

• UP FRONT • UP FRONT • UP FRONT •

Smiles and Titters

Powers and Jeans Dance Ensemble is a newly formed dance company, co-directed by two Eugene artists, Michelle Powers and Liz Jeans. The company will perform a full-length concert in the Hult Center's Soreng Theatre on Friday, Oct. 14. The concert, entitled **Smiles and Titters**, will include compositions ranging from classical to jazz, touching on a wide variety of emotions.

Of the eleven works to be performed, all are choreographed by Powers, Jeans, or by the two together. Joining them in various combinations are dancers Donna Briggs, Cara Siler, Terri Wilder, Kevin Collins, Vance Balter, Sher Alltucker, Doug Nelson, and Dave West. Powers and Jeans will each perform a solo piece as well.

Presently, Michelle is completing a Masters degree at the

University of Oregon concerning the "Neurological Approach to Sensory Motor Movement." She instructs classes at Creative Institute of Dance here in Eugene, as well as running the Whiteaker Dance Program. Michelle performs with Nicola and Tim Foster in **New Jazz Theater** and she also co-directs **Powers and Jeans Dance Ensemble**. She is available for consulting, choreography, workshops, instruction and therapy.

Liz Jeans is presently co-directing **Powers and Jeans Dance Ensemble**. This company enables Liz to further her intentions of providing a good experience for dancers to reach their community. She is continuing to instruct community classes through the Whiteaker Dance Program, and is involved as choreographer for local productions.

Future of Justice

Coming up on October 19-21 is a very special **Future of Justice Conference** planned at the U of O. The goal of this conference is "to educate participants towards the reduced use of imprisonment in our society." Leaders in the field will discuss the impact of imprisonment on the individual and society; workshops will allow participants to share views, explore alternatives to imprisonment, and strategize to implement alternatives in their region.

Keynote addresses will be delivered on the evenings of October 19 and 20. The very distinguished list of national speakers includes: Kathryn W. Burkhardt, journalist and author of *Women in Prison*; Ron Herndon, co-chair of the Portland, Oregon chapter of the Black United Front; Fay Knopp, founder and coordinator of the Prison Research Education Action Project and co-author of *Instead of Prisons*; Michael Kroll, political commentator and former coordinator of the National Moratorium on Prison Construction; and Jerome Miller, founder and executive director of the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives (NCIA), Washington, D.C.

The strategy-oriented workshops will be offered 9-5 pm, Oct. 20 and 21. Topics will include: preventing crime and victimization through a re-education of values; challenging racism in the criminal justice system; remedial intervention in sex offenses; developing community based alternatives, decarcerating the developmentally disabled; dismantling the prison system; and building a caring community.

This conference is hosted by Sponsors, Inc., a not-for-profit organization established in 1973 to assist prisoners and ex-prisoners in their transition from prison to society. Sponsors annually assists over 300 individuals, among them prisoners and parolees, families of prisoners, and community volunteers. This conference is hosted by Sponsors in celebration of their tenth anniversary!

Registration may be by mail, Sponsors, Inc., P.O. Box 3908, Eugene, OR 97403, or call 485-8341. There is a \$50 fee for professionals, \$17.50 for students, seniors and the unemployed, and \$35 for all others.

A Festival of New Work

A three-part dance concert entitled "Festival of New Work" will be presented on Monday, Oct. 17, in the Soreng Theatre at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts. The concert will include a new work by Mary Oslund performed by Oslund and Company/Dance, a piece by Karen Nelson and Alito Alessi of Joint Forces, and an improvisational work by DK Taylor's Theatre of Life.

Potter Street Pieces, performed by Oslund and Company/Dance, is choreographed by Mary Oslund. Dancers for the work are John Chanik, Mae Chesney, Jean Fogel, Penny King, Mary Oslund, Marc Siegel, and Ann Rogers. The collaborative music score is newly created for the piece by Mike Van Liew, and will be performed live by Jeff Homan, Mark Schneider, Dan Stueber, and Van Liew. The half-hour long dance includes "Forward," an uptempo ensemble section, "Scenes," a collection of duets, trios, and small groups performed to blues music, "The Rink," a comic duet, "Crowds," based on pedestrian movement, and "Cascade," involving recurrent movement phrases. Costume designer is Barbara Embree.

Joint Forces members Karen Nelson and Alito Alessi will perform their first full-length choreographed duet, along with live original music by Crystal Flame members Michael Harrison and Don Lax. Harrison's musical composition, "The Swan Has Flown to the Mountain Lake," has inspired a fresh and exciting dance piece bearing the same title. Alessi and Nelson, usually known for their improvisational style of dance, have integrated their expertise in contact improvisation with their experience of the martial arts and other movement forms to introduce a choreographic style with a new view. Harrison and Joint Forces were noted for their introspective quality last year at the Hult Center performance of "White Truck." This year, Don Lax and Doug Scheurell, playing parts created especially for them, will be joining Michael Harrison, Alito Alessi, and Karen Nelson for this debut performance.

Nelson and Alessi collaborate in the areas of performance, movement, teaching and healing. As performers, they believe in creating a shared kinesthetic experience between themselves and the audience. As movement educators they encourage each individual to cultivate personal acceptance and to simultaneously develop a sensitivity to their body and an expanded awareness of its possibilities. They are both staff members at the Eugene Center for Personal Education and Healing Arts. Alito, a board member of the center, has a private practice as a bodywork counselor. Karen is a movement therapist and body worker at the Center, and teacher of contact improvisation.

Michael Harrison composes most of the music for the group and received his Bachelor's Degree in Music Composition as well as a Close Award in composition from the University of Oregon in 1983. He is primary student of the composer/teacher La Monte Young and has received three scholarships to study as his apprentice in New York. Harrison has also studied with Pandit Pran Nath and Terry Riley since 1978. The eastern influence on the group's music is quite obvious.

Don Lax has played violin for 24 years and was trained in the National Conservatories in Rome and Versailles, France. Although The Crystal Flame is his main outlet as a soloist, he is also a violinist with the Eugene Symphony Orchestra and the Roccoco Consort.

Doug Scheurell received a Bachelor of Music in Voice with teaching credentials from the University of Wisconsin in 1971. He has been on the faculty of the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts and the Family Light Music School in California. He recently returned from

California, where he studied tabla for two years with Swapan Chaudhuri at the Ali Akbar Khan College of Music.

Theatre of Life consists presently of Alito Alessi, Sage Glenn, Karen Nelson, and director DK Taylor. Their work is entirely improvised and calls on movement, sound, and language forms to create a theatre of the moment with all the passion and immediacy of life in its most ripe state. Theatre of Life will be performing from "Club Bardo," scores which suggest the state between death and rebirth and allow the performers to take both theatrical and personal leaps into the unknown.

Lighting Designer for the concert is Lucy Lunch, graphic designer is Jan Bushell.

Tickets are \$5.25 and \$4.25 (students) in advance. Day of show tickets are \$5.75 and \$4.75 (students); these are available at the Hult Center Box Office and the EMU Main Desk. This project is sponsored in part by funds from the Oregon Arts Commission, the City of Eugene Dept. of Parks and Recreation, and the EMU Cultural Forum.

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