

THEATRE

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The Eugene Ballet Company Opens '83-84 Season

November 4 marks the opening of the Eugene Ballet Company's Fourth Season, which will feature a stimulating selection of famous and powerful ballets, performed and choreographed by special guest artists and by the Ballet's skilled company dancers.

Pas de Quatre, and *Bolero*, headline the opening production of the season with the pas de deux from *Giselle* and *Don Quixote* and *Five Humoresques*, *Opus 87 and 89* included on the program. Peter Chase will be guest violinist for the evening.

Pugni's 1845 *Pas de Quatre* was originally staged to assemble the world's four greatest ballerinas (Marie Taglioni, Carlotta Grisi, Fanny Cerito and Lucille Grahn) and to create a humorous rivalry. Poise, suppleness and humor are keynotes of the ballet. Each dancer performs intricate steps while emphasizing her individual style.

Guest artists Kirk Peterson and Evelyn Cisneros, both of the San Francisco Ballet, dance the pas de deux from *Giselle*, in which a heart-broken lover meets the spirit of his departed love. The scene in this ethereal and lyrical dance takes place in a wooded glade at night.

Then Peterson and Cisneros dance the pas de deux from *Don Quixote*, a flashy, Spanish-style dance, which shows the dancers' technical virtuosity. Both dance and music are crisp, sharp and proud. Guest conductor William McDermott has written new orchestrations for both pas de deux.

Then, Tony Pimble, Riley Grannan and the company dancers perform *Five Humoresques*, *Opus 87 and 89*. Each of the above pieces show the company's versatility in techniques and their ability to perform the traditional *Pas de Quatre* as well as the more modern dance styles.

The second half of the evening performance spotlights Ravel's powerful and sensuous *Bolero*. The well-known *Bolero* was composed in 1928 and has been performed extensively nationally and internationally. Its unique musical theme shapes the form of the ballet. The repetition of a single theme creates a pattern of dynamic tension, with the power mounting until the orchestra roars out a brilliant climax on a sudden change of key.

West German Lothar Hofgen is the guest choreographer of *Bolero*. As solo dancer with Maurice Bejart's ballet in Belgium, Mr. Hofgen received critical acclaim throughout Europe for his supple style and strength of characterization.

His choreography features a unique blend of ballet and modern dance style. Several of Mr. Hofgen's choreographic works are in the repertoire of several major European ballet companies. He is currently ballet director at the State Theatre in Hannover, West Germany.

Rodo Boulanger, an internationally famous South American artist, will be guest of honor at The Eugene Ballet Company's premier opening. Boulanger has designed a commemorative poster exclusively for the Eugene Ballet Company.

Ms. Boulanger is internationally recognized for her artistic diversity and her unique treatment of children and the cultural elements of Bolivia. In 1979, UNICEF elected her as the official "Year of the Child" poster artist. She has shown her work at nearly 100 exhibitions on three continents. This is Ms. Boulanger's first appearance in Eugene.

Prior to the season's opening performance, the Eugene Ballet Company will host a reception for Ms. Boulanger from 2-5 pm, Nov 4 at the Composer's Hall, Eugene Conference Center. Boulanger will be available to dedicate and sign the posters. Revenues from poster sales will be donated to The Eugene Ballet Company.

All-time favorite, *The Nutcracker*, follows on December 15-18, 1983. Tchaikovsky's ballet recreates a nostalgic Victorian family Christmas atmosphere. The Eugene Symphony Orchestra will play the beautiful and remarkable musical score. Guest artists from the New York City Ballet are Daniel Duell as the Cavalier and Nichol Hlinka as the Snow Queen and the Sugar Plum Fairy. This holiday tradition is ideal Christmas entertainment for the whole family.

Petrushka and *May Dances* are featured on March 2-4. *Petrushka*, one of the most important works in the dance repertoire and possibly Stravinsky's finest score, has been selected as the 1983-84 feature piece.

By using traditional Russian folksongs and an underlying potent rhythm, Stravinsky's *Petrushka* radiates vital energy and emotion. The ballet describes the life of Petrushka, half-puppet, half-human. Through dance, the love, joy, and sorrow of the puppet and his despair at his inability to communicate his thoughts to others are shown.

The second half of the evening features Robert Schumann's *May Dances*. Each of the seven individual segments expresses a different emotion—from lively and bright to soft and melancholy. Victor Steinhardt, solo pianist provides the music for the twelve dancers.

For the final performance of the 1983-84 season, The Eugene Ballet Company and the Hult Center for the Performing Arts are co-presenting *The Israel Ballet*. Founded in 1967 by Hillel Markman and Berta Yampolsky, The Israel Ballet has emerged as an internationally famous ballet company. Some of the world's greatest choreographers have participated in the company's growing success. The Ballet now guests internationally acclaimed dancers.

In addition to their 1984 appearances in Eugene, they will perform in forty cities in the United States and Canada. The company also plays nearly 150 shows yearly in Israel. This creative and energetic ballet company has been called "the new jewel in the dance world's tiara."

Bolero and *Pas de Quatre* will be performed on November 4-5, *The Nutcracker* on December 15-18, *Petrushka* and *May Dances* on March 2-4, and *The Israel Ballet* will offer one performance on April 23.

Season tickets are now available for The Ballet Company's 1983-84 season. Season ticket subscribers have first choice of seating, a savings over single ticket prices, and an opportunity to order tickets now to the performance of *The Israel Ballet*. In addition, subscribers receive a free voucher to attend one performance of *The Eugene Opera* or *The Eugene Symphony Orchestra*.

Season tickets can be purchased at the Eugene Symphony, Ballet and Opera box offices at 1231 Olive St., Eugene, 687-0020.



Rashomon actors learn realistic fight techniques.

Swordplay at the Soreng

Rashomon: A Samurai Play of Lust, Truth, and the Sword is coming soon to the Soreng Theatre, and some special preparations are being made for this production. A martial arts choreographer has been hired to train the actors in the art of fighting. For the past five weeks Christopher Villa, who has also worked as fight director for the Oregon Shakespearean Festival, has been instructing the actors in carefully choreographed movements which combine elements of Western style broadsword fighting with Samurai grace and strength.

The actors wield swords with three foot steel blades, so awareness and safety are of utmost importance. "I make sure they know the fight inside and out," says Villa. "The end result is that they know at all times what they're doing on stage. They're dancing together and creating some kind of magic that will affect the audience."

Rashomon is being produced by The New Mime Circus, Oregon Actors Theatre, Lane Regional Arts Council, and the Hult Center, with a cast and staff of local talent.

It will be presented at the Hult Center's Soreng Theatre, Nov. 10-12 and 16-19. Call 687-5000 for ticket information.



RASHOMON
A SAMURAI PLAY OF
LUST, TRUTH AND THE SWORD
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