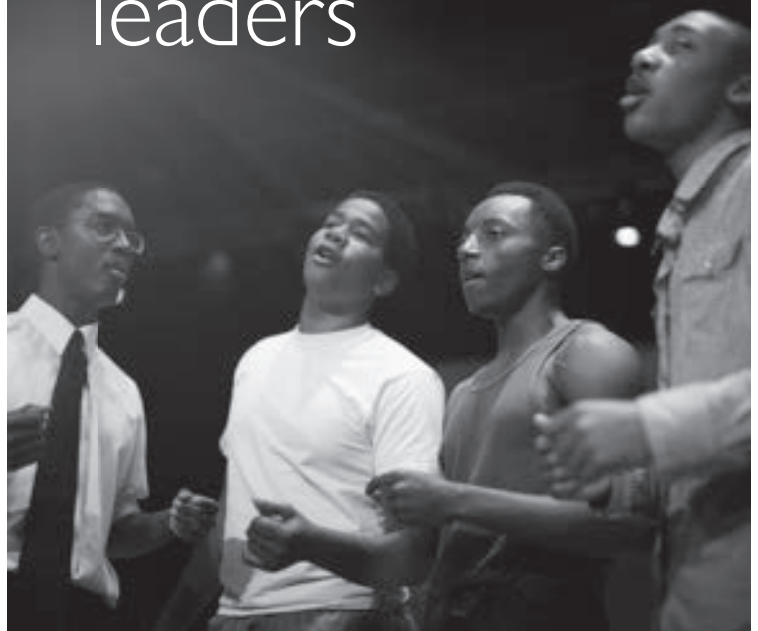
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## **BESS GOGGINS (PRESENTING WITH MARCUS LEGRAND)**

Bess loves words and stories, whether spoken around a campfire, sung through lyrics, or written on the printed page. More than a decade ago, she focused her master's thesis on the rhetorical underpinnings of spoken word poetry written and performed in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Atlanta, Georgia. Her professional background concentrates on youth development in leadership, marketing, communications, teaching, coaching and fundraising. She is currently the CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bend. She loves hiking, camping, cooking, reading, and being a not-so-secret crazy cat lady to her two "little old lady cats," Tyson and Beans.



## **J. C. "JACE" MEYER-CROSBY**

Jace is a director, sound artist, writer and teacher who has come to best describe himself as a bard. Favorite theatrical directing credits include Strindberg classic Creditors and Bert V. Royal's Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead, which earned a 2018 Best of Rochester Award. He has had several original adaptations (Maid Julie, Sharks, Faust) and new works (Positive, Ephemera, Covenant) produced and workshopped. His first musical, Wakeman, co-written with songwriter Jenn Grinels, has been submitted to the NAMT Festival of New Musicals. As an Intimacy Director and Coordinator, Meyer-Crosby advocates for consent culture and storytelling excellence in the staging of intimate scenes for theatre and film, as well as better representation in stories of queer love.



## **JOHAMY MORALES**

Morales is a 20-year veteran of Theatre for Young Audiences and is dedicated to producing new works, community engagement and social justice through the arts. Johamy currently serves as the Director of Education and Engagement, and is on the Artistic Advisory Circle for Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT). In 2020 Johamy led the development and creation of the Active Audience Guide for A Kids Play About Racism that served over 280,000 students and educators nationally and worldwide, and was awarded the Social Impact Theatre Innovation Award from the Sheri and Les Biller Foundation. Recently she served as a Trustee for Theatre Communication Group (TCG) where she advised on the Rising Leaders of Color program. Johamy is an alumna of the Allen Lee Hughes Fellowship at Arena Stage and the British American Drama Academy in Oxford, England, where she studied Contemporary and Classical works. In 2017, Johamy collaborated with the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Embassy & Consulate and several NGO's to promote awareness of domestic and gender violence in Kolkata and Ranchi, India.



## **CHRIS THOMAS**

Chris Thomas is a composer for film, television, theme parks, and a TEDx speaker. He's won a Hollywood Music in Media Award, the American Prize in Composition, a Global Music Award, the Gold Medal Prize at the Park City Film Music Festival, and has been nominated for a Palm Beach International Music Award. Chris has written music for several Emmy-nominated films, and for Woman Rebel which was shortlisted for an Academy Award. In television, he works as a composer, orchestrator, and conductor for studios including Sony, ABC, FOX, CBS and HBO. Chris' works have been performed at Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House, and the Hollywood Bowl. His Symphony #1 (the Malheur Symphony) was the subject of his TED Talk in 2019. His works are published with The FJH Music Company, Walton Choral, Wingert-Jones Publications, and Carl Fischer Music.



## MAIAH WYNNE

An award-winning singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist, Maiah delivers powerful and universally resonant lyrics with a hauntingly beautiful voice. In addition to finalizing her first full length album, Maiah's currently collaborating on "Envy of None" with Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Alex Lifeson of Rush, and Juno Award winner Andy Curran. Her numerous accolades include winning The Burl Audio Covid19 Songwriting Contest (2020), the International Music from the Moon Contest (2019), the Claim to Fame International Song Contest (2018), HATCH Groundbreaker Award for Music (2017) and Claim2Fame (2016). She was featured on NPR's All Songs Considered (2019), at Sundance (2016), SXSW (2017), and in-studio on KEXP (2018). She has opened for Lucinda Williams, Dave Mathews, Tanya Tucker, Indigo Girls and Brandi Carlile. With a passion for making a difference, Maiah has supported Arts Fund Seattle, Black Resilience Fund, First Aid Arts, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women USA, NAACP, UNCUT Youth Programs, and WaterWatch.

# COMING TO THE TOWER IN 2022-23



**Ben Sollee** Nov. 2, 2022



**Soweto Gospel Choir** Nov. 9, 2022



**Memphis Jookin' w/Lil Buck** Feb. 27, 2023



**Step Afrika** April 14, 2023

# WORKSHOPS

## ART AND RACISM

### Hip Hop as Resistance Culture

Facilitator Mic Crenshaw  
COCC: 11:30 am – 1 pm



Naming the root causes of systemic oppression while using art as a liberatory practice. This workshop examines the root causes of

anti-Blackness, white supremacy and genocide of indigenous peoples as a function of capitalism and contemporary empire. Multimedia presentations, dialogue and writing in Hip Hop and spoken word formats engage participants in discussion and sharing.

### Off the Page: Using Famous Words to Create Dynamic Monologues

Facilitator Marcus LeGrand  
and Bess Goggins  
COCC: 1:30 pm – 3 pm



In this interactive workshop, budding wordsmiths explore the elements of the spoken word by discussing what they hear and feel through speeches, poems, and songs from BIPOC communities, including: "What Happens to a Dream Deferred", by Langston Hughes; and Dr. King's, "I Have A Dream Speech".

With ears and eyes on message, format, and delivery, learn to respectfully borrow and pay homage to these powerful pieces in your own writing, as you craft and deliver in a collaborative, safe space.

### Bee Hive Practices: Using Beyoncé to explore anti-racism in dance

Facilitator Oluyinka Akinjiola  
COCC: 3:30 pm – 5 pm



Anti-racism is a recent buzzword in education. However, Black dance forms have always been anti-racist by elevating dance practices that

value Black bodies and were created by Black bodies. This workshop will use Beyoncé's "Black Parade" to discuss Africanist traditional practices that teach value systems from the African Diaspora.

## ART AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM

### Recycling Imagination for a Re-Imagined World

Facilitator John Kish  
COCC: 11:30 – 1:00 pm



Come dive into an immersive theatrical experience to help motivate you to rethink what's needed to make art great, as well as

to make a global difference. Over the course of the class, learn how to create theater with means that are available or repurposed. This will be done with emotionally-driven physical movement and various props, relaying messages and moments that stir you to re-envision our environment. Let loose, create your world, and understand that from nothing we can create something brilliant.

### Devising for the Environment

Facilitator Johamy Morales  
COCC: 1:30 – 3:00 pm



This workshop is designed for activists of all levels of experience to devise new social justice work. Explore the elements of

storytelling using the environment as the vehicle for social change through exercises, discussion and creative play. Consider artists' practical skills, hands-on experiences and methods of creating while developing and performing an original work.

### Climate Crisis and Critical Creativity

Facilitator Mic Crenshaw  
COCC: 3:30 – 5:00 pm



How to ask the right questions in our work as critical thinkers and creative beings in a time of mass instability and uncertainty.

This workshop will include multimedia presentations critical of our current conditions as a species and encourage dialogue, writing and expression that captures urgency, determination and hope in the face of ignorance and nihilism.

## LGBTQ+

### Songwriting, Self-Expression and Identity

Facilitator Maiah Wynne

OSU-Cascades: 11:30 am – 1 pm



How can music pave the way for self-acceptance and understanding? How does songwriting become a deeper means of

self-exploration? Learn firsthand how art can be an avenue for making a difference and how music is a way to amplify causes one believes in. This workshop will also touch upon the importance of mental health, and how music and art are easy and accessible ways to improve emotional wellbeing. Please bring a notebook, a pen or pencil, and even an instrument.

### Staging Identity: A Movement Workshop For Actors and Dancers

Facilitator Shaun Keylock

OSU-Cascades: 1:30 pm – 3 pm



This workshop enables students to engage with movement in new and dynamic ways. Easy-to-follow exercises combine practical imagery and

movement tasks to give students resources to create their own personal movement vocabulary for the stage. Open to students with little to no dance experience as well as advanced dancers and pre-professionals. Learn to devise movement material in collaboration with other actors and dancers. Bring a notebook, a pen or pencil, and one creative or personal object to work with.

### Intro to Consent and Intimacy On Stage

Facilitator Jace Meyer-Cosby

OSU-Cascades: 3:30 pm – 5 pm



In a highly competitive gig economy like performing arts, it can be hard to feel comfortable saying no to powerful figures like directors,

producers and playwrights. Yet, from a psychological perspective, human beings won't feel safe enough to create something as vulnerable as art unless their boundaries are honored. Understand the role of consent in the rehearsal and performance process, the cultural shift towards consent-centered spaces sweeping the industry, and how to advocate for your autonomy, and that of others, from a qualified Intimacy Director and Coordinator.

## ADVERSITY MEETS INNOVATION

### Embracing Adversity: Turning Challenges Into Triumphs

Facilitator Chris Thomas

OSU-Cascades: 11:30 am – 1 pm



Nobody seeks adversity, but it has a way of finding us all. Adversity takes many forms - illness, discrimination, crime, even global or environmental circumstances.

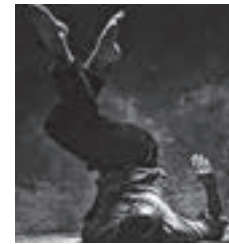
How do you find meaning from these experiences? Sometimes, in hardship, we discover the best of ourselves. Suffering and failure force us to grow in necessary ways. Hardships are the weights in the gym – they make us stronger, wiser, and more competent in areas we need to improve. As the saying goes, in every crisis there is opportunity. Explore

and discuss adversity in a new light. Adversity has always been a catalyst for revolutionary ideas, sparking advances in science, art, leadership and technology. If we cannot stop adversity from finding us, we can at least change its trajectory. Learn to welcome the challenges ahead, create something wonderful, and leave behind a better world.

### Innovative Communication through Movement

Facilitator #instaballet

OSU-Cascades: 1:30 pm – 3 pm



There are some times when words fail us. Movement can be a tool to communicate what cannot be said in words alone. Join interactive group #instaballet to create your own dance. No prior dance experience required. This workshop introduces basic



choreographic techniques to pair with simple or complex movements in creating a new dance. Attendees will explore how to communicate thoughts and ideas through dancing in small groups.

### Finding Your Voice and Expression / Your Words Are Powerful

Facilitator Brent Florendo

OSU-Cascades: 3:30 pm – 5 pm



Through Indigenous storytelling and stage work you will learn the perspective of the Oral Tradition and how it affects your understanding of communication

and the power of your words. Receive guidance and advice that is essential when facing and addressing adversity.

SAVE THE DATE

**stage** 2023  
**the** **change** PNW

**TOWER**  
THEATRE FOUNDATION  
PRESENTS

**APRIL**  
**21 & 22**

AT THE TOWER THEATRE  
IN BEND, OREGON