

Shamania Performing Arts Foundation presents

JOHN FORD COLEY

"I'd Really Love to See You Tonight"

SEPTEMBER 24TH 8:00PM

BONNEVILLE HOTSPRINGS RESORT & SPA
NORTH BONNEVILLE, WA

For more information visit
SkamaniaArts.org
or call 1-800-494-TIXS

S.P.A.F. is a proud member of

The Port of Cascade Locks-Bloomsbury of Kanaka Creek Farm
Jim Joseph-Windermere/Glenn Taylor Real Estate
Riverbank Bank-Columbia Gorge Magazine-Lacamas Community Credit Union

NW DANCE PROJECT

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
SARAH SLIPPER

NEW NOW WOW!

OCTOBER 14 + 15 | 8PM

Bold New Works from 3 World-Renowned Choreographers
World Premiere / Didy Veldman / The Netherlands
World Premiere / Noam Gagnon / Canada
World Premiere / Pedro Dias / Portugal

Lincoln Performance Hall
1620 SW Park Avenue

BEST TICKETS at nwdanceproject.org
Info / 503.828.8285
Also available at PSU Box Office + Ticketmaster

OK Go!

New production marks costumed history for Portland Center Stage's Jeff Cone

BY KIRA LESLEY

Portland Center Stage's 2011-12 season opens this month with *Oklahoma!*—a production marking 13 seasons and 52 shows for resident costume designer Jeff Cone, 56. It is the 31st show Cone has designed since PCS moved to the Armory in 2006.

The large-framed, gray-bearded Cone spent this summer researching calicos and corselets for the classic American musical. In an unconventional take, PCS's production features an African-American cast.

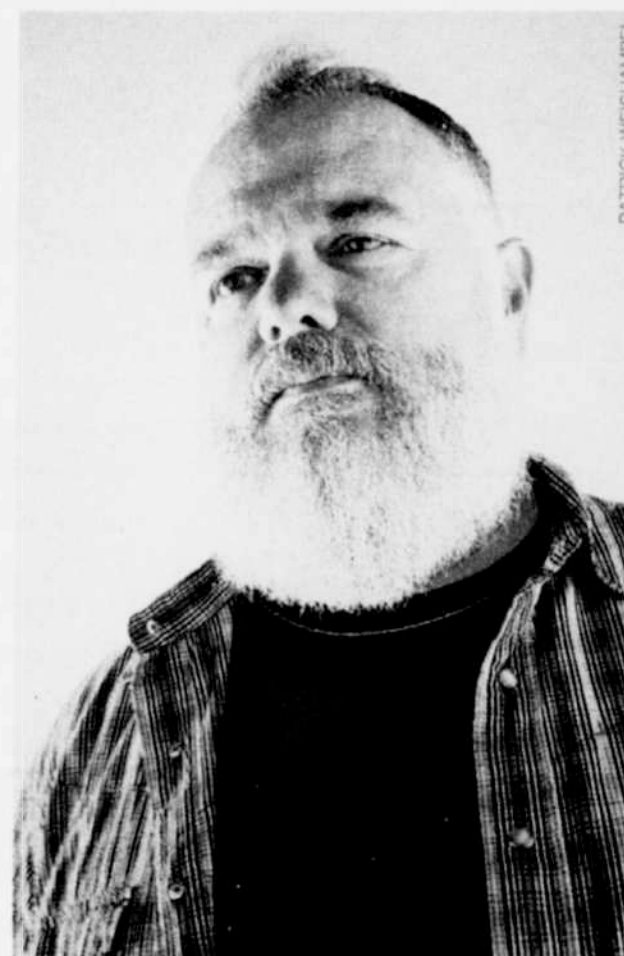
Cone collected old photographs to research the type of clothing worn by African-American residents in 1906 Oklahoma Territory, where turn-of-the-century settlers faced a stark existence. "There's not even a building, their lives are so hard," he says. "It's kind of a juxtaposition to *Oklahoma!* the musical."

The narrative is fundamentally a love story, with a dark side plot. Engaging with images of real people provided a different lens through which to view that story, Cone explains.

"[Some] musicals are a heightened sense of reality—a glossy, heightened reality," he notes. "My goal is that the clothes look like real clothes . . . as if you were to take a photograph of real people at that time."

Once he has developed concepts and designs, the trick is making them fit the budget. Realizing the designs includes determining how much PCS costume shop staff can build, whether they must hire outside help, how many pieces should be rented or purchased, and from where, Cone explains. He refers to the process of piecing together these elements while staying within budget as "solving the puzzle." Each show presents a "problem" and the excitement lies in solving that problem.

Although he has worked in the arts for 30



PATRICK WEISHAUPEL

years, Cone says it was never a mapped-out path. At age 25, he was outed as gay, an event he says shaped the course of his life and career.

While visiting him in his college apartment, Cone's sister found a letter he had written to another man. She told their parents, who confronted Cone. "It was a complete and total surprise to me," he recalls. The idea of "coming out," now so prevalent in the media and society, had never occurred to him.

His parents told him that if he did not see a psychiatrist who promised to "cure" him, they would cut off support, Cone continues. When he told them he couldn't do this, he was on his own.

He lost his apartment, flunked out of school and was homeless for a while. But gradually, he learned how to "do life" and put himself back in school. While an under-

Bridges Café & Catering

SERVING BREAKFAST AND LUNCH DAILY

MON-FRI • 7AM-2PM
SAT-SUN • 8AM-3PM

BRIDGESCAFEANDCATERING.NET



503.288.4169 • 2716 NE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD