

They will also have a lot of firsts to celebrate this year as they move their family to the Beaver State from the Los Angeles basin in mid-June. That is when Rauch officially takes over full creative duties as the first openly gay artistic director of the 72-year-old Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Rauch and Moore will also transplant their sons, 7-year-old soccer juggernaut Liam and 2-year-old Latin heartthrob Xavier, both of whom they adopted from birth.

"We are all very excited to make the move to Ashland. I can't wait to have my family here with me," says Rauch.

His new appointment has him managing every minute of his life artfully at the moment as he is directing *Romeo and Juliet* at OSF and wrapping up teaching duties as the Claire Trevor Professor of Drama at University of California at Irvine, all while trying to catch all of Liam's soccer games.

"My appointment at OSF means a lot to me not only as an artist and an individual, but also as a gay man. I am proud to be in this leadership position, setting a very public example of a happily coupled individual in a stable same-sex relationship of 23 years and with two beautiful and well-adjusted kids," says Rauch.

As an out director and artist, he has encountered his share of adversity. "I have had audience members on rare occasions express their discomfort with my openness about my sexuality," says Rauch. "However, those few encounters have been vastly outweighed by the number of times that people have gone out of their way to express support for our family...on airplanes, in grocery stores and in theaters in which I work."

While the foursome will call Ashland home, Moore, an actor by trade, will commute to Tinseltown to shoot a second season of his sitcom, TBS' *10 Items or Less*. He plays Richard Mednick, a focused cashier by day who dreams of being a professional ice dancer.

You might recognize Moore from television in roles in *Friends*, *3rd Rock from the Sun*, *Star Trek: Voyager*, *Judging Amy* and *It's Like, You Know...* But he has primarily been a stage actor during his career, performing in more than 40 Cornerstone Theater Company productions and with several nationally known theater groups, including Pasadena Playhouse and Yale Repertory Theatre, throughout his esteemed career. He has also received Garland, Dramalogue and LA Weekly Awards; was nominated for Washington,

D.C.'s Helen Hayes Award and the Connecticut Drama Critics Circle Award; and has served as adjunct faculty at University of Southern California.

The couple met at Harvard, where they were both members of the theater department. While Moore pursued the spotlight, Rauch knew where he wanted the spotlight positioned. As a youth Rauch wanted to be an actor, nurturing his love of the stage through summers as an usher at a community theater in Connecticut, but he found his true passion in his freshman year at college. During his four years at Harvard, Rauch directed 26 shows.

Shortly after graduation, the New Jersey native, his partner and nine of their peers founded Cornerstone Theater Company. Rauch served as artistic director from 1986 to 2006, directing more than 40 productions. Cornerstone wandered rural and urban America for five years, introducing the theatrical experience to those who might not otherwise have been able to express themselves on stage or see their stories told as audience members.

The bulk of the company's projects are produced out of dialogue from the community and the ensemble. Cornerstone's projects took issues from communities and created plays to echo their voices, telling both sides of the stories. In 1991 the company settled in Los Angeles, where the majority of its projects are now staged.

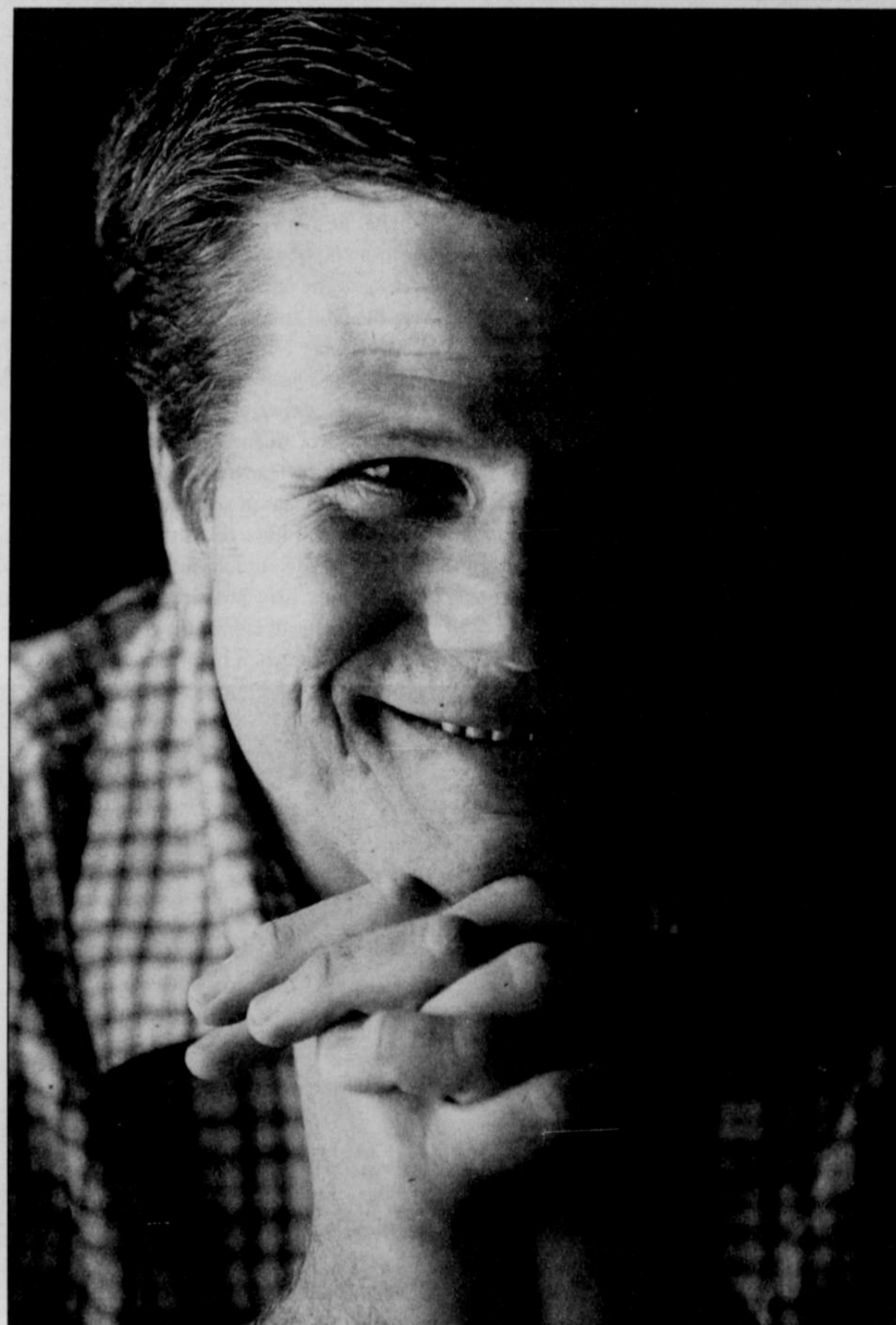
Highlights of Rauch's career with Cornerstone include *Steelbound*, a collaborative project with unemployed steelworkers staged in an abandoned steel plant in Pennsylvania; *The Central Ave. Chalk Circle*, a production staged after a 15-month residency in the Los Angeles community of Watts; and *The Black AIDS/Black Faith Project*, a collaborative experience between black clergy and African Americans affected by HIV/AIDS. Cornerstone also produced many projects exploring queer issues, such as the community's relationship with organized religion.

While Rauch incubated the talent and the stories of those who didn't believe they had stories to tell, he collaborated with other theaters around the country, including Yale Repertory Theater, South Coast Repertory, Pasadena Playhouse, Guthrie Theater and New Haven at Long Wharf Theater. In 1999 he testified to the House Appropriations Subcommittee for

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—Bill Rauch



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