



Pulitzer Prize winner Jericho Brown will perform at the Liberty Theatre in Astoria Nov. 5.

Brian Cornelius

# THE POWER OF LANGUAGE

## Locals have a chance to perform with award-winning poet

BY NANCY MCCARTHY

When Astoria author Marianne Monson heard Pulitzer Prize winner Jericho Brown read his poetry in Portland two years ago, she was so caught up in his words that she wanted to hear him again.

“I was so impressed with his reading,” Monson said. “I was struck by the artistry of his language but also the authenticity and sincerity of his delivery.”

She also wanted to share her experience.

### Getting Brown to Astoria

Monson embarked on a mission to raise money to get the poet to the Liberty Theatre stage in Astoria. She created a GoFundMe page that raised more than \$500 in donations, and the Oregon Cultural Trust and the Clatsop County Cultural Coalition gave the Writer’s Guild of Astoria grants for Brown’s appearance. He is scheduled to perform Nov. 5.

But Brown won’t be alone on stage in Astoria this fall. Monson, president of the writer’s guild, is also including poets from Clatsop, Tillamook, Pacific and Wahkiakum counties in the event.

### The contest

The guild is sponsoring a poetry contest; winners in the middle school, high school, college and community categories will win \$100 gift certificates to Lucy’s Books and will read their works onstage with Brown.

Brown is a professor and the director of the creative writing program at Emory University. He will conduct creative writing workshops



BURTON FILMS

**Marianne Monson organized a fundraiser to bring Jericho Brown to Astoria.**

### How to enter the poetry contest

Up to three entries per person can be mailed to [info@thewritersguild.org](mailto:info@thewritersguild.org).

The following information should appear in the header of each entry: poet’s name, competition category, home address, email address, and phone number. (Entries without all the information will be disqualified.)

The deadline is Oct. 1.

at Clatsop Community College and a local high school during his time in Astoria. Monson said the college

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