Established in 1980, the Bijou Art Cinemas has been Eugene’s premiere source for first-run, foreign and independent films, as well as second run and classic cinema. Conveniently located between the University of Oregon campus and Downtown Eugene, the Bijou Art Cinemas is housed in a repurposed historical California Mission-style church designed and constructed in 1925 by the University of Oregon’s own W.R.B. Wilcox, the first UO Dean of Architecture. It was originally the home of the First Congregational Church and in 1956 it became McGaffey and Andreason Mortuary.

Auditorium 1, built in the main chapel area of the building, seats 104 and features a DCI-Compliant Christie Digital Cinema Projection system, equipped with Dolby Digital 5.1 Sound System, on a 30-foot screen. Across our rustic enclosed courtyard is Auditorium 2, which seats 95 and also features DCI-Compliant Christie Digital Cinema projection, equipped with Dolby Digital 5.1 Sound System. Our lobby and main auditorium are distinguished by hand-stenciled Italian Gothic vaulted wood ceilings, original antique hand-made copper lamps, plus locally-crafted art glass sconces.
For over 35 years the Bijou Art Cinemas has been bringing the finest independent, foreign and classic cinemas to the small town of Eugene. The theater saw great success in the 1980s and 1990s as more and more indie films were thrust into the mainstream. The mid 2000’s brought the absorption of marketable “alternative” titles by large theater chains. This combined with the inception of on-demand home video began to chip away at the art house cinema market. Revenues declined, the Bijou’s founder passed away, and things were not looking good for the small theater. After two grim years, several employees purchased the business and nursed it back to health.

The Bijou is truly a labor of love for the owners. Their devotion to film and cinema has revitalized one of Eugene’s most beloved and valuable local businesses. The auditoriums exude a character as unique as the films that are played in them. The smell of brewer’s yeast, popcorn and candy hovers in the air as light spills in through the many stained glass windows. The bijou now serves local beer, wine and cider and feature locally produced treats and a limited food menu. Customers chat in the lobby, and the staff is always ready to share their opinions about the current films. It is, quite bluntly, a cinema run by true film nerds, but not the snobby type.

In addition to playing quality film, the Bijou is also very active in the community, working with local non-profits, student groups, various UO departments, film societies and local area businesses.

Eugenians have been incredibly supportive over the years, and their love for the Bijou still stands today, serving as a stark indicator of how the small, quirky theater has earned a special place in the heart of the community.