

# 'Hu-men' transcend roles of brutes, wimps

By Andrew LaMar

Of the Emerald

Being a man requires transcending the modern-day models of "brutes" and "wimps," says Andre Carpenter, a director of a local group attempting to foster the growth of a "new" kind of man.

Carpenter is artistic director of the Human Dancing Company, a non-profit educational organization recently established in Eugene. The group has weekly meetings to explore masculinity and performs musical dancing shows to exhibit it.

This new type of man, a "Hu-man," balances masculine and feminine qualities, transcending "brutishness" and "wimpishness," Carpenter says.

"The wimp is basically taking the feminine all the way at the expense of one's masculinity," Carpenter says. "You deny altogether your masculine faculties. And the brute is trying to keep the feminine outside of himself. The feminism that is knocking at the door is disturbing him."

Carpenter says that although there are numerous types of brute-wimp imbalances, there are two main types of brutes: one that totally denies feminine qualities, and one that projects his feminism onto an object or institution.

Rapists and batterers fall into the first category, while most everyone else falls into the second category, he says.

Men in the second category project

their feminism onto the family, the church, the nation or some other institution and then become fanatical in protecting it with their masculine qualities, he says.

"It becomes a demonic possession," he says.

The Hu-men principle, however, involves more than just balancing masculine and feminine qualities, Carpenter says. Being a Hu-man requires taking a journey inside of one's self to understand the person within, he says.

The Hu-men principle is being a human being first and an American, Russian or whatever else, second, he says.

The same Hu-men principle applies for women too, although it is more complicated, Carpenter says.

"Wo-man implies womb. So there's the existence of the womb that does affect (women) all sorts of ways. It has menstruation every month. It does affect them emotionally. It's a whole long process before they can be totally whole and balanced."

He insists that, although fundamentally different, women may also balance masculine and feminine qualities and become Hu-women.

"A lot of women... helped by the fact of the feminist movement, are now becoming Hu-women," he says. "I find it very relevant that there is a difference (between men and women)... and that a lot of it should not be mixed up.

Therefore men have to do it separately. So I'm focusing on males at this time."

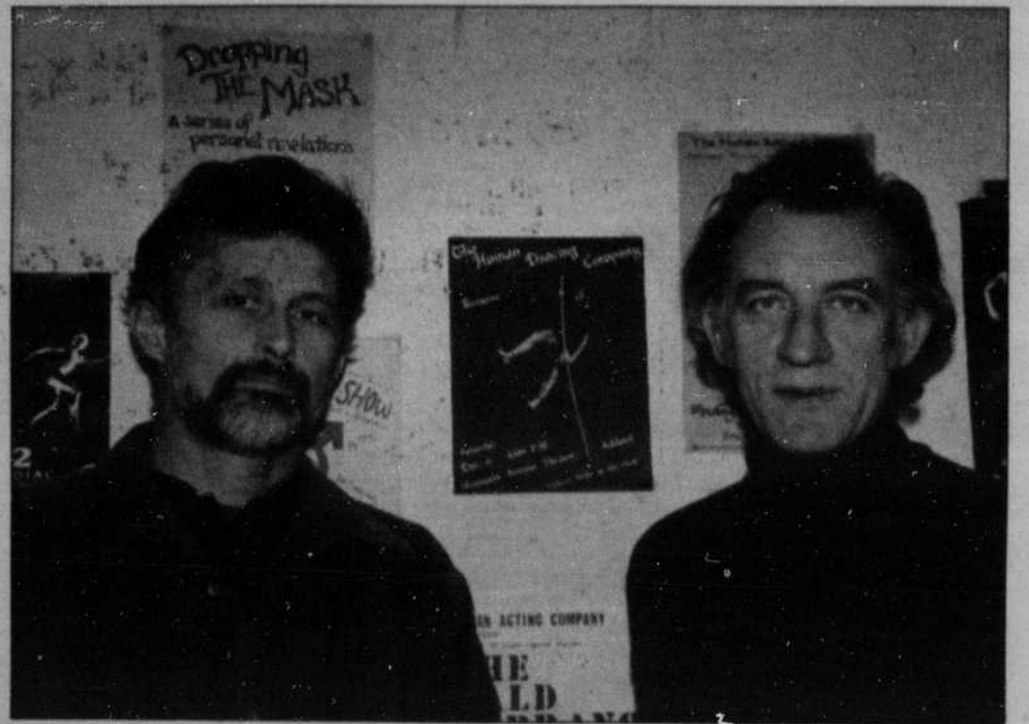
Carpenter has a variety of ways in which he tries to demonstrate the Hu-men principle, but theater is the medium he emphasizes.

"I chose a craft of the stage. That's the craft I know the best. So, I most often try to manifest all this in stage form," Carpenter says.

Communicating what it is to be Hu-men on stage takes a lot of imagination, intuition and care, he says. The performance contains acting, dancing and music — "total theater," he says.

When giving performances or workshops Carpenter says he tries to trigger something in individuals that

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Rick Reitz and Andre Carpenter

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