

T. CHARLES ERICKSON

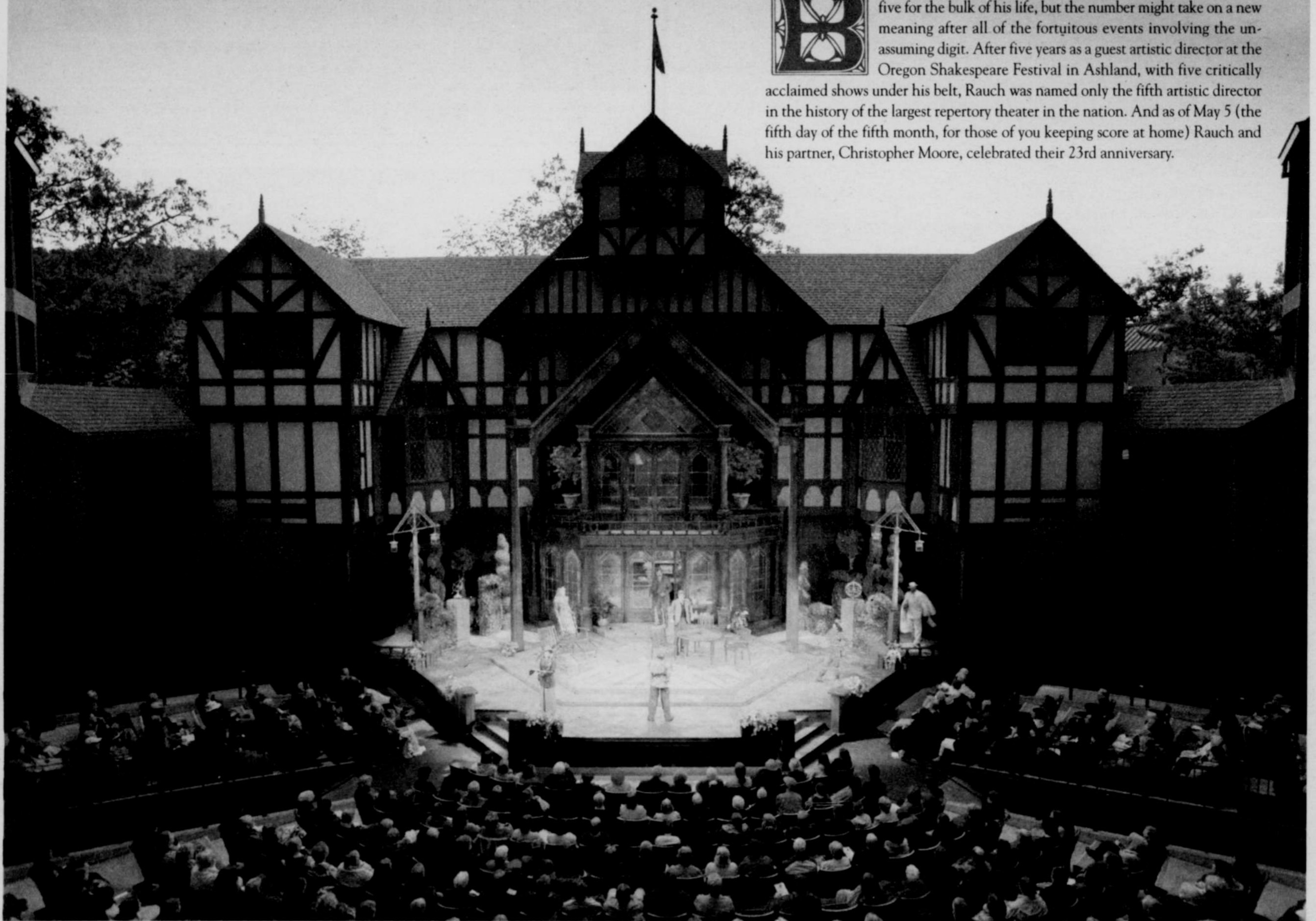
# Southern Comfort

## Oregon Shakespeare Festival hires new out and proud artistic director

by Chelsea Fine



Bill Rauch might not have paid much attention to the number five for the bulk of his life, but the number might take on a new meaning after all of the fortuitous events involving the unassuming digit. After five years as a guest artistic director at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, with five critically acclaimed shows under his belt, Rauch was named only the fifth artistic director in the history of the largest repertory theater in the nation. And as of May 5 (the fifth day of the fifth month, for those of you keeping score at home) Rauch and his partner, Christopher Moore, celebrated their 23rd anniversary.



Open to the sky, the outdoor Elizabethan Stage seats 1,200 people at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.



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